

CBHC 2011 Annual Conference

Outstanding Board Member of the Year Nominees

Jose Reyes-Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health Center



Jose is a long term member of the Resources & Evaluation Committee. He was instrumental in the evolution of a more effective CEO evaluation tool. He has initiated numerous efforts to move ADMHN to a more culturally inclusive and diverse organization. He is an extremely valuable connection with the entire metro community. He is known as a leader in Colorado in cultural inclusiveness and diversity consultation.

Captain Attila Denes-Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health Center



Captain Attila is a key contributor to the Community & Fund Development Committee. He has been a critical liaison for ADMHN within Douglas County Sherriff's Office. As Captain with Douglas County Sherriff's Office, Captain Attila has coordinated various new initiatives within Douglas County. He was instrumental in developing CIT Case Management Program and remains one of the states leaders in the promotion of the CIT model. He remains very involved with NAMI, and is president of newly developed Crisis Intervention Teams Association of Colorado (CITAC), a statewide organization that has developed software for CIT referrals to mental health center services.

Dr. Carolena Steen-AspenPointe



Dr. Steen is currently the Chair of AspenPointe Board of Directors. She is an active board member serving on the Executive Committee, Compensation Committee, Marketing & Communications Committee and the Legislative Committee. Dr. Steen has helped to develop SMART (Specific, Measureable, Achievable Relevant and Timely) goals for the strategic planning at AspenPointe. Board members, staff, and community members enjoy working with her and value her leadership, sense of community and the passion she exudes for the less fortunate in our region.

Sue Spiller-Aurora Mental Health Center



Sue Spiller joined the Board of Aurora Mental Health in 2003 and will be retiring this October after having served 8 years. She served as Board Secretary for 3 years and is currently the Chairperson of the Program and Planning Committee, and has been in that leadership role for 6 years. Sue is an excellent advocate for mental health. Sue's sister was a mental health consumer which led Sue to volunteer and become more involved. Sue has been instrumental in securing funding for the center and is an upbeat, positive, level headed, warm, and task-oriented board member.

Carol Viner-Colorado West Regional Mental Health Center



Carol has served as Board Chair and has served on the Development Committee, CWRMH Finance and Quality Committees. Carol is an attorney, and her dedication to Colorado West Regional Mental Health Inc. is unparalleled. Carol readily says "yes" whenever anything is asked of her that supports the organization. Carol personally hosted a community Open House with the purpose of educating community members about our services which had over 40 people in attendance. As a result of that event, new contacts and programs are being developed.

Bruce Vezina-Community Reach Center



Bruce has served on the Executive Committee, Education Committee, Finance and Nominating Committees. Bruce has been one of the most vocal advocates for expansion of facilities and programs at the Center when a significant need was identified. Bruce brings a great deal of knowledge regarding finance and investments to his role as a Systems and Foundation Board member. He regularly attends CBHC Hill Day and Annual Conference, in addition to the National Council Conference, for the purpose of networking and increasing his knowledge regarding the mental health industry and trends. As a business person, Bruce strongly believes that it is his duty to become involved in the community. He approaches his role as a board member and officer always with the best interest of Community reach's consumer in mind, and is forever cognizant of the fact that behind every action that the Board takes, there's a real person with a real identifiable need that will be impacted.

Buzz Cleveland-Jefferson Center for Mental Health



Both a family member and a professional attorney in the healthcare world, Buzz Cleveland's passion and commitment for improving the quality of life of consumers and decreasing the stigma of mental illness are unsurpassed. Buzz was appointed to the Jefferson Center for Mental Health Board of Directors in 2007. He has served as Treasurer and Chair of the Board Finance Committee. Buzz is highly valued for his energy, expertise, leadership and countless contributions to Jefferson Center and the community. He inspires others through his dedication and passion to make a difference in the lives of individuals with mental health disorders.

Susan (Sue) G. Taigman-Larimer Center for Mental Health



Sue was elected to the Larimer Center for Mental health (LCMH) Board of Directors in August 2007. Sue's passion and commitment to serve and her strong leadership were clearly evident as she quickly became immersed in Board activities and continued with her dedication to fundraising activities, and events on child abuse prevention. During her leadership roles as Vice Chairperson and Chairperson, Sue has provided a forward focused momentum that has brought the board to a high level of efficiency. Sue's commitment to service and her positive energy have brought the Board of Director's to a higher level of engagement and brought members together as a cohesive unit eager to serve as advocates for our consumers.

Roberta Payne, PhD-Mental Health Center of Denver



Roberta serves as the MHCD Board Secretary. She regularly attends MHCD events and actively recruits members for the Board using her connections with the Stanford and Harvard Alumni Associations. Roberta's passion for mental health and consumer recovery is evident in her commitment to MHCD. She advocates for consumers by being a voice for them and the message of recovery. Additionally, she utilizes her talent for writing to talk about mental illness in her memoir. Upon retiring, Roberta has pursued her life-long dream of creative writing, and has published short stories in the Gettysburg Review and Narrative Magazine. Her most recent translations were published last year in Columbia University's Italian Poetry Review.

Davis Popkins-North Range Behavioral Health



Davis serves on the Board of Director’s Community relations Committee and has been a very active participant. As a consumer of North Range Behavioral health services, Davis perspectives on the importance and value of quality behavioral health services bring much to this committee and its mission. Davis frequently shares his personal story, offering deep insight into the journey of mental illness and its stigma-as well as recovery. Davis is articulate, and honest; his willingness to be vulnerable and open with an eye toward helping others is a hallmark of his contribution to this specific committee and to the Board as a whole.

Laurie Rivera-San Luis Valley Community Mental Health Center



Laurie Rivera currently sits on numerous committees: Asset Management, Prevention and Recovery, and Finance of which she is Chair. She serves as Treasurer of the overall board. Laurie brings energy, a passion for her community and attention to detail to her work on the board. She has and continues to take on new roles and challenges in her board duties. Laurie is passionate about providing and sustaining mental health services and facilities in the Valley and in particular the outlying counties.

Father Bernhard Ebert-Southeast Mental Health Services



There’s a quiet one in every bunch. Soft-spoken, attentive, hard working, thoughtful, consistent his how Father Ebert is described. Known for his big hugs and big heart, Fr. Ebert takes the words of the gospel as the directive for his own life’s work. “I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me” (Matthew 25:36). He spreads the messages of faith and forgiveness throughout the community, actively caring for those who are sick, troubled, or in need. Fr.

Ebert has been a member of the Southeast Mental Health Services Board of Director’s since 2005

Axis Health System, Inc. (Left to right): M.B. McAfee, Bill Warren, Balty Quintana, Slim McWilliams, John Albright, Don Volger, Julie Thompson, and Yesenia Erives)



The entire Board is being nominated for taking bold and courageous initiative in southwest Colorado to transform Axis Health System from a traditional community mental health center to an integrated healthcare system. This transformation requires far more than a name change and change in service configuration. It required nothing short of re-thinking and changing the mission, vision, culture, and structure at the staff, administrative, and indeed at the Board level. The Board’s action reflected thoughtfulness, innovation, risk taking, and courage, as well as commitment to our communities.

Sharon Hawkins Juniel-Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center



Robert Hawkins, former superintendent of Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo, was a member of the Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center of Board of Directors. Following his untimely passing, Sharon took her husband's seat on the Spanish Peak Board 8 years ago. She has been a steadfast and dedicated board member. A year ago she assumed the role of Board Chairperson. She is known for her ability to demonstrate grace under fire, organization skills, and management abilities.

Bill Kerr-West Central Mental Health Center



Bill has served on the Asset Management Committee, Special Committee for Review and Update of Board Policies and By-Laws. During the past year, Bill has been instrumental in helping identify and develop West Central's Corporate Compliance Plan and Code of Professional Ethics. Bill's knowledge and understanding of compliance has been invaluable in refining a quality plan for West Central. In addition, Bill helped to update all of West Central's Board Policies and Board By-Laws. Bill is a leader in the community and dedicated to investing time in local non profit organizations.

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Outstanding Board Member Lifetime Achievement of the Year Nominees

John McCaa-AspenPointe



John has been involved with AspenPointe in the capacity of a board/committee member for 27 years, and served as vice-president of CBHC for 2 years. He has not taken one break in service since he joined in 1984. He has served as Board chair, and has held seats on the Executive Committee, Legislative Committee, Corporate Compliance Committee and Personnel Committee. He consistently attends National Council and CBHC annual conferences, and participates in legislative/lobbying activities on behalf of those with behavioral health needs. John has a rich work history in the areas of military, human resources, and education. John is an icon in the organization. He offers a unique blend of maturity, wisdom, humility, compassion, and integrity. He is the epitome of goodness and service to others.

Julie Ann Hughes-Centennial Mental Health Center



Julie Ann represents clients in many ways. She is a voice for those who have very little voice, and has been a board member since 2006. Julie Ann has a strong background in nursing and health/hospital administration, which draws on in the multitude of issues that come before the Board. Julie Ann has been a key member of the Policy Review Committee. She has a broad repertoire of experience and a remarkable mix of competence, humility, and succinctness.

Mary Ann Wisehart- Community Reach Center



When Mary Ann came on the board in 1989, she jumped right into her first major project, which was revising the board's by-laws. For 22 years, Mary Ann has been a staunch advocate for raising brand awareness and recognition for Community Reach, and an equally passionate promoter of convenient access to evidence based treatment for individuals living with mental illness. She has worked as a Corporate Compliance Officer to refine and keep current the important Compliance Plan, which ensures that business and other practices are in compliance with all applicable Federal, State and Local laws and the ethical standards/practices of the industry and our agency. Mary Ann also served on the Board of CBHC as its vice-president. She loves to volunteer and give back to the community. Her plentiful volunteer work is has touched the lives of literally hundreds of children and families in the community.

Frank Valentin-Jefferson Center for Mental Health



Frank Valentin first became involved with The Jefferson Center for Mental Health Board of Directors in April 2004 at the request of a County Commissioner. Frank stepped up to the plate to fill the position of Treasurer and has since remained engaged with the Finance Committee. In 2010, Frank's two three-year terms were set to expire as he was leaving his term as Board Chair. Bylaws were revised by the Board to allow a past Chair to remain on the Board through his successor's term. This action was taken by the Board because of Frank's outstanding and exceptional service. Frank's broad knowledge and expertise in business and banking have proven to be invaluable. Frank has been instrumental in the expansion of Jefferson Center services. Frank has high principles and integrity and doesn't hesitate to stand up for what is right. Frank is a grand jewel that continues to shine upon the center 7 years later.

Manuel Lopez-San Luis Valley Community Health Center



Manuel Lopez has brought an amazing amount of time, talent and energy to every position and committee he has committed himself to over these 29 years. He has dedicated his life's work in career as a public defender and as a volunteer board member to serve under represented, the disenfranchised and those who suffer from mental distress. He believes strongly that it is the duty of all to help those who cannot help themselves.