

# The Center for Health Innovation

*formerly the Southwest Center for Health Innovation*

## New Mexico's Public Health Institute

**Mission: Working with communities to advance health and social justice through innovative and effective policies and programs.**

Since 2015 CHI has secured \$4.8 million in grants & contracts to develop or enhance efforts in prevention, workforce development & health systems.

## Key Focus Areas

### Prevention & Community Collaborations

#### Substance Use Policy Change in Community and Schools

- Western New Mexico University revised its substance abuse treatment referral policy.
- Silver Consolidated School District adopted an amended student athlete substance abuse policy focused on referrals to treatment services and clarified discipline outcomes.
- Two social host ordinances adopted in Doña Ana County and enforced by NM communities.

#### Alcohol & Prescription Drug (Opioid) Prevention

- Office of Substance Abuse Prevention (OSAP) programs in Doña Ana, Grant and Luna Counties.
- Secured expanded funding for substance abuse prevention programs through community foundations.
- Received a Drug-Free Communities Support Program award for Doña Ana County, \$125,000 up to ten years.
- Conducting research on the impact of alcohol outlet density on community crime in Las Cruces through the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation.

#### Gambling Prevention Outreach

- Received funding for problem gambling education and underage gambling prevention in Doña Ana County.

### Health Careers & Workforce Development

#### Community-based Experiential Training

- Support over 20 medical residents a year for their rural rotations across the state.
- Placed over 350 multidisciplinary students in rural clinical trainings since 2012.

#### Health Career Pipeline Activities - Forward NM & SoAHEC

- Improve the diversity of the health professions workforce by providing health career activities for high school students. Over 1,200 students received Health Career presentations and Health Career Fairs per year.
- Graduated 192 middle school students from the Dream Makers Program/Health Career Club since 2012. This program is co-sponsored by the UNM Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Graduated 164 high school students from health career summer academies, 74 of these students received ACT Prep. Forward NM pre and post ACT tests average an increase in scores of 20-30%.
- Provide preparation courses for students taking the MCAT, DAT, and PCAT to help ensure success.

#### Continuing Education

- o Co-sponsor over 14 continuing education trainings for health professionals per year. Have had over 850 health care professionals and caregivers participated in trainings and/or workshops this past year.

#### Launch- New Mexico AHEC Scholar Program

- o The AHEC Scholars Program is a federally funded, nation-wide initiative to create a cadre of health professionals across disciplines committed to working together in rural and underserved communities.

CHI Connect:  [swchi.org](http://swchi.org)  [@centerhealthinnovation](https://www.facebook.com/centerhealthinnovation)  [@swchi\\_nm](https://twitter.com/swchi_nm)  [@swchi](https://www.linkedin.com/company/swchi)

## Communications, Research & Program Development

- 1. Advancing Public Health Practice** – Promoting systemic improvements in population health through community collaboration, assessment, engagement and policy support. Among other community efforts, CHI staffs the Health Council, Healthy Kids New Mexico and a food pantry in Hidalgo County.
- 2. Rural Health Network Development project** – Working to strengthen the rural public health system by creating transformational change opportunities to further develop the infrastructure for the NM Public Health Institute to support rural health planning and development by working with communities and key stakeholders.
- 3. Collaborative Health Systems Planning** – Developd a framework for successful, comprehensive health systems planning and implementation. Results will be shared with the public and policy-makers.
- 4. Evidence NOW Southwest** – Serving 52 small & medium sized primary care practices across the state with quality improvement support, including on-site facilitation and coaching, expert consultation, electronic health record support and peer learning to improve cardiovascular disease outcomes.
- 5. Academic Detailing** – In an effort to address the opioid crisis, CHI is developing and implementing an evidence-based practice to inform prescribers of the latest best practices in pain management and opioid prescribing.
- 6. New Mexico Community Data Collaborative (NMCDC)** – CHI partners with NMCDC to provide extensive health and social system data and mapping to NM communities using hundreds of health and social indicators.

**CHI works throughout New Mexico with main offices in:**  
**Silver City:** 301 W. College Ave., Ste. 5 **Las Cruces:** 205 Boutz Rd., Bld 8, Ste. 2,3  
**Staff offices:** Deming, Lordsburg & Santa Fe

## CHI Partners

**Local:** Unified Prevention Coalition for Doña Ana County, Luna County OSAP, Grant County Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Hidalgo County Health Council, Grant County Community Health Council, Luna County Health Council, Healthy Kids Healthy Communities Hidalgo County, and Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center

**Regional:** Forward NM AHEC, Southern AHEC, and Southwest New Mexico Food Policy Council

**State:** New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium, NM Alliance of Health Councils, Public Health Leadership Team, and UNM Office of Community Health

**National:** National Center for Frontier Communities, National REACH Coalition, National Network of Public Health Institutes, Families USA, University of Southern Maine Rural Research Center, and the Rural Policy and Research Institute (U of Iowa), Federal Office of Rural Health Policy at HRSA, Data Across Systems for Health

**Philanthropy:** Kellogg Foundation, R.W. Johnson Foundation, McCune Charitable Foundation, Con Alma Health Foundation

**Over 250 volunteers contribute to CHI policy & service development.**

## Connect with Our CHI Staff



**Charlie  
Alfero**

Executive Director  
(575) 538-1618  
calfero@swchi.org



**Susan  
Wilger**

Associate Director  
(575) 597-0039  
swilger@swchi.org



**Alisha  
Herrick**

Manager of  
Communications,  
Research & Program  
Development  
(575) 597-0031  
aherrick@swchi.org



**Marisol  
Diaz**

Director of  
Prevention &  
Community  
Collaborations  
(575) 313-9441  
mdiaz@swchi.org



**Holley  
Hudgins**

Director of  
Workforce  
Development  
(575) 956-5051  
hhudgins@swchi.org