

# **COLORADO AWHONN**

# SECTION NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Issue 4 December 2021

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# SOUTHERN CHAPTER COORDINATOR:

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# AWHONN Mission:

Promote the health of women and newborns

# AWHONN National Goals:

Public visibility Knowledge transfer Build membership

# CO AWHONN Goals:

Promote member engagement through partnerships



# **Section Chair Report**

Did you hear? There are some great initiatives happening at the national level that were highlighted in last week's <u>Maternal Health Day of Action</u>. The white house announced a number of new commitments intended to improve pregnancy outcomes and reduce the risk of complications and death in the year following birth.

#### The Administration will:

- Build Back Better: The Build Back Better Act, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, includes an historic \$3 billion investment in maternal health.
- Encourage states to expand postpartum coverage: CMS is releasing new guidance to help states provide 12 months of continuous postpartum coverage through their Medicaid programs, up from 60 days. Currently, states are only required to provide coverage for 60 days postpartum, despite research showing that many deaths and complications occur more than 60 days following delivery. This easier pathway for states was established by the American Rescue Plan and will become available in April 2022. States, including Virginia, New Jersey, and Illinois, have already extended postpartum coverage for families in their states and CMS is encouraging all states to take up the new option.
- Report on the impact of postpartum coverage: HHS's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) is releasing a new report showing the dramatic impact of state extensions of Medicaid postpartum coverage to 12 months. If every state adopted an extension as required in the Build Back Better Act —then the number of Americans getting coverage for a full year postpartum would roughly double, extending coverage for an estimated 720,000 people in a given year.
- Create a new designation of the quality of maternal health services for our nation's hospitals: CMS is planning to propose the establishment of a "Birthing-Friendly" hospital designation, which would be the first-ever hospital quality designation by HHS specifically focused on maternity care. This designation is intended to be awarded to those hospitals that participate in a collaborative program aimed at improving maternal outcomes and implement patient safety practices. CMS would add the designation to their "Care Compare" website to allow consumers to choose hospitals that have implemented best practices.
- available at: <u>fact-sheet-vice-president-kamala-harris-announces-call-to-action-to-reduce-maternal-mortality-and-morbidity/</u>

If you follow me on Facebook then you know that I have been working on these kinds of initiatives with our elected officials since 2014. I am really thrilled to see some movement at both the state and national level finally in 2021. It's about time! I have enjoyed my time as Chair but anyone who knows me knows that legislative action to support moms, babies and the nurses that care for them is what I am most passionate about. As I step down from Chair I am looking forward to working more with our legislative coordinators to keep the momentum going in this area.

If there's anything I've learned as your CO AWHONN chair is that it takes a village to get good work done. I've had the privilege to work with the 10 CO Leaders for the past 3 years. In that time we hosted in person meetings from Fort Collins (Marijuana and Mommas) to Gunnison (Legal Issues) to Colorado Springs (2019 state conference). We've met virtually for chapter meetings (Trauma Informed Care), state conference (2020) and National Conference (2020-2021). We collaborated on best practice as soon as Covid arrived on our doorstep by meeting with ZOOM to share knowledge and experiences.

Of all of the events we've done together I am most proud of this years, in person, state conference. We pulled off a conference in person- with 20 vendors- and did it safely! I really needed that time with our AWHONN colleagues to recharge. It could only happen because we had an incredibly engaged group of 18 committee planning members. We had rave reviews from the participants. I thank all of the committee members and the attendees for a really meaningful conference.

I want to thank Cyndy Krening, Amy Dempsey and Kris Rimbos for being wonderful mentors and supporters during my time as your Chair. You helped me problem solve, think out of the box and led the way so I could keep Colorado AWHONN the <u>BEST</u> AWHONN Section.

I am so excited to see what Sam Smeak will do as our new Chair. She has great energy and is ready to hit the ground running with new ideas and new vision for where CO AWHONN will go. Congratulations Sam!

As always thank you so much for all you do for Colorado Moms and Babies,

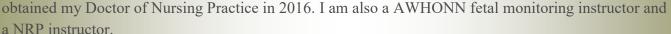
# Secretary/Treasurer Report

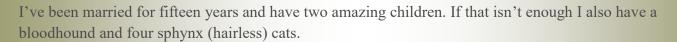
Hello everyone,

My name is Rainy Tieman and I am assuming the role as Colorado AWHONN's secretary/treasurer in January 2022!

I have been a member of Colorado AWHONN for the past seven years and a member of CO AWHONN leadership almost as long. I am currently the manager of Labor and Delivery and OB-ED at Saint Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado. I'm also an instructor for Colorado Mesa University and in my spare time I am a legal nurse consultant.

I have certifications in Inpatient Obstetrics (RNC-OB), Maternal-Newborn Nursing (RNC-MNN), Electronic Fetal Monitoring (C-EFM) and Obstetrics and Neonatal Quality and Safety (C-ONQS). I





I am so excited to assume the role as the secretary/treasurer and I look forward to an amazing 2022!

Rainy Tieman DNP, MSN/Ed, RNC-MNN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS

Happy Holidays and wishes for a healthy 2022!

As my last term as CO section Secretary/Treasurer comes to an end, I reflect on the amazing journey AWHONN has taken me both professionally and personally. Stops along the way included the office of our state representatives, dancing with Miss Colorado, section and national conferences, and endless opportunity to collaborate with my peers! I have met many outstanding nurses along this journey! Many have made a lasting impact on my nursing career thanks to their mentorship. I am forever grateful for the memories I've earned while serving as the CO Section Secretary/Treasurer! I leave you with parting advice- get involved in local leadership! Volunteer with

a chapter or section! Look for opportunities at the National level! Yes, it's taking on a bit more work to our already busy schedule, however the personal and professional benefits are worth it!

I look forward to watching CO AWHONN Section continue to grow! Best wishes in 2022, CO AWHONN family!

Rachelle Woods, MSN, RN

CO Section Secretary/Treasurer (Outgoing)



# Legislative Happenings



There is an exciting update on the Protecting Moms Who Served Act which AWHONN members advocated for at the 2021 AWHONN on the Hill advocacy day and have been following as it moved through both chambers. This bill was signed into law in December and is significant because it will direct new research and interventions to the maternity care services offered through the Veteran's Health Administration.

Vice President Kamala Harris hosted a Maternal Health Summit on December 7<sup>th</sup> live on the White House website. AWHONN's CEO Jonathan Webb recorded a video segment and other AWHONN members participated in a video round table facilitated by the Vice President and Senator Tammy Duckworth to discuss the importance of expanded postpartum care. This is an exciting national spotlight on the issue of maternal health and coincides with a funding package that is currently in discussions on Capitol Hill.

You can read the Vice President's comments here: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/07/remarks-by-vice-president-harris-at-the-maternal-day-of-action-summit/

Lastly, there is a new way to stay connected, AWHONN's advocacy arm has a new twitter handle to share more updates on legislative items and advocacy opportunities. <a href="https://twitter.com/">https://twitter.com/</a>
AWHONN/status/1474047394643857414?s=20

## Oncoming 2022 Legislative Coordinator—Megan Raleigh

Hello everyone! My name is Megan Raleigh. I am a Labor and Delivery nurse working at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver. I am currently member of AWHONN's public policy committee and was previously both the Legislative Coordinator in Texas and a local chapter leader in the Dallas area. I am married with two children.

I look forward to expanding my role within Colorado AWHONN!

Megan Raleigh BSN, RNC-OB megan\_raleigh@yahoo.com



# **Membership Matters**

Happy Holidays, Members!

What a wonderful year we have had! Thank you to all of the CO AWHONN Leaders and Volunteers who helped to make the year a success! A BIG thank you to Cyndy Krening and Isabelle Campanella for their superb leadership as our National AWHONN President and CO Section Chair, respectively!

As of December 10<sup>th</sup>, we have 554 Colorado AWHONN Members. Chapter Leaders set up virtual CEU opportunities throughout the year. Section newsletters highlighted past and future events, new evidence-based practices, and fellowship opportunities. We had a very successful Section Conference in Ft. Collins this year! It felt so good to be together in-person!

As we bring in the New Year, I am wanting to know more about YOU, our members. What do you want out of your membership? Which activities and communications do you enjoy? What topics do you want to learn more about? What is useful to you? What can we do at the Section level to improve?

Here are ways to volunteer with CO AWHONN:

- Chapter Events Planning Committee
- Section Events Planning Committee
- Section Conference Planning Committee
- Newsletter Submissions
- Section Leadership
- Section Chair (elected)
- Section Secretary/Treasurer (elected)
- Communications Coordinator
- Legislative Coordinator
- Evidence Based Practice Coordinator
- Membership Coordinator
- Hospital Liaison
- •Chapter Coordinator (Denver, Northern, Southern, Western)

## AWHONN MISSION STATEMENT

Empower and support nurses caring for women, newborns, and their families through research, education, and advocacy.

### AWHONN VISION STATEMENT

Making a difference in the lives of women and newborns.

## **AWHONN VALUE PROPOSITION**

Your vital resource when you need us most.

Please feel free to email me at <u>kmogensen80@gmail.com</u> or text 720-240-3623, I would love to hear from you!

With Gratitude,

Kami Mogensen, RNC, BSN

Section Membership Coordinator

## **Communications Coordinator**

## Oncoming 2022 Communications Coordinator— Sarah Manget

2021! Gone in the blink of an eye! As the year comes to a close, I get to reflect on this past year and what I am grateful for. I am grateful that we got to hold an in-person state conference. It was a great networking experience full of amazing speakers. I'm even more excited for the National AWHONN convention that will be in Colorado this summer, so save the date! I am thankful for all the new people I have met this past year

throughout AWHONN. I love learning about what we are all doing all over the state and having that connection and community. I have enjoyed my time as the Membership Co-coordinator with Kamie Mogensen; and am so thankful for how much I have learned and for the supportive community AWHONN provides.

In saying that, I will be transitioning from this role to Communications Coordinator in January. While it will be a change in pace – I love the idea of getting to communicate with members of our state, and have a few ideas for newsletters in the future...But in this role - I have big shoes to fill. And I just want to thank Rainy Tieman for all of her hard work and dedication in this role. So please join me in gratitude for all of Rainy's contributions, and I will see you in the spring newsletter!



Sarah Mangat

## Oncoming 2022 Communications Coordinator— Andrea Elmore

My name is Andrea Elmore. I live in Castle Rock, Colorado. I am currently employed as a Clinical Quality Specialist for a hospital in the Metro Denver area. I completed my Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Wyoming in May of 2015. I've worked as a Labor and Delivery nurse for over 18 years and served as a clinical educator on my unit for over ten years. I recently transferred to the Quality Department.

I am an AWHONN Fetal Monitoring instructor and a NRP instructor. I hold certifications in Inpatient Obstetrics, Electronic Fetal Monitoring and Obstetrics and Neonatal Quality and Safety.

I look forward to serving you as a Communications Coordinator!



## **Evidence-Based Practice**

# Scoping Review of the Associations Between Perinatal Substance Use (PSU) and Perinatal Depression and Anxiety (PDA)

- In the US, 19.5 million women 15.4 % ages 18 years and older have used illicit drugs in the past year (Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, 2017).
- Women between the ages of 18-29 years, are at risk of developing substance use disorders in their reproductive year, this could be related to hormonal fluctuations during menstrual cycles, fertility, pregnancy, and breastfeeding (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2020).
- Women reported utilizing substances for weight control, fighting exhaustion, coping with pain, and attempts to self-medicate to treat mental health conditions (Becker et al., 2017; NIDA, 2020).
- About 15% of infants are affected by prenatal alcohol or illicit drug exposure (National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, n.d.)
- 5.4% of pregnant women used illicit drugs and 9.4% of pregnant women reported that they had consumed alcohol within the last 30 days (Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, 2016).
- The adverse effects from substance abuse include the following: miscarriage, stillbirth, placental
  abruption, preterm labor, preterm birth, psychiatric comorbidity, overdose, infections, fetal congenital
  disorders, IUGR, low birth rates in infants, and sudden infant death (Kotelchuck et al., 2017; Patrick et al,
  2012).
- Perinatal depression is found during pregnancy in one of five women after childbirth (VanNeil, 2020).
- Anxiety disorder during pregnancy or the postpartum period is estimated to be at 20.7% (Fawcett et al., 2019).
- Perinatal depression and anxiety have a known correlation with increased use of tobacco, alcohol, and sleep disorder drugs during pregnancy and the postpartum period (Newport et al., 2012).

### What is the Relationship Between PSU & PDA?

- In most studies PSU and PDA were significantly associated (Dennis and Vigod, 2013).
- It was found that 20% of women that are suffering with perinatal depression had a history of substance
  use and that 22% of women with perinatal depression had utilized drugs during pregnancy (Newport et
  al., 2012).
- Perinatal depression was positively corrected with weeks of exposure to opioid analgesics (Newport et al., 2012).

#### Recommendations

- The findings suggest that women should be screened concurrently for PSU and PDS during their pregnancy and the postpartum period. This approach has the potential to reduce adverse maternal and child health outcomes (Chang, 2014; Sarkar et al., 2009).
- It is important to identify the gaps, and barriers to providing care. It may take comprehensive
  multidisciplinary services to address the complex health care needs of the childbearing women with
  mental health conditions and substance dependency. It would be of value to also address the physical,
  socioeconomic, and family needs that occur during pregnancy and the postpartum period.

Dana Cherie Steffens BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM

Dana.steffens@childrenscolorado.org

References available upon request



# Northern Chapter



Hello everyone,

My name is Eileen Holden and I have had the privilege of working in various aspects of Women's Health for 18 years. I started my career in the OBGYN clinical setting and them moved to the acute care setting as a Women's Health support RN- floating to Labor and Delivery, Postpartum, NICU and Pediatric Units. I eventually trained to high-risk OB and had the opportunity to assist EMS with high risk OB transports across Northern Colorado. After I obtained my master's degree in Nursing Education in 2018, I moved into the role of Perinatal Educator for the UCHealth Northern Region hospitals. As a perinatal nurse and educator, it is my passion to provide support to my fellow nurses as they provide the best care possible to their patients.

At home, I have two daughters that keep me on my toes. Madeline (10 years old) and Ana (8 years old). Madeline loves all things with eight legs and hopes to be an arachnologist when she grows up. She is practicing her skills now with her pet tarantula and jumping spider. Ana loves baking and is building quite the collection of calico critters. We also have two dogs0 Juno (our mamabear

American Bully) and Oliver (our grandpa Cairn Terrier). We love to enjoy Colorado outdoors as much as possible, but also love cuddling up on cold days and binge watching our favorite movies.

I am excited to join the team as the AWHONN Northern Chapter Coordinator and I look forward to advocating for my fellow nurses and our patients!

Eileen Holden MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS

Eileen. Holden @uchealth.org

Hello NoCo Nurses!

It has been such a pleasure serving as the Northern Colorado Chapter Coordinator over the last couple of years. We have had some great educational events over the years. I am especially thrilled with the turn out of our most recent State conference in Fort Collins! We were also able to support local babies with the 2500+ diapers collected at the conference! The Larimer County Food Bank was so grateful for our generosity.

Our new Northern Colorado Chapter Coordinator is Eileen Holden. She is a Clinical Nurse Educator for UCHealth North Region. I know that the Northern Chapter is in great hands with Eileen.

I am honored to move into the role of CO AWHONN Chair in January. I have worked at UCHealth Poudre Valley Hospital on the Women's Care Unit for the last ten years and have loved every second of it. I live in Fort Collins with my husband and our 4 dogs. I have some very big shoes to fill, since Izzi Campanella has been such a wonderful leader and mentor to us all. As the new Colorado Chair, I strive to facilitate communication between all Colorado's regions and to further empower nurses in improving maternal and newborn health outcomes. I am committed to the health and wellness of women, newborns and the fellow nurses who provide them care. It is important to support our nurses with new evidence based practice from around the globe, promote involvement in research and advocate not only for patients, but also for the nurses caring for them. I look forward to taking on new challenges and learning additional skills that come with this role. I envision myself creating an even better environment of teamwork, collegiality, and loyalty between AWHONN and Colorado nurses.

2022 is already proving to be exciting! At the end of January, Rainy and I will be attending the Leadership Development conference, to gain more knowledge on how to support our members and to continue to grow as impactful leaders in Colorado in our new roles. Then in June, Colorado is hosting the National Conference! What a huge learning opportunity for our Colorado is not provided in the National Conference.

I look forward to hosting more virtual and in-person events and getting to know more Colorado AWHONN members!

Happy New Year!

Sam (Smeak) Sullivan RN, BSN, BS, CLC Samantha.smeak@uchealth.org



# **Denver Chapter**



## **Hello Friends!**

For the past several years I have had the privilege of serving as the CO AWHONN chair and Denver chapter coordinator. It has been such an honor to lead our state conference and local chapter events.

I have also enjoyed meeting many of our members from around the state. I love your energy, passion for women's health and commitment to our profession. What an honor to work along-side you!!

I have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to lead and more, importantly, get to know many of you. Thank you for this opportunity to grow professionally. I am so excited to welcome our new leadership team. I am confident their energy and passion will move us forward.

I look forward to seeing you at Denver chapter events and our national conference this summer!

**Amy Dempsey RN** 

## **Outgoing Denver Chapter Coordinator**

Hi! I'm Annie Halverson and I'm going to be the 2022 Denver Chapter Coordinator for AWHONN Colorado! I'm excited to take on this new role within the organization! I've been an OB nurse for a little over 11 years. I've spent my whole nursing career at UCHealth, where I started as a new grad on the Birth Center at University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora. I have experience in mom/baby and labor and delivery and I'm currently the Clinical Nurse Educator for Women and Infants at University of Colorado Hospital and Highlands Ranch Hospital.

I am very passionate about women's health and I love being involved in AWHONN. I am currently a member of the AWHONN National Educational Advisory Committee. In my spare time, I love to be with my 9-year-old daughter, enjoying all things Colorado outdoors but also spending time at home playing board games and doing crafts. My goals for the Denver chapter are to provide everyone with some great learning opportunities, hopefully networking (COVID, please stop!), and great communication amongst the community. I will welcome suggestions and feedback as I learn this new role!

Annie Halverson MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM



# Western Slope Chapter



Hello Western Slope Chapter Members,

As 2021 winds to a halt I find myself reflecting on the past year and I find myself more grateful than ever to work and live in the Western Slope!

We have had numerous challenges with staffing, beds, and patient acuity over the past year and I've seen nurses tackle these challenges head on, while inspiring each other and supporting one another. I have never been more honored to be a nurse and to be part of this community.

As I step into my new role as the Colorado AWHONN secretary/treasurer, I know that I am leaving the Western Slope Chapter in wonderful hands with out new Western Slope Chapter Coordinator, Jonna Houge.

Jonna is currently a LPN, working on finishing her RN degree. Jonna has been an LPN for the past thirty-eight years and has dedicated her life to obstetrical nursing. She currently works at Montrose Regional Health Hospital, in Montrose, Colorado.

Jonna has three grown children and seven grandchildren, with one more on the way! Jonna also

is a certified lactation consultant (CLC).

I'll certainly miss the Western Slope Chapter coordinator role, but I know the Western Slope is in wonderful hands with my good friend Jonna.

I look forward to 2022 and hopefully seeing you all at an upcoming AWHONN event!

Rainy Tieman DNP, MSN/Ed, RNC-MNN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS

Rainytieman@gmail.com



# **Southern Chapter**



Hello from the Southern Colorado Chapter,

I think it is safe to say that 2021 is another one of those years that we're all ready to put behind us. I personally want to thank all of the healthcare workers who are leading the way in providing the best care to our OB and NICU patients who are challenged with the Covid virus. I think back to my hospital's response to our first Covid patient – and our much more coordinated response to our current patients dealing with Covid. I am thankful that we are all sharing experiences and growing together in our knowledge of this pandemic and how it impacts pregnancy.

Looking forward, I know we are all excited about the national conference being in our home state this coming summer. That will be the focus for most chapters in our state this year. Let's get ready to show our colleagues across the country what a great place Colorado is to come to a conference. And let's keep our fingers crossed that we get to meet in person!

Take care of yourselves as you take care of all the mommas and babies,

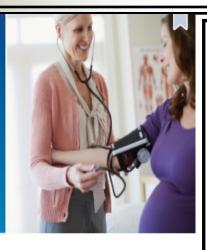
Candace Garko, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, CENP
Southern Colorado AWHONN Chapter Coordinator
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## **Announcements**

# AWHONN's Obstetric Patient Safety (OPS) Course



#### Purpose:

As part of its effort to reduce the rising trend of maternal mortality in the United States, AWHONN developed the Obstetric Patient Safety (OPS): OB Emergencies Workshop. The curriculum for this program is guided by the topic areas of focus in accordance with the Council on Patient Safety in Women's Healthcare. The focus of the workshop is on hypertension disorders in pregnancy, postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), and maternal sepsis.

#### Take this course if:

If you are a clinician who works in perinatal care (intrapartum, antepartum, and postpartum [mother/baby]), emergency, medical/surgical, intensive care, or critical access settings, this course is appropriate for you.

#### Time and Materials:

The course consists of self-paced online courses (plan a minimum of 4 hours) and a one-day instructor led course.

Materials must be purchased through AWHONN (\$120).

Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP 12602, for 15.10 contact hours.

Class fee will be refunded for any cancellations made at least 24 hours before the day of the course. All fees for materials are subject to AWHONN's return policy.



#### Location:

Saint Joseph Hospital; Denver, CO

#### 2022 Dates:

March 29; March 30; June 30; July 1 (all 8am - 4pm) Plan to purchase or bring your lunch.

#### Class Fee

\$80 (no class fee for SCLH associates).

For questions or to register, contact Amy Dempsey at Amy.Dempsey@schealth.org (preferred) or 303-425-8162

## Saint Joseph Hospital

1375 E. 19th Ave. Derwer, CO 80218 www.saintiosephderiver.org

## CO AWHONN 2022 Leadership Team

- Chair: Samantha Smeak BSN, RN
- Secretary/Treasurer: Rainy Tieman DNP, MSN/Ed, RNC -MNN, RNC-OB, C-EFM. C-ONQS



- Northern Chapter Coordinator: Eileen Holden MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS
- Denver Coordinator Annie Halverson MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
- Southern Chapter Coordinator: Candice Garko MSN, RNC-OBN, C-EFM
- Western Slope Chapter Coordinator: Jonna Houge LPN, CLC
- Evidence-Based Practice Coordinator: Cherie Steffens BSN, RNC-OB
- Membership Coordinator: Kami Mogensen BSN, C-EFM
- Legislative Coordinators: Megan Raleigh BSN, RNC-OB and Isabelle Campanella MSN, RNC-OB
- Hospital Liaison: Andrea Elmore MS,RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS
- Communications Coordinators: Sarah Mangat and Andrea Elmore MS, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONOS

# AWHONN National 2022 is coming to Denver!

Rockies Gaylord Conference Center in Aurora June 25th-29th 2022

