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Advancing Health Equity and Innovative Care Delivery During the Sixth Annual Safety Net Clinic Week

Safety Net Clinic Week is a week-long celebration that shines light on vital community safety net clinics (CSNCs) and rural health clinics (RHCs)

Aurora, Colo. – August 14, 2015 – Public officials and community leaders are getting a firsthand look at Colorado’s community safety net clinics (CSNCs) and federally certified rural health clinics (RHCs) in celebration of the 6th Annual Safety Net Clinic Week, August 17 - 21. These safety net clinics provide high quality care and offer much needed access to healthcare services in urban and rural communities to those who are uninsured, underinsured or insured through public programs like Medicaid, CHP+ and Medicare.

Even though supplemental federal funding is largely unavailable to them, 94 CSNCs and RHCs provide essential healthcare services to approximately 344,000 Coloradans through an estimated 1,250,000 visits.

“ClinicNET is proud to represent the health care safety net and its diverse models of care delivery that are essential to health care access, health equity and innovative care delivery. While CSNCs and RHCs are diverse in their business and practice models, they are comparable in their commitment to providing health and health care services to people in need. They deliver meaningful results and value to their communities despite limited funding for general operations, workforce challenges, growing reporting and accountability requirements and changing payment and delivery models. It is exciting to celebrate CSNCs and RHCs during Safety Net Clinic Week and to recognize each clinics’ role in serving individuals, families and entire communities,” says Sharon Adams, ClinicNET’s executive director.

Helping to raise awareness of these clinics, Governor Hickenlooper granted an official proclamation of August 17 - 21 as Safety Net Clinic Week in Colorado. The proclamation was presented to ClinicNET and the Colorado Rural Health Center at a kickoff celebration hosted by Clinica Tepeyac.



In addition to founder/executive director, Jim Garcia, State Senator Irene Aguilar, MD, a part-time provider at Clinica Tepeyac, provided remarks at the celebration. Colorado's sixth annual Safety Net Clinic Week runs August 17-21 and is supported by COPIC and Kaiser Permanente. During this week elected officials and community partners will be visiting clinics throughout the state.

"Safety Net Clinic Week is a key opportunity to educate state and national policymakers about the present need to support safety net providers," says Michelle Mills, chief executive officer at CRHC.

"We are rallying support to ensure all safety net providers are recognized and remain adequately funded so that they may continue delivering care to some of Colorado's most vulnerable populations," adds Mills.

To promote awareness of the unique challenges facing RHCs, CRHC will host a virtual showcase event on Monday, August 17 at the Colorado Rural Health Center office. "Our rural health clinics are located throughout the state – sometimes in very remote and hard to access locations," says Michelle.

“The event will showcase four clinics via a virtual tour. Our goal was to bring the stories and voices of rural health clinics to a large, centralized audience,” explains Mills, “Urban healthcare professionals, partners and elected officials will have the unique opportunity to tour rural health clinics without leaving Denver.”

For further information or details about participating in Safety Net Clinic Week events, contact ClinicNET at <http://www.clinicnet.org/> or contact Jess Worley at Jessica.worley@clinicnet.org. To contact Colorado Rural Health Center, visit <http://coruralhealth.org/> or contact Kelly Erb at ke@coruralhealth.org.

About Clinica Tepeyac

Clinica Tepeyac is a community safety net clinic located in north Denver. They provide culturally competent health care and preventative health services for the medically underserved. For more information about Clinica Tepeyac call (720) 274-2941 or go to www.clinicatepeyac.org

About ClinicNET

ClinicNET is the centralized voice for Colorado’s Community Safety Net Clinics. ClinicNET is committed to strengthening Colorado’s safety net for people in need by advancing health equity, health care access and innovative care delivery. For more information about ClinicNET call (720) 863-7800 or go to www.clinicnet.org

About The Colorado Rural Health Center

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC serves dual roles as the State Office of Rural Health with the mission of assisting rural communities in addressing healthcare issues; and as the State Rural Health Association, advocating for policy change to ensure that rural Coloradoans have access to comprehensive, affordable healthcare services of the highest quality. For more information visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

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