



Sharon O'Hara, Executive Vice President of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Colorado-Wyoming Chapter and Board Chair, Connect for Health Colorado

Sharon has a deep commitment to improve access, choice and affordability of health insurance for Coloradans. In her role at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, she's responsible for advancing the Chapter's mission through strategic development and implementation of services to help people and families affected by MS. Sharon has a proven track record in leading teams, building collaborative relationships, and working with state and local policy makers to develop innovative programs addressing social issues. She holds a Master's degree from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration.



**Arnold Salazar
CEO, Colorado Health Partnerships, LLC**

Arnold has had a long and extensive career in Colorado in the field of community mental health, which began in Alamosa at the San Luis Valley Mental Health Center. After completing a graduate degree at the University of Michigan, Arnold directed the center for 10 years prior to organizing SyCare LLC, a managed care company offering mental health services. In 2005 he took that idea one step further when he became CEO of Colorado Health Partnerships.

Colorado Health Partnerships includes 8 non-profit community mental health center providers, and ValueOptions a for-profit management services provider covering 43 mostly rural counties in Colorado. Colorado Health Partnerships contracts with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the state agency for the Medicaid mental health risk-based contract. As CEO, Arnold is responsible for coordinating the activities of the partnership with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.



Michael Fallon, M.D., FACEP

Dr. Fallon attended the University of Texas at Austin, earning his Chemical Engineering Degree in 1986. He then attended The University of Texas at Houston, receiving his Doctorate in Medicine. After interning at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Phoenix, he completed his residency at the Denver Health Affiliated Residency in Emergency Medicine. Dr. Fallon started his professional career in Atlanta, Georgia, where he worked for four years. There he

was honored to serve as the Medical Director for the Swimming Venue at the Olympic Games. Returning to Denver in 1998, he worked in private practice before founding an urgent care company where he developed expertise in small business practice. He sold the practice in 2007 and stayed on as the medical director until 2009. In 2010, he ran for congress in Colorado's first congressional district, while returning to practice emergency medicine part time. Mike is married to Sandy and has two children, Emma and Sam.



Richard Betts

Richard Betts has dedicated his 40-year business career to small business and entrepreneurship, through positions ranging from Chief Executive Officer to Board Member and Board Chair. Currently he is the CEO of [ASAP Accounting and Payroll, Inc.](#), a 20-year-old business services company providing accounting as well as operational expertise to hundreds of companies in Western Colorado.

Prior business endeavors included being the CEO of a Texas-based homebuilding company that was started from scratch and eventually sold to a financial institution. Richard has provided venture capital funding and Board oversight to companies in the mortgage banking and manufacturing businesses that were eventually sold to larger national firms.

A full-time Colorado resident for 27 years, Richard has also been actively engaged in stewardship of his community. Richard's non-profit accomplishments include the Telluride Foundation, serving as Chairman of the Investment and Finance Committee, Treasurer, and Chair of the Audit Committee. This Community Foundation donates over \$1 million a year to nonprofits. He also served as Chairman of the Telluride Medical Foundation that serves the capital needs of the Telluride Medical Center. Richard was chair of the restoration committee of the Telluride Museum that restored the 1893 Miners' Hospital and in the process was given the Colorado Historical Society's Stephen H. Hart award for restoration excellence.



Ellen Daehnick

Ellen started her small handcrafted caramel business Helliemae's in late 2010 because she could not find the caramels she loved on the shelves: super dark, almost bitter caramels with plenty of flaky, crunchy sea salt and tons of butter and cream. From the original Classic Salt Caramels, Helliemae's product line has grown to four year-round caramels and six seasonal caramels, along with three caramel sauces, a pecan crunch, and tart maraschino cherries. The caramels have been featured in publications including the Wall Street Journal, Sunset Magazine, Real Simple Magazine, Country Living Magazine, and the Denver Post, and Ellen profiled on Colorado Public Radio. Ellen doesn't have a culinary background. She just loves big flavors, good food, and small manufacturing. Before starting Helliemae's, she obtained a BA in Political Science from Rice University and was a demographer for a regional council of governments. After an MBA at Columbia University, she worked as a consultant for McKinsey & Co and in technology at StorageTEK/Sun Microsystems. Ellen lives in Denver with her husband, Chris, and their Giant Schnauzer, Allie.

Steve ErkenBrack, President and Chief Executive Officer Rocky Mountain Health Plans

Steve ErkenBrack has led Rocky Mountain Health Plans, a non-profit carrier based in Grand Junction, since 2008. Prior to this position, he served as Vice President of Legal and Government Affairs for the organization.



For more than 25 years, Steve worked as an attorney with an emphasis on litigation, government affairs and healthcare. He maintained a private practice with offices in Grand Junction and Denver. He also served six years as Mesa County's elected District Attorney and four years as Colorado's Chief Deputy Attorney General. His significant legal and healthcare expertise has been recognized on a regional, statewide and national basis. The Colorado legislature appointed Mr. ErkenBrack as the only health plan representative to serve on Colorado's Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform. Mr. ErkenBrack currently is Chair of Club 20's Health Care Committee, and is a founding member of the Mesa County Health Leadership Consortium. In the past, he has served as Chair of the Board of Law Examiners for the Colorado Supreme Court, President of the Colorado District Attorneys Council, and as a member of the Board of Governors of the Colorado Bar Association. He is admitted to practice before all courts in Colorado and the United States Supreme

Court. Steve received his undergraduate education at the United States Naval Academy and Washington & Lee University, and his law degree from the University of Colorado.



Eric Grossman, President and CEO NextHealth Technology

Eric Grossman has more than 20 years of experience in healthcare including leadership roles in strategy, sales, product management, and corporate business development activities. Prior to NextHealth, Eric worked with TriZetto and led their Consumerism and Analytics business unit. Eric founded, and ran Connecture, a CRM software company sold to a private equity firm. Connecture employs over 200 people, is profitable, and is the leading provider of integrated web-based sales and service automation solutions to 70 insurers, including

nine of the 20 largest health plans.

Prior to Connecture, Eric worked as the Chief of Staff for the Vice Chairman and was a Manager for Ernst and Young in their strategy group. He earned his BBA and MBA from the Goizueta Business School at Emory University.



Gretchen Hammer, Executive Director Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved

Gretchen has dedicated her career to working to make the health care system more fair and just. Her role at the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved allows her to exercise her passion for working with leaders and local communities to identify their shared aspirations for health and to move toward these goals. A skilled facilitator and researcher, she has experience working at the federal, state, municipal, and community level to make

change and promote collaboration. Gretchen is a native of Colorado and a graduate of Colorado College, and holds a master's in public health from the University of Washington. She is the past-chair of the Connect for Health Colorado Board.



Nathan Wilkes, Founder and Principal Consultant, Headstorms, Inc.

Nathan Wilkes is a small business owner in the field of information technology as well as a long-time advocate for health care reform. After graduating Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Electrical Engineering, Nathan immediately began a career in network and security engineering on the east coast. He traveled to Denver in 1998 as part of an elite team that would design and implement Qwest's initial global data network and enhanced service platform. In 2000, he joined others on the ground floor of building a global managed network and information security company. Personal family crisis that came in 2003 with the birth of his son, who had an expensive chronic illness, plunged Nathan and his wife into the world of health care reform. Despite having excellent coverage at the time, changes resulting from the cost of his son's care included reduced benefits, increased deductibles and out-of-pocket costs, and a \$1 million lifetime cap. In 2006, Nathan began researching the entire realm of small group health insurance coverage as a means to cover and protect his family. In 2008, with the re-introduction of modified community rating in Colorado, Nathan started his own small consulting business and began purchasing health insurance in the small group market.

In addition to his professional career and advocacy efforts, Nathan has held many leadership roles in nonprofit & volunteer organizations. Most recently, Nathan has served as a Past President of the Hemophilia Society of Colorado and Vice President of Health Care for All Colorado Foundation. In addition, Nathan was a member of the Business Task Force to the 208 Commission and is currently on the All Payer Claims Database Advisory Committee.



**Susan E. Birch MBA, BSN, RN, Executive Director
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing**

Sue Birch was appointed the executive director of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing by Governor Hickenlooper in January 2011. As a member of the governor's cabinet, Sue directs the Department's efforts to improve the health of Medicaid and CHP+ clients, increase access to care and contain costs.

Sue was previously the Chief Executive Officer of Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. She was instrumental in expanding programs, developing strategic partnerships and strengthening operations. The agency moved into a nurse-led model of integrated community health services including primary care, home and hospice care, public health and aging services. Prior to moving to Northwest Colorado, Sue served at Georgetown University Hospital and in a variety of progressive nursing roles with Kaiser Permanente in Colorado. She is a trustee of the Caring for Colorado Foundation and a past-president of the Home Care Association of Colorado. She recently completed an appointment to the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Livingston Fellowship and the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship.



Kevin Patterson is the Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Administrative Officer for Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper

Kevin is currently serving as the Interim Director of the Colorado Energy Office. Kevin began his career as a seventh-grade English teacher in Houston, Texas. His Colorado experience began in the Office of former Gov. Roy Romer. Kevin worked for the City and County of Denver in the Budget Office, the Planning Department, Deputy Manager for Human Services, and then Manager of the Department of General Services. He ended his tenure with Denver as Manager of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Kevin was also elected to the Denver Board of Education in November 2001 and was re-elected in 2005.

Kevin earned a bachelor's degree in teaching from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. He also earned two master's degrees from the University of Colorado at Denver, one in Public Administration and the other in Urban and Regional Planning. He and his wife have two sons in college.



**Marguerite Salazar
Colorado Insurance Commissioner
Department of Regulatory Agencies, Division of Insurance**

Marguerite Salazar was appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper as Colorado Insurance Commissioner effective August 19, 2013. In this position, Marguerite oversees the regulation of the insurance industry in Colorado, including assisting consumers and other stakeholders with insurance needs. As chief executive of the Division of Insurance,

Marguerite is responsible for the regulatory approach to all lines of insurance such as health, life, homeowner, property and casualty, auto, workers' compensation and title insurance.

Previously, President Barack Obama appointed her as Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region VIII. As Regional Director she played a vital role in the Department's effort to effectively implement the Health Care Law, also known as the Affordable Care Act. Prior to this appointment Marguerite served over 20 years as President/CEO of Valley-Wide Health Systems, a large, rural Community Health Center covering 22 counties in Southern Colorado and serving over 40,000 patients through 26 primary health care clinics. Ms. Salazar is a Fellow in the National Hispana Leadership Institute as well as a Livingston Fellow in the Bonfils Stanton Foundation. She was a trustee for the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation and was appointed by Governor Ritter to serve on the Board of Governors for Colorado State University. She served as Chair for the Colorado Humanities and served on the Board of Trustees for the Nature Conservancy and the National Center for Farmworker Health. She has a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology.

Gary Drews, Interim CEO Connect for Health Colorado

Gary Drews is founder and Chief Executive of TheWorldWeWant, LLC and former seven-year Chief Financial Officer of the Colorado Health Foundation, as interim Chief Executive Officer for the health insurance Marketplace.

Drews, who starts his new role on August 25, replaces former CEO Patty Fontneau, who left this month to become President of Private Exchange Business for Cigna®. In his current position, Drews acts an advisor to amplify the impact and further the social mission of non-profit and for-profit organizations with innovative solutions. Prior to serving as CFO for the Colorado Health Foundation, Drews was Chief Operating Officer for Regis University in Denver and Chief Financial Officer for Colorado Outward Bound School. He also previously worked as a production executive at Walt Disney Studios and a freelance television producer. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration and finance from the University of Colorado Boulder and a Master's degree in communication management from the University of Southern California. A long-time Coloradan, Drews and his wife, Laura Saye, an organizational development specialist and licensed marriage family therapist, live in Lowry with their 15-year-old son.