

## PHNAC Nurses Receive Awards

On September 29, 2009, at the Uniting Public Health Conference Awards Dinner at Copper Mountain, three Public Health Nurses Association of Colorado (PHNAC) members received awards for their contributions to improving public health in the state. PHNAC is an affiliate member of CNA.

Beverly Strnad, RN, a Public Health Nurse with Alamosa County Public Health Department where she is the Care Coordinator for Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs, received the New Public Health Nurse of the Year Award. The award is given to a public health nurse with less than five years of practice who demonstrates the ability to establish partnerships that result in improved utilization of public health programs and/or services. In her first year as a public health nurse, Bev has taken on adult education for childcare quality improvement working closely with the Early Childhood Council in the valley, coordinated activities of the healthcare coalition and partnered with service coordinators from the Early Intervention Colorado Program, in addition to case management for children with special health care needs. She has written new articles and given interviews for local radio on several public health topics. In her short tenure with the Health Department, Bev has demonstrated through her clinical expertise and interpersonal, organizational and communication skills, that she is an asset to her community and public health program.



Beverly Strnad

Michelle Wilson, RN MSN, was the 2009 winner of the prestigious Lillian Wald Award, given to a public health nurse who has demonstrated leadership skills in addressing public health concerns in the community. Michelle is the Community Nursing Manager in the Summit County Public Health Department where she has worked for 16 years. During that time, Michelle obtained her Master in Science in Nursing to develop her skills in implementing and evaluating public health interventions that focus on health promotion and disease prevention and became fluent in Spanish to better serve the public health needs of the growing Latino population in her county. Besides taking on the role of advocate for the growing Latino population in her county, Michelle has taught childcare providers in the Early Childhood and Education Program at Colorado Mountain College, implemented a Centering Pregnancy Program to assure access to prenatal care for residents and is the core of health department's Maternal Child Health Programs working closely with the Head Start Team and Early Childhood Options Board of Directors. Michelle has been a member of PHNAC since its inception, an active



Michelle Wilson

participant in its conference planning for years, and a respected member of the public health community.

The Most Innovative Project Award, given in recognition of an innovative, outstanding and adaptable project developed or implemented by a local health agency in addressing a public health issue in the community, was accepted by Melissa Broudy, RN, BSN, Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH), for their Cavity Free at Three Project. Dental caries is the most common chronic childhood disease, affecting a child's ability to eat properly, grow, attend school and learn. With the aid of a technical assistance grant from the Colorado Health Foundation and through a partnership with the Women, Infants and Children's Program (WIC), Melissa designed a service delivery model that included JCPH contracting with independent dental hygienists to screen and apply fluoride to children under five years of age in the WIC Program and to provide education on oral hygiene and the importance of regular preventive dental visits to parents. The dental hygienists are able to independently bill children enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+ and assist children in finding a dental home.



Melissa Broudy

Submitted by: Norma Tubman, RN MScN  
Chair, PHNAC Nominating and Awards Committee