**AHA Quarterly Community Meeting**

**January 20, 2016**

**The Medical Center of Aurora – Main Campus**

**Meeting Notes**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Mariana Ledezma, the Assistant Director of Community Campus Partnership and AHA’s Chair, welcomed the participants. She noted that this was the largest Quarterly Community Meeting so far! She thanked Ryan Simpson, COO, and Diane McCallister, CMO, for The Medical Center of Aurora. They welcomed the participants and provided an update on TMCA and reiterated their commitment to the Aurora community.

Denise Denton thanked them for hosting, and for the healthy array of snacks. She also extended appreciation for their participation on AHA’s Access to Specialty Care Task Force and the Senior Circle.

**“Did You Know?” Panel**

Our “Did You Know?” Panel enlightened us with a myriad of information and resources.

Colorado Welcome Back Center, Spring Institute

* Did you know that about 26% of immigrants and refugees have a bachelor's degree or higher?
* Did you know that the unemployment and underemployment rate for this educated and highly skilled population is significantly higher than their U.S. trained counterparts?
* That there are pathways for internationally trained healthcare professionals to be able to use their education and experience to get licensed/certified here in the U.S.?

If you know an internationally trained healthcare professional who could benefit from the services of the Colorado Welcome Back Center or an employer who needs culturally competent high-skilled employees or wants more information about the program at the Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning they can call 303 569-8634 or email bharris@springinstitute.org.

American Diabetes Association

* ¿Sabias que - Hispanics tend to have higher prevalence of obesity and physical inactivity and less access to care?
* ¿Sabias que - the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes among Hispanics was 9.3% in Adams County, 6.6% in Arapahoe County, and 1.3% in Douglas County?

To learn more, contact Julissa Soto, American Diabetes Association at jsoto@diabetes.org or 720-427-5542

Families Forward Resource Center

* Did you know that African American families are 3 times more likely to experience infant mortality than any other culture?
* Did you know that the Healthy Babies Strong Families (HBSF) program of the Families Forward Resource Center (FFRC) provides programs and services to create a safe, healthy, and cohesive community through individual and family support and empowerment?
* Did you know that any African American family with children under the age 2, who are pregnant, who are thinking about becoming pregnant within a year and who have had a pregnancy or fetal loss can participate in the program?

For more information, contact Shawn Taylor, Program Manager, at shawn@familiesforwardrc.org.

Healthier Colorado

* And finally, did you know that a new grassroots movement for health public policy change is being created in Colorado?

To learn more, check out the Healthier Colorado website at [www.healthiercolorado.org](http://www.healthiercolorado.org) or contact Jake Williams at jwilliams@healthiercolorado.org.

**AHA Updates**

AHA board members provided brief updates on work groups and task forces.

* The next meeting of the Pediatric Access Work Group is February 1st from 11:30 to 1:00 at Children’s Hospital. We’ll hear about two new grant projects focused on children’s health. Bring your lunch and join us! More details on our website.
* The Access to Specialty Care Task Force is working with partners to determine where we have the most significant access problems for patients covered by Medicaid. The group will then select one specialty area and more fully explore the contributing factors and possible solutions.
* The Coverage Work Group encouraged everyone to attend the final enrollment event on January 23rd. They are also working on a consumer education paper that explains the difference between urgent care centers and free-standing emergency rooms. This topic created a great deal of interest and reaction.
* The Senior Circle meeting in January will focus on senior oral health needs and resources. AHA will compile the information gathered into a Guide to Senior Oral Health Resources in Aurora. Our goal is to complete this by March.

**Next Meetings**

**Wednesday, April 20, 2:00-4:30** at Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital, 900 Potomac St, Aurora, CO 80011. Registration is already open for this event! Please click on this link to register:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ec5fyfuuafcce19f&llr=hstgeroab>

**Wednesday, July 20, 2:00-4:30** at Children’s Hospital, 13123 E 16th Ave, Aurora, CO 80045.

**Wednesday, October 19, 2:00-4:30** at Aurora Welcome Center, 1085 Peoria St., Aurora, Co 80011.