

# Friends OF HEALTH CHOICE NETWORK

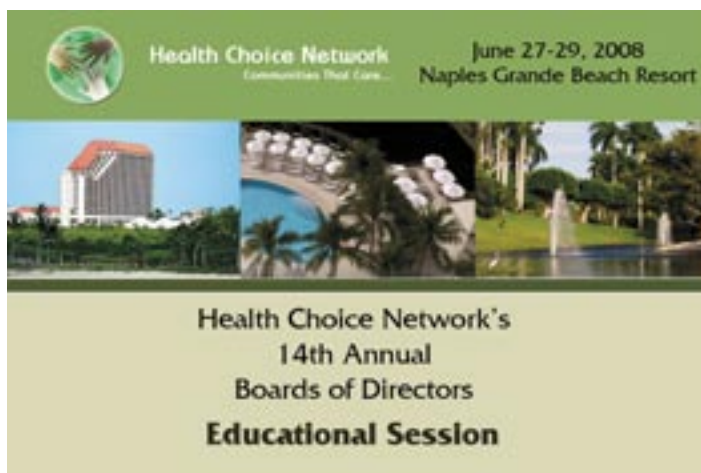
*Communities that care*

## 14th Annual Education Session Set for June 27 in Naples

Health Choice Network will host the organization's 14th Annual Boards of Directors Educational Session on June 27-29 in Naples, Florida. This year's theme is *Reaching New Heights* and is open to member organizations, their Boards and executive staff.

The weekend event kicks off with a Network Gathering beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, June 27. The event takes place at the Naples Grande Beach Resort, 475 Seagate Drive in Naples. Registration is \$190 for members, \$200 for patrons and \$225 for non-members. The attire is resort casual.

To register for this event, please visit our website: [www.hcnetwork.org/RSVP](http://www.hcnetwork.org/RSVP) or call Diana Alejandro, Special Events and Marketing Manager, at (305) 599-1015 Ext. 8080, or via email at [devans@hcnetwork.org](mailto:devans@hcnetwork.org). *Don't miss this exciting network event!*



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### Message from the President and CEO

## HCN Continues to "Reach New Heights"

During the past six months, an exciting whirlwind of activity has been swirling around Health Choice Network. Several new programs, partnerships and opportunities keep our organization *Reaching New Heights*.

- In March, HCN and RCHN Community Health Foundation of New York formed a partnership to create a new operating structure for our highly-regarded IT services. RCHN is a not-for-profit foundation dedicated exclusively to support and benefit the work of CHCs. It has a 40-year track record of success and commitment to accessible, high-quality community-based health services for vulnerable populations. This significant investment will allow us to *Reach New Heights* as we provide IT services to our current and future members on a national level.
- We welcome a new member center, Arkansas-based White River Rural Health Centers (see page 2). Additionally a new member network, New York Health Choice Network, will join in June 2008.
- The Board of Directors recently approved the formation of an HCN Fund Development Council. This group will play an important role as we seek to find new sources of funding for our programs and services.
- Prestige Health Choice, our provider service network, recently hosted a successful site visit from the Agency for Health Care Administration, an important step as Prestige moves toward full operation later this summer.

Again, it has been the heroic response from our staff, members and supporters that has allowed us to take advantage of these opportunities. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming educational session.

*Kevin Kearns,  
President and CEO*

# Member Executives Receive Betsey Cooke Advocacy Award



Boesen

Ted Boesen, Executive Director of INConcertCare in Iowa and Nebraska, and Allan Ainsworth of Wasatch Homeless Health Care Center in Salt Lake, Utah, are both recipients of the 2008 Betsey K. Cooke Advocacy MVP awards.

The prestigious awards are sponsored by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and were presented in March at the

Congressional Awards Reception in Washington D.C. The reception was part of the 33rd Annual NACHC Policies and Issues Forum.

The national award, which is named for Health Choice Network founder and former CEO, is given to individuals whose efforts and dedication ensure that their members of Congress actively supported health centers and have helped to establish and expand grassroots advocacy efforts at their health center or in their state last year.

In 2007, HCN President and CEO Kevin Kearns was a recipient of the award.

## Arkansas-based White River Rural Health Center (WRRHC) Joins HCN

White River Rural Health Center (WRRHC), which serves 10 counties with 20 sites in northeast Arkansas, has recently joined HCN.

Established in 1986, WRRHC provides primary care and prevention, comprehensive oral health care, diagnostic

lab and x-ray, pharmacy, emergency medical care, transportation, referral services, case management, health education and outreach, disease screening and management, infection control, HIV/AIDS services and accident and pesticide exposure prevention. The Center also provides a complete perinatal program including prenatal care, delivery and post-partum care.

Steven Collier, M.D. is executive director of WRRHC. White River has the distinction of being the Arkansas CHC with the longest and most active participation record in the BPHC Health Disparity Collaboratives. White River's Diabetes program has been published as a "Model of Practice" in the *Rural Healthy People 2010* by the Southwest Rural Research Center of Texas A&M University.



### Family News of Note

- Camillus Health Concern (CHC) has selected **Hirut Kassaye, MPH**, as its new Executive Director. Ms. Kassaye has been a part of the agency's management team for nine years.
- **Alex Romillo**, Sr. Vice President and CIO for HCN, has been named as an at-large member of the Board of Directors of the South Florida Chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS).
- **Margarita Ollet**, Sr. Vice President of Administrative Services, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Carrie Meek Foundation.
- The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration has appointed HCN President and CEO **Kevin Kearns**, to a new Health Information Exchange Coordinating Committee of the State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory Council.
- **Lalai Hamric**, President and CEO of Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, was recently appointed to U.S. Rep. Connie Mack's new Health Care Roundtable.
- **Rosalyn Frazier**, President and CEO of Broward Community and Family Health, was named to Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz's Health Care Working Group, which seeks to move toward a workable universal health care system.
- Jessie Trice Community Health Center (JTCHC) has appointed **Deborah George, DDS** as Chief Medical Officer of Administrative Affairs and **Edwin Bosa-Osorio, MD**, to Chief Medical Officer for Clinical Affairs.

### PROGRAM REPORTS

#### Jessie Trice Has New Name, Plans For Benefit

The Jessie Trice Health Promotion Program will hold its annual benefit dinner on Wednesday, October 1, 2008. For more information and sponsorship opportunities, contact [devans@hcnetwork.org](mailto:devans@hcnetwork.org).

#### Health Connect in Our Schools Completes Third Successful Year

Health Connect in Our Schools has completed its third successful year of providing basic health care services to more than 80,000 students in 72 public schools in Miami-Dade County. Supported by the Children's Trust, the HCiOS health teams are provided by five member CHCs.



## Big Night for Broward Community & Family Health Center

Broward Community & Family Health Center (BCFHC) recently held its 6th Annual Meeting and Recognition Dinner with the theme *Celebrating our Growth...Building our Future*. The keynote speaker was Honorable Carrie P. Meek and honorees included Mayor Josephus Eggelletio, Broward County Commissioners, radio personality Rodney Baltimore, HCN Vice President and CIO Alex Romillo, BCFHC CEO Rosalyn Frazier and Dr. Lisa Machado, BCFHC Medical Provider. The center celebrated 10 years of providing high quality primary care services to the community.



(L-R) Aundra Penn, BCFHC Board President, Hon. Carrie P. Meek, Rosalyn Frazier, CEO of BCFHC  
 Alex Romillo, Rosalyn Frazier, CEO BCFHC

## Congresswoman Visits Miami Beach Community Health Center

U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen recently visited the South Beach site of the Miami Beach Community Health Center (Stanley C. Myers Center) where she met with employees and patients, many of whom she knew and had previously helped in their efforts to obtain American citizenship.

The Miami Beach Community Health Center also won a 2008 "Health Care Heroes" award, sponsored by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. They were honored in the Institutions/Programs category. Michael Kesti, Executive Director of the Miami Beach Health Foundation, was selected as a finalist in the Individuals of Merit category.



## Col. Hartley Honored in Congressional Record

Acknowledging Col. Brodes Hartley's long and distinguished career in service to community health, a statement was recently read into the Congressional Record by Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) applauding his efforts:



"Quality health care is such an important issue for our community, and Col. Hartley has made providing quality care his top priority," said Diaz-Balart. "He developed the *"Patient Care Comes First"* motto and is committed to ensuring that his organization truly values patients' interests more than the organization. His steadfast commitment to patients will help shape the next generation in healthcare providers."

**Text of the Congressional Record on Mar. 11:**  
*Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work and accomplishments of a distinguished community leader and true humanitarian, Brodes H. Hartley, Jr. For over two decades Mr. Hartley has done an outstanding job maintaining a high level of care to the nearly 40,000 patients of Community Health of South Dade. The "Patient Care Comes First" motto he developed, demonstrates that he puts patient's interest above those of the organization, creating an environment in which those in need receive the best possible care. His willingness to take time for concerned patients, as well as to help shape the next generation in healthcare providers, through mentoring, has established him as a community leader. Brodes H. Hartley, Jr. has accomplished the goal he set out from the beginning, to deliver safe, compassionate, accessible and culturally competent quality health care service to the people of South Florida. I am very grateful for his contribution to our community and honored to call him my friend.*

## Utah to Integrate Intergy EHR

Utah Health Choice Network member centers are planning to implement the Sage Intergy electronic health record (EHR) this summer. Wasatch Homeless Health Care, Carbon Medical Services Association and Green River Community Health Center will go live in June and July. They serve a broad geographic area and diverse populations throughout Utah.



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## FHCSWF Hosts Lt. Governor and AHCA Secretary

Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida (FHCSWF) recently hosted a visit from Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Holly Benson and Florida Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp to their facility. They both discussed the importance of providing quality health care to the uninsured.



*Above: AHCA Secretary Holly Benson (L) and Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp. At left, FHCSWF CEO Lalai Hamric with the Lt. Governor.*

## Family Fun Day Draws HCN Crowd

Health Choice Network staff, families and friends enjoyed a spring day of fun, children's activities, food and relaxation at the annual Family Fun Day.

The picnic featured games, sports, a bounce house, a delicious picnic buffet and some upbeat comments from CEO Kevin Kearns.



## Member Centers

Agape Network  
 Bayview Center for Mental Health  
 Borinquen Health Care Center  
 Broward Community and Family Health Center  
 Camillus Health Concern  
 Citrus Health Network  
 Community Health Centers of Pinellas  
 Community Health of South Florida  
 Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida  
 Family Medical and Dental Centers  
 Health Care Center for the Homeless  
 Helen B. Bentley Family Health Center  
 INConcertCare  
 Institute for Child and Family Health  
 Jessie Trice Community Health Center

Kansas Health Choice Network  
 Miami Beach Community Health Center  
 New Horizons Community Mental Health Center  
 New Mexico Health Choice Network  
 Premier Community HealthCare Group  
 Tampa Family Health Centers  
 Utah Health Choice Network  
 White River Rural Health Center

## Patrons

American Cancer Society  
 Sage Software Healthcare Division  
 H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute  
 South Florida Hospital and Healthcare Association  
 Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center