

## **Local Team Participates in Public Health Leadership Program**

**Colorado Springs, Colorado February 1, 2013** – The Colorado Community Center Collaborative has been selected to participate in the National Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health (NLAPH) program, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NLAPH is a national program focused on improving population health by working with multi-sector leadership teams and training the teams through an applied, team-based collaborative leadership development model. The program is implemented by the Center for Health Leadership and Practice (CHLP), a center of the Public Health Institute (PHI), and will provide training and support for a period of one year.

“This program will impart population health teams with the skills to lead across sectors and collaboratively solve complex population health problems in innovative ways,” said Carmen Rita Nevarez MD, MPH, Vice President for External Relations and CHLP’s Director. “These are the types of leaders who will ultimately be able to drive critical efforts, such as the adoption of evidence-based policies and practices at the community level, which can have a tangible impact on health outcomes.”

The Colorado Community Center Collaborative will work on an applied health leadership project that tackles an important population health issue with the goal of improving public health outcomes. El Paso County currently ranks 30th among all Counties in the State of Colorado according to the County Health Ranking & Roadmaps program, which is designed to help communities create solutions addressing specific factors that are known to affect health . The team has developed specific short term outcomes which include increased knowledge and measurement of changes in health behavior related to obesity, pregnancy and substance use. Economic forecasts seem to indicate that a reversal of these trends is not imminent in the near future and requires immediate and bold actions. Collaboration amongst government, local health agencies, academic and non-governmental organizations allow for the community to address issues without an unfair or unsustainable burden on any one agency.

The team assembled to undertake this critical issue includes the following individuals representing their respective organizations: Dr. Barbara Joyce, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs; Brian Kates, City of Colorado Springs Parks & Recreation; Kelley Christians, El Paso County Public Health; and Lauren Weiner, Colorado Springs Youth Sports, Inc.

**Brian Kates states “Working collaboratively across all sectors is not only economically sound, but it affords greater opportunity to proactively address health, wellness social and public safety issues impacting citizens throughout the community.”**

NLAPH will provide training and support to assist the team in successfully addressing population based health issues. Training and support will focus on two tracks. The first is the development of leadership skills, including personal and collaborative leadership in a multi-sector environment. The second emphasizes growth from team-based collaborative work to policy and systems change.

NLAPH is provided at no cost to the participants or the community.

**For more information, contact:**

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