

Content Editor Web Part

Welcome to issue #21 (August 1, 2012) of the **Pulse**, Family HealthCare Network's weekly newsletter keeping FHCN team members up to date on the latest news and developments impacting the organization. A new edition is posted every Wednesday.

***U.S. Congressman Kevin McCarthy to attend mid-August Porterville Dental grand opening**

All FHCN employees should circle the date on their calendars: Two weeks from today – on August 15 at 3:30 p.m. – a grand opening celebration happens at FHCN's newest site, the Porterville Dental Center, located at 1133 W. Poplar adjacent to the Porterville Health Center and Annex building. A veritable constellation of local and national dignitaries will attend the event, including U.S. Congressman Kevin McCarthy, currently the third-highest ranking Republican in the House of Representatives. Tulare County District 5 Supervisor Mike Ennis and California Assemblywoman Connie Conway are also expected to speak at the event. The new Dental Center, which encompasses 4,100 square feet and includes 12 dental operatories, was built at a cost of \$1.5 million, financed through the sale of California Municipal bonds. "Our Porterville dental staff can't wait to get in there and start utilizing this sparkling new facility," said **Dr. Henry Cisneros**, FHCN's Chief Dental Officer.

***Verduzco named new Chief Operations Officer**

Longtime director of operations **Norma Verduzco** achieved a career milestone yesterday. "It is my honor and privilege to announce that Norma has been selected as the new Chief Operations Officer," wrote CEO **Harry Foster** in an All Staff email sent Tuesday. "She is exactly the right person at the right time to move the operations department forward and accomplish all of the objectives that will make us the Provider of Choice in preparation for implementation of the Affordable Care Act," Foster added. Verduzco, who joined the organization in 1996, recently earned her Master's degree from Fresno State; her first position with the Network was as a cashier at the corporate office located then in Porterville.

***Foster quoted in New York Times**

Harry Foster was quoted in a front page article in last Friday's edition of the New York Times headlined "Hospitals Fear Cuts in Aid for Care to Illegal Immigrants." In the story, Family HealthCare Network was identified as one of 1,200 community health centers facing future financial strain because of the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the country who will not be covered under the Affordable Care Act. "In Central California, Harry Foster, director of Family HealthCare Network, called the Affordable Care Act 'a double-edged sword,'" the Times reporter wrote. "Many low-wage earning citizens now lack employer-sponsored health insurance, and the health care industry is already competing for those who will gain coverage through the Affordable Care Act. But no one is competing to treat those it leaves out," Foster said. "We will receive more and more of those patients."

***Community Health department shines at ‘Summer Night Lights’**

More than a dozen members of FHCN’s **Community Health department**, including AmeriCorps members and Community Health representatives, took the lead role in last Friday night’s ‘Summer Night Lights’ event at Visalia’s Riverway Sports Park. The event drew more than 400 local youth for a night of food, fun and music. The Summer Night Lights program, created in 2011 as a safe, late-night recreational opportunity for area youth, aims to curb violence and other negative activities by keeping selected parks and recreational facilities around the county open during summer months. FHCN partnered with various local agencies including City of Visalia and Tulare County officials, to conduct the program. Tulare County Supervisor Phil Cox, who cooked hot dogs and hamburgers during the event, applauded FHCN’s staff for their work and said that he is pleased that agencies around the county “see the value in providing positive activities for young people.”

***State Senator Jean Fuller tours FHCN sites**

California State Senator Jean Fuller (R-Bakersfield) spent an hour this morning visiting the organization’s corporate office and then, together with Harry Foster, touring the Visalia Bridge and Oak Health Centers. Fuller, whose district includes sections of Tulare County including Porterville, is a former public school administrator. She said she had heard “great things about the work being done at Family HealthCare.” The purpose of her visit, she said, was “fact-finding. I’m here to learn more about the current state of health care in our area and the many challenges facing those working in this critically important sector.”

***Navarro featured in NACHC magazine**

FHCN medical director **Dr. Isaac Navarro** was prominently featured -- two photos and a glowing profile -- in the latest edition of Community Health Forum, the quarterly magazine published by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). In an article entitled “Making a Difference in Your Hometown,” Navarro, who grew up in Visalia, is one of a half dozen “community-minded healers” across the country singled out because of their participation in a unique partnership between NACHC and A.T. Still University. The partner program, which began nearly a decade ago and resulted in an ATSU Community Campus medical school embedded within FHCN, continues to be focused on recruiting applicants from populations served by community health centers. In detailing his decision to return to his roots to practice dentistry in the Central Valley -- and inspire future medical students through his work with ATSU -- the article’s author applauds Navarro for “formally training for his dream of becoming a community health center leader.”