

**Award: Excellence in the Promotion of Health Equity (CPHA, COSOPHE, PHNAC)**

Recipient: Olga Gonzalez

Org/Agency: LiveWell Colorado

Nominated By: Leslie Levine

*Nomination: Olga always approaches her work as a community member first. She is very aware of the barriers faced by people of color and those living in poverty, and she draws on her own professional and personal lived experience in her relationships with communities and approaches to the work that LiveWell does. It is extremely important to her that community voices are integrated into all of our work to reduce barriers to healthy eating and active living. As such, Olga has traveled throughout the state to personally meet with community members in urban and rural settings, as well as to Native American reservations. She is mindful of including both grassroots and grassroots representatives to gain a broader understanding of each community that she visits.*

*Olga is very values-driven and is always mindful of ensuring that our work is directly tied to our stated mission and vision. She challenges our staff to consider whether or not community needs and voices were considered in our programs, communications, and policy work. Olga also helps us to identify other partners and voices that should be included in our work. She guides us to understand the possible intended and unintended impact of our work on the communities that we serve. Most importantly, Olga encourages a culture of collaboration with community residents and partners and helps to identify opportunities where our staff can be more present in community settings so that we can all benefit from meeting people in their own spaces.*

**Award: New Public Health Nurse of the Year (PHNAC)**

Recipient: Kate Follett

Org/Agency: Jefferson County Public Health

Nominated By: Melissa Palay

*Nomination: This nurse joined Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) over two years ago as a nurse home visitor with the Human Service's Collaboration Program. She partners with clients on their identified priorities such as child development and housing. On top of her role as a nurse home visitor, she also assumes leadership responsibilities throughout our community: she is a Mental Health First Aid instructor and represents JCPH as the committee co-chair for the Child Youth Leadership Committee. She identified the need for a dedicated public health nurse position for Family Integrated Treatment (FIT) Court (a court specifically designed for parents involved with Human Services due to substance use). She took initiative to write up a grant proposal for the position, garnering the support across Public Health, Courts, and Human Services. In addition, this led to an enhanced partnership works with families involved with Jefferson County's FIT Court.*

**Award: Award of Excellence (PHNAC)**

Recipient: Cathy White

Org/Agency: CDPHE

Nominated By: Carol McDonald

*Nomination: The winner of this award is an experienced public health nurse and consultant at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. She has remained steadfast in her dedication to public health issues and professional nursing. She is creative, knowledgeable, and a person one can always rely on to get the work done. For several years, she has been involved with and led outstanding projects that have benefited not only public health nurses but other professionals and communities in Colorado. She has a knack for networking and knowing who to contact for resources. Her nominator has this to say about her: "I cannot thank her enough for her dedication and efforts put toward the PH 101 online training project. This endeavor would not be possible without her enthusiasm and determination to get the job done. She is humble and has quietly performed her job without much recognition."*

**Award: Exemplary Frontier Public Health Nurse award (PHNAC)**

Recipient: Lauri Wood

Org/Agency: Montezuma County Public Health

Nominated By: Bobbi Lock

*Nomination: This nurse began her employment with Montezuma County Public Health Department in 2012 and has contributed to the health of our community ever since. She exemplifies Public Health Nursing every day with her professionalism and dedication to her community, her clients and her peers. She takes full responsibility of operating the immunization clinics with precision and accuracy. She also works with two brand new nursing graduates and mentor them into becoming excellent Immunization/Public Health Nurses. Her expertise, guidance and knowledge base is easily shared with her peers. New graduates in particular have been extremely appreciative of these qualities. While she is firm in her beliefs about the benefits of immunizations, she possesses an incredible skill in being able to alleviate concerns parents may have through showing them all the facts in a non-threatening manner. She is always willing to help others in the department no matter what the task may be. She takes the time to get to know others, know their likes and dislikes and always takes the time to visit and lend a listening ear no matter how busy the day may be for her. She has a wonderful understanding and appreciation of the rural community in which we live. She is the epitome of what Public Health Nursing represents in every aspect of our rural community.*

**Award: Most Innovative Project Award (PHNAC)**

Recipient: Cathy White and Carol McDonald

Org/Agency: CDPHE and Denver Public Health

Nominated By: Carol McDonald

*Nomination: The winners of this award has dedicated the last three years on developing a public health online training course. They reviewed other similar education programs such as the Public Health Nurse*

*Academy in Alaska and the online University of Albany New York training as well as programs that were being developed in Colorado. After lots of discussion with schools of nursing and public health nurses throughout the state, it was determined that an online training specific to the needs of Colorado public health professionals needed to be built. In collaboration with the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center, public health 101 in Colorado has come to fruition and the first modules will be released this year. These micro-learning, just in time training materials will be available to anyone who desires to gain competency in their professional skills and have more information about public health programs and activities in Colorado.*

**Award: Lillian Wald Award (PHNAC)**

Recipient: Jeanne North

Org/Agency: Tri-County Health Department

Nominated By: Penny Grande

*Nomination: This person is caring in relationships with colleagues and clients, and initiates, implements and evaluates public health interventions that focus on health promotion and disease prevention, and shares public health knowledge with colleagues and the community. The winner of this award is a quiet yet very influential leader for public health nurses. She has led the Nursing Division at the largest health department in Colorado for almost 14 years. She began her public health nursing career providing home visit to families in need in WY then started working at Tri-County Health Department, where she has provided exceptional nursing care for almost 30 years. She is unwavering in her support for Public Health Nursing. She strongly supports nursing education, fair compensation, and recognition in her public health nurse leadership practice. She works hard to provide a supportive environment to almost 100 public health nurses she leads at Tri County Health Department. Because of her support, leadership and commitment to public health nursing, her team of nurses are often recognized for their innovation and excellence across the state. Her constant support of nursing practice allows her nurses to shine and work toward their fullest potential. She is a true servant and leader!*

**Award: Special Recognition (PHNAC)**

Recipient: Christine Mousavi and Brittany Welence

Org/Agency: Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center

Nominated By: Carol McDonald

*Nomination: PHNAC would like to give special recognition for their dedication and expertise in the development of the online Colorado Public Health 101 training. Without their efforts, this project would not be possible.*