COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MOUNTAIN/PLAINS STATES (CHAMPS)  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT  
Pam Locken, President  
Dan Euell, Vice President  
Jerry Brasher, Immediate Past President  
Kate Wilson, Treasurer  
Eligio G. White, UT Representative  
Dennis Royal, Secretary  
Jim McNeely, MPCN Representative

STAFF PRESENT  
Julie Hulstein  
Andrea Miller  
Stephanie Wasserman

MEMBERS ABSENT  
Dennis Royal, Secretary  
Keith Horwood, MPCN Representative  
Jim McNeely, MPCN Representative  
Aaron Garman, ND Representative

CALL TO ORDER  
President Pam Locken called the meeting to order at approximately 1:07 p.m. MT.

CHAMPS SECRETARY’S REPORT  
Secretary Dennis Royal determined that a quorum was present. The minutes from the CHAMPS Executive Committee meeting on October 22, 2005 (contained in the meeting packet) were reviewed. Jim McNeely moved to accept the minutes. Dan Euell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHAMPS TREASURER’S REPORT  
Treasurer Kate Wilson reviewed the financial reports for September, October, and November 2005 (contained in the meeting packet). Jerry Brasher moved to accept the financial reports. Eligio G. White seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHAMPS STAFF REPORT  
Included in the meeting packet was CHAMPS’ Corporate Compliance update. The goals of CHAMPS’ Corporate Compliance program are to develop and implement a monitoring system designed to ensure that CHAMPS is in compliance with relevant state and federal laws; and, identify and correct compliance issues on an ongoing basis. Dan Euell moved to accept the CHAMPS’ Corporate Compliance report. Jim McNeely seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Also included in the meeting packet was a list of CHAMPS members and nonmembers. As of December 2005, 92% of Region VIII grantees (including new starts) paid their CHAMPS organizational membership dues. 100% of South Dakota and Wyoming grantees are CHAMPS members; 93% of Montana, 94% of Colorado, and 92% of Utah grantees are members.

CHAMPS’ 2005-2009 meeting calendar and CHAMPS’ website tracking report were contained in the meeting packet. The next meeting of the CHAMPS Executive Committee will occur in conjunction with the NACHC Policy and Issues (P&I) Forum in Washington, DC. The Executive Committee will meet during lunch on Monday, March 27th at the Hilton Washington. The CHAMPS/NWRPCA Region 18 Conference Planning Committee will meet in the late afternoon on Tuesday, March 28th. NACHC P&I registration materials were included in the meeting packet.

Andrea gave the Workforce Development report. Included in the meeting packet was CHAMPS Fall 2005 Quarterly Newsletter, as well as a flyer highlighting all of CHAMPS’ online archived webcasts. CHAMPS staff attended the Rocky Mountain Dental Convention on January 19th to promote all appropriate positions currently posted on the CHAMPS online Job Opportunities Bank (JOB). CHAMPS members have been receiving our most recent two archived webcasts on CD-ROM (Introduction to CPT Coding and CHC Boards: Legal Roles & Responsibilities); CHAMPS is providing
these CD-ROMs to Organizational Members at no cost, at the request of CHC Executive Directors. These webcasts are also available (archived) online. The most recent CHAMPS webcast was on November 3, 2005. *New Thoughts on the Pathophysiology and Treatment of Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis* was presented by Dr. David Collier, Chief of Rheumatology at Denver Health Medical Center. CHAMPS obtained 1.5 hours of CME credit through AAFP for the event. Recently added to CHAMPS’ website are cross-disciplinary resources pages, CHC board tools and resources, emergency preparedness and response resources and links, and health information technology (HIT) resources. The Region VIII CHC salary survey will be conducted again this year. Region VIII may partner with Region X for the CHC salary survey to create a Region 18 CHC salary survey – details are still being discussed. CHAMPS will work with Region VIII SPCAs to create and conduct the salary survey. CHAMPS will strive to report the results in a more timely fashion this year.

Stephanie Wasserman gave an overview of current clinical activities. Included in the meeting packet were the Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN) Steering Committee member list and the 2006 MPCN work plan. The MPCN Steering Committee recently welcomed two new members, Connie Miller and Carol Peterson (both from Wyoming). Al O’Brien is retiring from Butte CHC in MT in February and is therefore resigning his seat on the MPCN Steering Committee. Al has been a wonderful MPCN SC and former CHAMPS Executive Committee member – he will be missed! Stephanie is recruiting clinicians to serve in vacant MPCN SC positions for CO, MT, and ND. MPCN’s new work plan includes creating clinical modules on chronic pain and/or obesity. Stephanie is working with the CO Department of Health on a possible partnership around obesity and she has begun discussions with a national chronic pain expert from the University of Wisconsin. MPCN may also host a Spanish Language Intensive this summer or fall depending on Region VIII CHC clinician interest. The Evidence Based Clinical Guidelines have been updated on CHAMPS’ website in conjunction with Colorado Clinical Guidelines Collaborative (CCGC) and Kaiser Permanente’s Colorado Regional Prevention Committee.

Health Disparities Collaborative (HDC) 2006 Phase I applications were due on 11/18/05. Ashland CHC, Cheyenne Health and Wellness Center, Custer County CHC, and Northland CHC were accepted for HDC 2006 Diabetes/Cardiovascular Disease (DM/CVD). The West Central Cluster (WCC) Health Disparities Collaboratives Steering Committee and WCC PCAs met in San Antonio, TX on January 10th. The meeting was billed as a strategic planning session, but in fact it was more of a day long house cleaning session where the WCC HDC charter was discussed as well as the membership composition of the WCC HDC Steering Committee. It was noted the Dr. Cephas Goldman of the Division of State and Community Assistance (DSCA – where PCAs are housed) has become more involved in the HDC recently, leading to speculation the HDC might be moved from the Division of Clinical Quality to DSCA. TACHC is moving forward with the creation of the WCC Clinical Advisory Group. According to TACHC, “The primary role of the WCC Clinical Advisory Group is to provide the clinical leadership for the West Central Cluster. This group would serve in an advisory capacity to strengthen the clinical activities of the cluster during the transition and implementation of the proposed BPHC Primary Care Collaborative. Given the BPHC’s stated goal of meeting or exceeding the Healthy People 2010 measures, the role of the clinician has become even more critical and the WCC will require additional support to successfully enable health centers to make the transition from a chronic care focus to a broader primary care direction. The WCC Clinical Advisory Group would consist of one clinician from each of the State and Regional PCA clinical networks in the WCC.” Jim McNeely will represent MPCN on the WCC CAG. HDC funding has been significantly reduced from previous years (it is now $6.6 million for all five clusters [down from $12.1 million in previous years], with a maximum award of $1.32 million per cluster lead PCA). Clusters will no longer pay for health center team travel to learning sessions – Phase I travel will be centralized through a federal travel agency. There is no support at all for Phase II travel.
HEALTH RESOURCES & SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA) REPORT
Included in the meeting packet was the HRSA Office of Performance Review CY 06 grantee performance review schedule. Several Region VIII grantees are scheduled for a review this year including Cascade City-County Health Department in Great Falls, MT, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), Colorado Community Managed Care Network (CMMCN), CHAMPS, Denver Health, Green River Medical Center in UT, Rural Health Care in Pierre, SD, Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD), and ND State Department of Health. Also, HRSA Administrator, Dr. Duke, has approved the BPHC FY 06 Spending Plan. There will not be a New Access Point or Service Expansion funding opportunity this year. HRSA will be reissuing the Expanded Medical Capacity (EMC) application opportunity (EMC Round 2) in a few weeks and will restrict applications to those programs that intend to expand medical capacity solely for homeless and/or migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Basic EMC requirements will remain the same for Round 2 including: the applicant must propose an increase of at least 10% or 1,000 new homeless or migrant patients, the maximum funding is $600,000, the guidelines for grant dollars per new patient is $200, and funds must be used to expand an existing site that is already in a grantee’s scope of project. Also, there will be a mandatory 1% rescission for all grantees.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORT
Included in the meeting packet were NACHC Washington Update Hotline reports for the year ended 12/26/05 and the week of 1/9/06 as well as a letter from Dick Bohrer. NACHC will hold a leadership meeting in Miami, FL at the end of this month. The NACHC Board will meet again in Washington, DC in March. In December, in accordance with NACHC’s Guidance for Regional Chartered Affiliates on Electing Regional Representatives to the NACHC Board of Directors, Pam Locken and Jerry Brasher were elected by acclamation to represent Region VIII on the NACHC Board of Directors for 2006. CHAMPS sincerely thanks Dr. Paul Melinkovich and Lewis Reyes for representing Region VIII at the national level. Dr. Melinkovich was Region VIII’s clinical representative to the NACHC Board in 2005. Mr. Reyes served as the Region VIII health center board member representative to the NACHC Board for the last two years. CHAMPS also acknowledges and congratulates two current Region VIII NACHC officers: Eligio G. White, Chair-Elect, and Lil Anderson, Secretary.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
CHAMPS 2005-2007 strategic plan was included in the packet. The five goals are: Provide clarity of purpose of CHAMPS as an organization for CHAMPS’ internal customers/audience/community, Increase CHAMPS visibility and promote CHAMPS’ purpose to CHAMPS’ internal community, Strengthen working relationships with Region VIII SPCAs, Collaborate with Region VIII CMS, and Identify and pursue new funding sources and opportunities.

REGION VIII STATE PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION REPORTS
Association for Utah Community Health–AUCH’s Clinician Connection E-News was included in the packet.
Colorado Community Health Network–CCHN’s December 2005 newsletter was included in the packet.
Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas–CHAD’s November 2005 newsletter was included in the packet.
Montana Primary Care Association–No information was available from MPCA.
Wyoming Primary Care Association–No information was available from WYPCA.

ADJOURNMENT
The Executive Committee conference call adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m. MT.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Dennis Royal