Early Intervention Services

The Early Intervention Services (EIS) program at Pueblo Community Health Center (PCHC) has been helping to care for people living with HIV/AIDS for over 16 years. Dr. Mark Schwartz joined PCHC in early 2003, just after PCHC was awarded a Ryan White Grant. The Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program funds grants to states, cities/counties, and local community-based organizations to provide care and treatment services to people living with HIV to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission among hard-to-reach populations. Not long after PCHC received the grant, Dr. Steven Johnson from the University of Colorado School of Medicine began traveling to Pueblo once a month to collaborate with Dr. Schwartz.

Drs. Schwartz and Johnson have been a team, helping each other see patients, collaborating on issues, and offering the best comprehensive care for their patients. “Over the last 16 years, this partnership between the Pueblo Community Health Center and the HIV Clinical Program at the University of Colorado School of Medicine has provided comprehensive primary care with state-of-the-art HIV care for persons living with HIV infection in southeastern Colorado,” said Dr. Johnson.

The PCHC EIS program serves people living in 17 counties in Southeastern Colorado, and currently the program has 250 active patients. Comprehensive case management services within the EIS program include physicians who are HIV specialists, medical assistants and nurse case managers, referrals to medical specialty providers, pharmaceutical services, oral health care, behavioral health care, therapy and substance abuse counseling, and more.

“We have been lucky that PCHC has been so supportive of the EIS program, enabling us to provide care to patients who are HIV-infected as well as those who are at risk for HIV infection, leading to improved health, decreased hospitalizations, and a marked reduction in mortality” said Dr. Schwartz.

To learn more about PCHC’s EIS program please contact (719) 543-8711.
Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

Every patient who needs care is welcome at Pueblo Community Health Center. Whether you are young or elderly, or seeking care for a serious illness or just a check-up, you are welcome. Do you live in the city, Pueblo West, Rye or out in the county? It doesn’t matter, come in and see us. Regardless of race or ethnicity, it doesn’t matter to us if you need primary care – you can register to become a patient at PCHC. We serve all people, no matter their station in life.

PCHC works to reach everyone in need of quality care. A program started in 2003 called the Ryan White Early Intervention Services (EIS) is an example of this. EIS is a comprehensive care model for people living with HIV or AIDS. When the program began, patients living with HIV or AIDS were experiencing a tremendous amount of stigma associated with their disease. In order to secure anonymity, many in our community were traveling to Colorado Springs or Denver for their medical needs. Sadly, these patients weren’t comfortable seeking care in the community in which they lived and in its first year of operation, only a few dozen patients were served. Fast forward to 2019--currently the EIS program cares for 250 patients that trust PCHC as their primary care home. This means that high quality, compassionate care is available close to home, but even more remarkable is that our EIS patients have put their trust in us. It’s a compliment patients pay our staff that means more than they will ever know.

I hope you had a great summer. I am looking forward to fall, my favorite season. As you enjoy this wonderful time of year, think about this question for a moment: who in our community needs to be included and what can we do to reach out? This is the question that helps PCHC’s Board of Directors and staff continue to perpetuate and achieve our mission of providing primary care to those in need.

Sincerely,

Donald Moore, CEO
Pueblo Community Health Center

Giving to PCHC Changes Lives

For 36 years, PCHC has served the health care needs of the people of Pueblo and Huerfano counties, regardless of a patient’s ability to pay. If you choose to contribute, it enables us to continue to offer expanded services that include primary medical, dental, behavioral health, and pharmacy services. If you want to help us perpetuate our mission, we invite you to make a contribution to Pueblo Community Health Center Foundation.

All funds raised will be allocated to our Foundation for future health center needs. Any donation is appreciated and no gift is too small. Your support will make a difference in the lives of the people who trust their health needs to our providers.

If you would like to learn more about naming opportunities or planning for larger gifts, please contact Laura Kelly, Chief Development and Foundation Officer at (719) 543-8718 x 152 or email lkelly@pueblochc.org. Thank you for caring about those in need.
Meet Dr. Mark Schwartz

Years with PCHC: 16

What you do at PCHC: I am a physician at Park Hill clinic and provide care for the patients with HIV.

Where are you from: Southfield, Michigan (a suburb of Detroit).

Where did you go to school? I went to Michigan State University for undergraduate, University of Michigan for Medical School and Ohio State University/Nationwide Children’s Hospital for Internal Medicine and Pediatrics residency training.

Hobbies/Interests: I enjoy hiking, running, bicycling, and cross country skiing.

Favorite food/restaurant: Indian food

Favorite movie: All of the Marvel movies (mostly because these are the ones my kids like right now!).

Favorite music/band: I don’t really have one.

Favorite place to vacation: Thailand

Most surprising talent: I can speak Spanish pretty fluently.

Most rewarding aspect of your job: Caring for patients with HIV. It is always rewarding to be able to treat people with a life-threatening infection and see them become healthy again.

2018 PCHC: Ryan White Early Intervention Services Data

Enrollment

20% 80%
47 Female 191 Male

Payer Mix

CICP/No Insurance 13
Medicare 86
Health First Colorado 95
Private Insurance 44

Medical Visits

4791

Free HIV Testing

104 Tests

Vision

To be the primary health care provider of choice in Pueblo County by providing top quality care through accessibility, leadership and financial independence
Please consider donating to help Pueblo’s families in need of high quality, affordable health care.

Amount

- $25
- $50
- $100
- $200
- Other ____________

Check enclosed, payable to:  PCHC Foundation
110 E. Routt Ave. • Pueblo, CO 81004

Charge my credit or debit card:

Card Number ____________________________ Expires (mo/year) ____________________________

Card Billing Address ____________________________

Signature ____________________________

Name: ______________________________________

Mailing Address: ______________________________________

City: ____________________________ State: _________ Zip: ____________

Email: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________

Have you remembered us in your will or trust? Please contact us to learn more (719) 543-8718 x152 or lkelly@pueblochc.org.