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**MFHC BOARD CHAIR MONICA PEREZ-RHODES SHARES HER STORY**

by Jan Weeks, courtesy of Carbondale Magazine

"Monica Perez-Rhodes has made a long journey, from dishwasher to controller at Colorado Rocky Mountain School, a journey she's rightfully proud of. Perez-Rhodes first came to Carbondale at age three. Her father moved the family from Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico, to work in a coal mine. When the mines closed, they went back to Parral. Yet Perez-Rhodes never forgot her early years in the Roaring Fork Valley. "I love the area and always wanted to come back," she said, and when she was 18, she did."

[Read full article on pages 22 and 23](#)

## REP. DYLAN ROBERTS HONORED AT THE CAPITOL

Ross Brooks, CEO of Mountain Family Health Centers (MFHC), said "Rep. Roberts began meeting with Mountain Family Health Centers leadership long before he was elected to the state House of Representatives. Several years ago, he reached out to me and asked to have coffee in the town of Eagle so he could start to learn about the healthcare issues in the local community. He's the first of our Representatives or Senators on either side of the aisle that reached out to me to learn about the healthcare issues vs. me reaching out to them to educate on the healthcare issues. He fought hard to help support Reinsurance legislation to reduce the cost of commercial health insurance in the rural resort areas and he's been a tireless advocate for the State/Public option, including telling the MFHC Board of Directors he's committed to protecting the state public option for undocumented, uninsured and vulnerable populations in Western CO. He's a great listener, asks great questions, takes notes, and then follows through with what he says he will do, which in my estimation makes for an outstanding public servant."

Rep. Dylan Roberts and Ross Brooks, CEO

Alexis States, MFHC Board Chair Monica Perez Rhodes & Daisy Herrera



Daisy Herrera, MFHC Board Chair Monica Perez Rhodes,  
Danyelle Rigli, Alexis States, Ross Brooks, CEO

[More](#)

## **HONORING DANYELLE RIGLI**

by Ross Brooks, CEO

It is with grief and praise that I share with you the news that Danyelle Rigli will be departing Mountain Family to serve in a new role at the Colorado Mountain College (CMC) Foundation. Danyelle's last day at MFHC will be Feb. 7. See below for Danyelle's beautiful, and bittersweet, resignation letter from MFHC.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Danyelle since 2013 when she made the leap from serving as a Medical Assistant at MFHC's Glenwood Springs clinic to the "dark side" of MFHC Administration. Danyelle's organizational chops as an Executive Assistant were on display from day one, helping to organize meetings, packets, travel, personnel, contracts, grants, and keeping the administrative cats in order.

Danyelle quickly outgrew the Executive Assistant position and started to build MFHC's Advocacy Task Force, teaching MFHC staff, communities, and the Board how to use our collective voice to tackle complicated policy challenges. She is equally adept at making connections with students in a local highschool as she is to ethically influencing Senators on the floor of the Colorado Senate. She listens, helps others feel heard, and can communicate a concise message to impact positive change.

Over the past seven years, I have relied on Danyelle as a sounding board to tell me the truth about what's going well, and not so well, across Mountain Family. She speaks up honestly on behalf of those that don't always feel comfortable using their voice. She sets the gold standard for advocacy on behalf of MFHC staff, patients, and our communities.

I'll miss Danyelle's wisdom, talents, and often inappropriate humor. She once gave me a card that reads "Of all the bosses I've had, you're by far the least horrible."

## **MOUNTAIN FAMILY RECEIVES ORAL HEALTH AWARD**

Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation will provide \$3.5 million in funding over three years to 31 Colorado nonprofit organizations, including Mountain Family Health Centers to support projects that create accessible oral health care across the lifespan and advance oral health equity. Over the past two years, Delta has awarded \$6.9 million in oral health-focused grants to Colorado communities.

[More](#)

CONTACT US AT:  
970-945-2840  
[contact@mountainfamily.org](mailto:contact@mountainfamily.org)  
[www.mountainfamily.org](http://www.mountainfamily.org)

**GIVE**

**WELCOME OUR NEW PEDIATRICIAN, DR. MARIA ROQUES**

Dr. Maria Roques is originally from Spain and joined Mountain Family in January 2020. She earned her medical degree at the Medical University of Valencia, Spain and did her Pediatric Residency, specializing in Neonatology at the Hospital La Fe, Valencia, Spain. She worked as a Neonatologist in the same hospital for 2 years until she moved to Edwards, Co in 2005 to be with her husband, a New Jersey native. She did her Pediatric Residency at the Children's Hospital in Denver and worked at Denver Health for 8 years as a Pediatrician, until she decided to move with her husband and 2 daughters back to Edwards, Co in 2018. She always had a passion for newborns and breastfeeding, and in 2012 founded the Breastfeeding Clinic at Denver Health. In 2018 she received her International Board Certification for Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). In her free time, she loves to Ski, spend time with her family outdoors, and making "Paella". She is very excited to be part of Mountain Family and to care for our pediatric population.

## **MOUNTAIN FAMILY'S PATIENT PORTAL IS A VALUABLE TOOL**

Mountain Family's Patient Portal allows you to communicate easily, safely and securely over your computer or mobile device. It is a valuable tool to provide you with the best medical care and to take an active role in your health care.

You can access these services via the Patient Portal:

1. Access your medical record
2. Request and view your appointment & appointment record
3. View lab results
4. Communicate with your provider and care team

[Learn how to enroll](#)

## **JANUARY 2020 EXEMPLARY CARE AWARD WINNERS**

### **Congratulations to Charlie Pariera & Susan Orcutt**

"Susan saw a young child who had terrible dental decay during a well child check. Thanks to our CO-MDI program, she was able to have Charlie come into the visit and be seen. Charlie in turn was able to see the child at the same time and start treatment for the dental decay. She was able to apply the cavity retardant and delay the growth of the cavity. Susan and Charlie truly made a difference in the young child's health, both medical and dental-all in one visit." -Jenny Lang-Burns

[Read more](#)

## **FEBRUARY 2020 EXEMPLARY CARE AWARD WINNER**

### **Congratulations to Dr. Casey Aquirrie**

"I had a case recently where Casey showed **\*\*exemplary\*\*** teaching skills. He had 2 MAs, a nurse and myself all in the room to watch him staple a wound. He made the patient feel really comfortable, and everyone got to ask questions. It was a great learning environment and great patient care." -Dr. Chris Tonozzi

"Casey has been a great teacher since he was my supervising resident when I was a tiny baby intern in 2011. He will be a great addition to our physician mentor program championed by HR, and I'm excited to see how staff grows while working with him." -Dr. Anneliese Heckert

[Read more](#)

## **JANUARY 2020 MARIPOSA AWARD WINNER**

### **Congratulations to Michelle Rios**

"Michelle is a pleasure to work with. Her attention to detail is excellent. She has attained a knowledge base for our many services in Edwards; Pediatrics, OB/GYN, Adult Medicine and Title X. Her knowledge of Procedures, and the supplies and paperwork necessary set her skills well above the normal expectations. You know she is serving a "starring role in serving our patients". -Diane Purse

[Read more](#)

## **FEBRUARY 2020 MARIPOSA AWARD WINNER**

### **Congratulations to Kaitlyn McGovern**

"You can always find her with a smile and searching for ways to improve the lives of our patients and employees. No matter the task, she is willing to help. I am constantly wowed by her vast knowledge and eagerness to move forward." -Devon Spaulding

"She works tirelessly to make sure we have all our data and our measures in place. She also is great at creating Work Flow Maps from a ton of lists and documentation. Her energy, her kindness and her patience are amazing. I am thankful to have her here at MFHC and for her hard work. is always ready to help at a moments notice and I am very thankful for her efforts. I wholeheartedly support this nomination." - Siouxsanne Mease

[Read more](#)

## **SIGN UP FOR HEALTH SOLUTIONS**

**New Members Enrolling Now**

Have you heard about Health Solutions? Our new medical, dental and behavioral health service offers affordable health care for employers, employees and dependents. No deductibles, copays or limits. We're signing up members now.

For more information [click here](#), call 970-456-1233 or email [HealthSolutions@mountainfamily.org](mailto:HealthSolutions@mountainfamily.org).

## IN THE NEWS & WHAT WE'RE READING

### Groups tied to hospitals, insurance companies launch pricey ad blitz against Colorado public option

Partnership for America's Health Care Future and Colorado's Health Care Future spent \$121,000 on television and digital ads against the proposal, which will be debated in the upcoming legislative session.

[Read article](#)

### Roberts: Why we need transparency in prescription drug pricing

"I am going to start this month's column with a hypothetical scenario: Imagine a cell phone made in the mid-nineties - a big clunky piece of equipment that had one function, to make and receive calls. These devices certainly were not equipped with fancy apps and a camera, let alone the ability to access your email or the internet. Yet, back then, the ability to make wireless phone calls was worth the price of that big, clunky cell phone. However, would you ever pay the price of the latest iPhone today for a 1990s cell-phone? No, of course not."

[Read complete letter](#)

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