

PROSPECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN HEALTH PLANS FOUNDATION

Charles Breaux, MD

Grand Junction

Chuck Breaux is a Pediatric Surgeon with multiple Board certifications. Educated at Harvard and the University of Alabama, he has repeated been selected as “One of the Best Doctors in America” and listed in the “Guide to America’s Top Surgeons”. He serves on the Boards of Directors for both the Colorado Medical Society and the Mesa County Physicians Independent Practice Association, and actively participates in numerous community activities. Dr. Breaux opens his practice to all lines of business, including underserved populations, and has been an active supporter of the Medicaid reform effort spearheaded by RMHP, local physicians and Behavioral and Mental Health Centers.

Theresa Chase, MA, ND, RN

Grand Junction

Terry Chase is an Assistant Professor in Nursing and Mental Health at Colorado Mesa University. Her prior employment includes positions at the Craig Hospital, University of Colorado Health Science Center School of Nursing, and School District 51. In addition to her professional certifications in Advance Practice Nursing, she is a Registered Psychotherapist. She has an extensive background in diverse patient populations, with a unique focus on the disability community. She is an avid hand-cycler, cross-country skier, and is accomplished in both wheelchair tennis and horse-riding.

Russell George, JD

Rifle

Russ George graduated from Rifle High School, University of Colorado and Harvard Law School. He then returned to Rifle to practice law in the firm of Stuver & George. His community service has unique breadth, serving as President of Colorado Northwestern Community College, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation, Director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Chair of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Trustee of the Western Colorado Community Foundation, and Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives.

Dan Gibbs

Breckenridge

Dan Gibbs is a County Commissioner for Summit County. Before that, he served in both the Colorado Senate and Colorado House of Representatives. He is a passionate advocate for health care reform efforts to bring high-quality, affordable health care to Colorado’s mountain communities. Commissioner Gibbs is a Volunteer Wildland Firefighter as well as Board Chair for the Colorado Emergency Fire Fund. His other community service includes the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), and Habitat for Humanity. He received his education at Western State in Gunnison, and was a Gates Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Waqqar Khan-Farooqi, MD

Snowmass Village

Waqqar Khan-Farooqi received a B.S. in Biological Sciences, with a concentration in Political Science, and his M.D. from Stanford University, attending both undergraduate and medical schools on scholarships. He served his residency and internship at the University of Washington, before relocating to Western Colorado. He is Board Certified in Orthopaedic Surgery and has worked in Aspen and Grand Junction in both hospital and independent private practices. He has a passion for reforming health care delivery and payment systems, pursuant to which he was the founding Director of the Center for Health Policy Innovation at Colorado Mesa University.

Jeff Kuhr, Ph.D.

Grand Junction

Jeff Kuhr has served as the Public Health Director of the Mesa County Health Department since 2011. Prior to that, he served in the same position for the Three Rivers Health Department in Fremont, Nebraska. He received his Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate in Health Education at the University of Nebraska. He is active in numerous community boards, including for the Marillac Clinic (for the medically underserved), Quality Health Network (regional health information exchange in Western Colorado), and the Grand Junction Urban Trails Committee. He will be the sole continuing Board member for the Rocky Mountain Health Plans Foundation. He also serves as the Coordinator for the Mesa County Health Leadership Consortium

Patricia Riddell, MPH

Montrose

Pat Riddell is the Executive Director of the Western Colorado Physicians Independent Practice Association, providing diverse services to multiple physician practices on the Western Slope. Prior to that, she worked as a Health Care Consultant, providing business planning for hospitals and health centers, including work in HPSA (Health Provider Shortage Areas), and worked for the Association of Western Hospitals, addressing the unique needs of rural hospitals in 13 western states. She has created a 501(c)(3) organization to assist families at risk of homelessness. Ms. Riddell obtained her BA from Wellesley and her MPH from UC Berkeley.

Jennifer Roller, MD

Grand Junction

Jen Roller is a board-certified Family Practice physician at Primary Care Partners. Prior to that, she served on the clinical faculty and as the Pediatric Coordinator of St. Mary's Family Practice Residency program; she has also practiced in Fort Collins. She received her BA from Claremont McKenna College and her MD from the University of Colorado. She completed her residency at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver. Dr. Roller has served on both the Board of Directors of the Colorado Physicians Insurance Company (COPIC) and the Board of the COPIC Foundation.

Nicole Bernal Ruiz

Montrose / GJ

Nicole Bernal Ruiz is the Program Director for the Hispanic Affairs Project in Montrose and Grand Junction, serving Western Colorado. She represents underserved populations in a number of organizations, including the Marillac Clinic, the Western Colorado Latino Chamber of

Commerce, the Western Colorado Initiative to Combat Human Trafficking, the CMU Cultural Diversity Committee, the Grand Junction Police/Latino Alliance, and St. Mary's Hospital Ethics Committee. Ms. Ruiz received BA and MA degrees from the University of Notre Dame, and has addressed immigration and Hispanic issues in numerous geographic areas.

Ellen Roberts, JD

Durango

Ellen Roberts has represented multiple rural and diverse counties in the Colorado Senate and Colorado House of Representatives for more than ten years. She has served as Chair of the Legislative Oversight Committee for Connect for Health Colorado, and has addressed numerous rural health issues in her service on other legislative health care committees. Before her election to the legislature, she practiced law for more than 20 years, and served on the Board (and as Chair) of Mercy Medical Center. Ms. Roberts was a founding Member of the Health Care Committee for Club 20, and served as the Committee's first Chair. She received her undergraduate education at Cornell University and her law degree from the University of Colorado, spending the intervening years as a Ranger for the National Park Service. She also attended the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Mary A. "Sally" Schaefer, RN

Grand Junction

Sally Schaefer has been a tour de force in health care at the community and state levels for more than thirty years. She has worked as a Nurse, Senior Manager, and CEO of Hilltop Community Services (formerly Hilltop Rehabilitation Hospital) developing multiple programs for the medically underserved, including the Life Adjustment Program for brain injured patients. She was a founding member of the Boards of Directors of Hospice & Palliative Care and Home Care of the Grand Valley, and has served on numerous community boards and commissions (including Chair of the RMHP Board more than ten years ago). Ms. Schaefer has served on the State Medical Service Board overseeing the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing. She has recently completed eight years on the Board of Directors, including a term as Chair of the Board, for the Colorado Health Foundation. She received her BS in Nursing at Marquette.

Errol Snider

Fruita

Errol Snider has divided his career between health care and public service. He worked for more than twenty years for Lower Valley Hospital d/b/a Family Health West, rising to the position of Executive Vice President/ COO. Prior to that, he worked for St. Thomas Moore and St. Joseph's Hospitals in Canon City and Florence, leading the effort to merge those facilities. He has also served as City Manager for Fruita, City Manager for Canon City, and as an elected Mesa County Commissioner. Mr. Snider has been active in community service throughout Western Colorado since the 1970s, including service on the Mesa County Board of Health, the Pandemic Influenza Planning Advisory Committee, the Colorado Hospital Association, the Fremont County United Way, the Walker Field Airport Authority, and the Board of Education for School District 51, to name just a few. He received his education at the Intermountain Bible College and the University of Utah.

Terms:

Three Years:

- Russell George
- Jennifer Roller, M.D.
- Nicole Bernal Ruiz
- Jeff Kuhr

Two Years:

- Dan Gibbs
- Sally Schaefer
- Patricia Riddell
- Charles Breaux, M.D.

One Year:

- Ellen Roberts
- Theresa Chase
- Errol Snider
- Waqqar Khan-Farooqui, M.D.