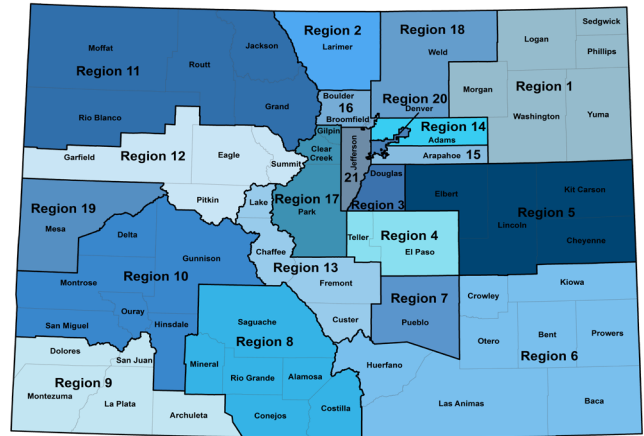


Regional Health Connector Projects

Regional Health Connectors (RHCs) connect the systems that keep us healthy, including primary care, public health, social services, and other community resources. RHCs work on three community-identified projects focused on cardiovascular health, behavioral health, and other community health needs and priorities. Contact your RHC for more information.

At right: The RHC regions.



Region 1

Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma Counties

RHC: Jeff Appleman

Host: Centennial Area Health Education Center

Contact: jappleman@cahec.org

1. Develop a training model for care coordination that will be implemented in clinics throughout northeast Colorado.
2. Involve providers and young people in the implementation of an action plan to reduce youth alcohol and drug use in Sterling, Otis, and Yuma.
3. Coordinate Mental Health First Aid training events, disseminate educational materials about mental health, and help install a prescription drop box in each county.

Region 2

Larimer County

RHC: Jane Gerberding

Host: Health District of Northern Larimer County

Contact: jgerberding@healthdistrict.org

1. Provide tools and processes for primary care providers and others related to tobacco, e-cigarette, and marijuana use.
2. Connect primary care providers to community behavioral health resources and improve communication between providers.
3. Build primary care providers' skills in identifying substance use disorders and referring patients to community-based behavioral health resources.

Region 3

Douglas County

RHC: Laura Don

Host: Tri-County Health Department

Contact: ldon@tchd.org

1. Create a tool doctors' offices can use to improve referrals from providers to community-based healthy eating, active living, and cardiovascular health resources.
2. Identify provider needs, support workgroups, and create shared messaging with the Tri-County Overdose Prevention Partnership to improve coordination among behavioral health and primary care stakeholders.
3. Build a free medical clinic in a food pantry with co-located enrollment specialists to improve access to healthcare and social services for the underserved population in Douglas County, and support health literacy training for a multi-agency collaborative.

Region 4

El Paso and Teller Counties

RHC: Darlyn Miller

Host: Central Colorado Area Health Education Center

Contact: darlyn@centralcoahcec.org

1. Increase coordination of healthy eating and active living resources for people dealing with obesity and food insecurity in El Paso and Teller Counties.
2. Implement screening tools and education about opioids, alcohol, and other substances in primary care practices, government agencies, and community organizations.
3. Formalize communication and partnerships to simplify access and referrals to behavioral health treatment and social determinants of health resources.

Region 5

Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson, and Cheyenne Counties

RHC: Kim Fairley

Host: Centennial Area Health Education Center

Contact: kfairley@cahec.org

1. Care coordination pilot in a rural setting.
2. Opioid awareness and prevention.
3. Behavioral health integration into primary care.

Region 6

Baca, Bent, Crowley, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, and Prowers Counties

RHC: Cassandra Wyckoff

Host: Otero County Health Department

Contact: rhc@otero.gov

1. Create a bi-directional referral system between primary care, health departments, and community resources to address chronic disease prevention and self-management.
2. Create a bi-directional referral system between primary care, health departments, and community resources to address behavioral health treatment.
3. Create a formalized regional network that will share resources and implement prevention and awareness activities around substance use disorders and overdose deaths.

Region 7

Pueblo County

RHC: [Vacant]

Host: Pueblo City-County Health Department

Contact: kate.davis@pueblounty.us

1. Partner with the community revitalization group to improve walkability, bike-ability, safety, and healthy food access in the Bessemer, Eilers, and Grove neighborhoods.
2. Provide Mental Health First Aid Training classes to members of the community and providers
3. Facilitate a coalition of those working to address opioid misuse and improve collaboration by identifying assets and gaps for partners.

Region 8

Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties

RHC: Dee Kessler

Host: San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group

Contact: deek@slvbhg.org

1. Develop website MySLVConnect.com to provide online resources specific with in-depth information for care coordinators, record owners, health care professionals, public health, schools, and more.
2. Reduce the stigma around seeking help for behavioral health issues, including depression, suicide, anxiety, prescription and substance abuse.
3. Bring attention to the lack of public transportation available in the San Luis Valley and help partners identify and implement solutions.

Region 9

Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan Counties

RHC: Mary Dengler-Frey

Host: Southwestern Colorado Area Health Education Center

Contact: mary.frey@swcahec.org

1. Implement provider trainings and public messaging campaigns for diabetes prevention and management among Tribal communities.
2. Coordinate community forums and trainings, provider education, and a media campaign to reduce youth suicide in Montezuma and Dolores counties.
3. Engage providers in efforts to reduce opioid misuse such as stigma reduction campaigns, increased use of monitoring programs, and participation in trainings.

Region 10

Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties

RHC: Alexis Klein

Host: Tri-County Health Network

Contact: rhc@tchnetwork.org

1. Implement a food prescription program in clinics to provide those with chronic diseases with increased access to healthy food and nutrition education.
2. Assist in creation of a mental health crisis triage plan in San Miguel County and replicate throughout region.
3. Coordinate a ride-share program to provide medical transportation for residents in San Miguel, Montrose, and Ouray counties.

Region 11

Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties

RHC: Stephanie Monahan

Host: Northwest Colorado Community Health Partnership

Contact: smonahan@nchealthpartnership.org

1. Implement the “Blue Zones framework,” a program that works with community leaders to change to the built environment to make individual choices easier.
2. Launch a “Community Care Team Network” in each county to better understand and coordinate local services and resources.
3. Provide information and resources about mental health services at local community venues such as farmers markets and community gardens.

Region 12

Eagle, Garfield, Pitkin, and Summit Counties

RHC: Namrata Shrestha

Host: West Mountain Regional Health Alliance

Contact: nshrestha@mountainfamily.org

1. Create a care coordination system after identifying local assets and gaps.
2. Support a collaborative regional effort to implement the Zero Suicide Initiative Systems Approach.
3. Coordinate regional efforts to address social determinants of health using the Thriving Colorado Dashboard.

Region 13

Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, and Lake Counties

RHC: Mike Orrill

Host: Chaffee County Public Health Department

Contact: morrill@chaffeecounty.org

1. Increase access to healthy eating and active living resources by creating a regional diabetes roundtable and coordinating with Weigh N Win programs.
2. Provide resources of support, education, and advocacy to LGBTQ individuals, their families, and the wider community.
3. Create the first region-wide coalition addressing opioid misuse, then host regional education events for community members and providers.

Region 14

Adams County

RHC: Meghan Prentiss

Host: Tri-County Health Department

Contact: mprentiss@tchd.org

1. Develop an engagement strategy to share cardiovascular disease resources with primary care providers throughout the Denver metropolitan region.
2. Facilitate the Tri-County Overdose Prevention Partnership Program Provider Education Workgroup with the goal of increasing screening rates for mental health and substance use.
3. Improve access to care by developing policies for reliable transportation to medical appointments, and by providing health and social services at local events.

Region 15

Arapahoe County

RHC: Kaitlin Wolff

Host: Tri-County Health Department

Contact: kwolff@tchd.org

1. Ensure residents of Arapahoe County have access to navigators to assist with insurance applications and to understand the benefits and value of primary care.
2. Catalog and connect community efforts that are improving the integration of refugees and immigrants.
3. Provide a space for partners to combine resources and expertise to seek solutions to factors affecting health, with a focus on housing.

Region 16

Boulder and Broomfield

RHC: Heather Ponicsan

Host: City and County of Broomfield Health and Human Services

Contact: hponicsan@broomfield.org

1. Strengthen connections between primary care, public health, and social services in Broomfield County through direct outreach, shared strategies, and innovative collaborations.
2. Convene existing groups of behavioral health and social services stakeholders to identify and prioritize potential solutions for easier access to services.
3. Support locally-based efforts to prevent and treat prescription drug misuse.

Region 17

Park, Clear Creek, and Gilpin Counties

RHC: Ashley Hill

Host: Central Colorado Area Health Education Center

Contact: ashley@centralcoahec.org

1. Support the development of a new clinic in Clear Creek County and participate in the South Park Health Service District to ensure sustainable access to primary and behavioral care for all Region 17 residents.
2. Collaborate with stakeholders to align regional efforts with the new Regional Accountable Entity (RAE) to create a culture of collaboration while increasing awareness and knowledge of mental health resources.
3. Assist with the creation of strategic, workforce, and sustainable plans with the Colorado AmeriCorps Community Opioid Response Program Coalition to bring diverse partners together to tackle the opioid epidemic in Region 17.

Region 18

Weld County

RHC: Tanya Trujillo-Martinez

Host: North Colorado Health Alliance

Contact: ttrujillo.alliance@nocoha.org

1. Produce education materials about healthy eating and active living, and disseminate 2,400 messages through primary care clinics and community organizations.
2. Identify and engage clinics in providing more mental health services, including telehealth.
3. Develop a community garden that will increase access to fresh produce and foster a sense of participation, inclusion, and accomplishment in the Greeley community.

Region 19

Mesa County

RHC: Charity Weir

Host: Mesa County Health Department

Contact: charity.weir@mesacounty.us

1. Facilitate relationships to increase coordination and collaboration among community partners.
2. Convene a community coalition to create a strategic plan for a collaborative approach to address substance use and opioid issue.
3. Advise the develop and implementation of the Community Resource Network, a referral database for medical and community services.

Region 20

Denver

RHC: Stephanie Salazar-Rodriguez

Host: Mile High Health Alliance

Contact: stephanie@milehighhealthalliance.org

1. Promote screenings and share resources related to social determinants of cardiovascular health in clinic and community settings.
2. Connect practices to trainings and resources for substance abuse disorders.
3. Support partners in the implementation of stigma reduction campaigns, Mental Health First Aid training, and other community resources.

Region 21

Jefferson County

RHC: Cynthia Farrar

Host: Jefferson County Public Health

Contact: cfarrar@co.jefferson.co.us

1. Create collaborative opportunities for regional organizations and provider groups.
2. Provide educational opportunities for partners and primary care practices related to behavioral health and substance use.
3. Coordinate the implementation of three mobile health events to increase access to care in rural Jefferson County.

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A JOINT PROGRAM BY



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