

Press Release

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Community Health Leader Cathy Alderman of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Honored for Advocacy at National Conference

BETHESDA, MD – The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) has honored Cathy Alderman, Chief Communications and Public Policy Officer from the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (the Coalition) with the Elizabeth K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award. This award recognizes advocates’ dedication and mobilization efforts to generate public and political support for the nation’s Community Health Centers and was presented during NACHC’s 2024 Policy and Issues Forum in Washington, D.C. Health centers are the largest primary care network in the U.S., serving 31.5 million people at more than 1,400 sites nationwide. The network of health center grassroots advocates comprises doctors, nurses, CEOs, frontline staff, board members and patients who have dedicated themselves to advancing health equity in rural, urban, and frontier communities.

As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) the Coalition’s Stout Street Health Center and its other health center sites are responsive to the specialized health needs of adults and children experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and those living in public housing. The Coalition offers medical and behavioral health care, substance use treatment, dental, vision, pharmacy and supportive services to meet the needs of Coloradans experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

In her role at the Coalition, Cathy oversees the Education & Advocacy (E&A) department which is responsible for public/media relations, lobbying activities, social media, publications, community engagement, public outreach, and education. In the 2023 Colorado legislative session, the E&A department engaged with 45 bills, provided public and written testimony 29 times on 17 bills, and connected with a network of over 25,000 Coloradans to impact change with lawmakers. The Coalition played a role in numerous significant health bills from 2023 including HB23-1300 addressing continuous eligibility medical coverage, SB23-002 authorizing federal authorization for medical reimbursement for services provided by a community health worker, amongst others. [Learn more in the 2023 Legislative Report.](#)

Cathy was nominated by Jed Barton, Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility Engagement for NACHC. He added “I am so impressed by all the advocacy and public policy work that takes place (at CCH) ... The award selection committee clearly agreed.”

Andrew Grimm, Vice President of Integrated Health Operations at the Coalition accepted the award on Wednesday, February 14 on behalf of Cathy and added “I am honored and privileged to accept this award on behalf of my colleague. The Coalition’s health center services provide health care to over 17,000 individuals a year, and that takes the hard work and dedication of a multi-disciplinary team made up not only of the clinical and support staff working in our health center sites, but also from leaders like Cathy Alderman who advocate on the local, state, and national level on behalf of our clients.”

Before joining the Coalition in 2015, Cathy served as the Vice President of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM) and the PPRM Action Fund overseeing policy, political, and community engagement work for a four-state region. Cathy has also worked for the Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, and the Madison County Health Department in Ohio as an Epidemiologist and Legal Adviser.

About Colorado Coalition for the Homeless:

The mission of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is to work collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado. The Coalition advocates for and provides a continuum of housing and a variety of services to improve the health, well-being and stability of those it serves. Learn more at www.coloradocoalition.org.

About The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)

NACHC is the leading innovative change agent collaborating with affiliates and partners to advance Community Health Centers as the foundation of an equitable health care system free from disparities and built on accessible, patient-governed, high-quality, integrated primary care.