



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
BOULDER COUNTY**

INSPIRING IDEAS. IGNITING ACTION.™

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MEDIA RELEASE

Community Foundation receives \$300K grant for Boulder County Health Improvement Collaborative

Funding from the Colorado Health Foundation to improve access to specialty care countywide

Boulder, CO (November 11, 2016) – Since 2007, the Community Foundation’s [Boulder County Health Improvement Collaborative](#) (BCHIC) has convened and facilitated dialogue among health leaders – physicians, healthcare administrators, safety-net providers, hospitals, and public health and human services leaders. This month, the collaborative was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Colorado Health Foundation to improve access to specialty care for Medicaid and uninsured patients countywide.

“BCHIC proves that we accomplish more together than we do alone,” says Morgan McMillan, Vice President of Community Leadership for the Community Foundation Boulder County. “Boulder County is home to 90,000 people who are publicly insured, or who remain uninsured – and an estimated 70 percent of those are unable to access medically necessary specialty care. The mission of the collaborative is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency and accessibility of healthcare and public health services for all patients in our community.”

Specifically, BCHIC will improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities by increasing access to specialty care (like dermatology, orthopedics and endocrinology) for Medicaid and uninsured patients in Boulder County by:

- recruiting specialist providers willing to treat Medicaid and uninsured patients;
- creating a scalable centralized online hub that shares a real-time list of providers and patient slots, along with key information needed for an effective visit; and
- streamlining the referral system for providers and care coordinators.

“With healthcare reform, Medicaid expanded greatly,” McMillan explains. “A lot more people are eligible for Medicaid, who were previously uninsured. And while that means greater access to coverage, it doesn’t necessarily translate to access to all the care you might need.

“In Boulder County, we have three community health centers that serve a large portion of our Medicaid recipients, as well as our uninsured patients. But it can be challenging to find specialists who see Medicaid patients due to low reimbursements.”

Says Valerie Lipetz, MD, Chief Medical Officer for Boulder Community Health’s Ambulatory Services, and Chair of BCHIC’s Medical Neighborhood Committee: “BCHIC supports a culture of community among area healthcare providers. We can make a big dent in the current waiting list for specialty care if everyone steps up to take a small number of patients.

“We also recognize the inefficiencies in the current patch-worked system. Funding from the Colorado Health Foundation will help us streamline referrals to make it easier for specialists who want to help the underserved to participate. Ultimately, this is about creating a better healthcare system for patients.”

BCHIC participants include:

Avista Hospital	HealthBridge
Boulder Centre for Orthopedics	Integrated Physician Network
Boulder Community Health	Kaiser Permanente
Boulder County Area Agency on Aging	Longmont United Hospital
Boulder County Housing and Human Services	Mental Health Partners
Boulder County Public Health	Physician Health Partners
Boulder Medical Center	Rocky Mountain Gastroenterology
Boulder Valley Independent Physicians Association	Salud Clinic
Clinica Family Health Services	The Boulder County Commissioners' Office
Community Foundation Boulder County	The Children's Hospital
Dental Aid	TRU Community Care
Exempla Good Samaritan Hospital	University of Colorado Boulder Wardenburg Health Services
Frasier Meadows	Women's Health

For more information about BCHIC, or to schedule interviews with Morgan McMillan or collaborative participants, please contact Gretchen Minekime, Vice President of Communications, at Gretchen@commfound.org or 303.442.0436 x107.

The Community Foundation Boulder County

For 25 years, the Community Foundation Boulder County has been a community catalyst, responding to immediate needs and anticipating future challenges. Through informed decision-making, we inspire ideas, ignite action and mobilize resources to improve the quality of life for all. Advancing inclusivity and providing leadership and on key issues, the foundation collaborates with community-minded individuals and organizations that want to make a difference, accomplishing more together than we do alone. Since its founding in 1991, the foundation has granted \$68M to nonprofits focused on health and human services, basic needs, children and youth, education, civic engagement, arts and culture, and animals and the environment. commfound.org/news-media

The Colorado Health Foundation

The Colorado Health Foundation works to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation by ensuring that all Colorado kids are fit and healthy and that all Coloradans achieve stable, affordable and adequate health coverage to improve their health with support from a network of primary health care and community services. To advance our mission, the Foundation engages the community through grantmaking, public policy, investing in evaluation, private sector partnerships and strategic communications. ColoradoHealth.org

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