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Medical Providers

Medical Director

Will Kaufman, MD, MPH

Dr. Kaufman is the Medical Director of First Choice Community Healthcare. Dr. Kaufman practices family medicine at the First Choice clinic located within the South Valley Health Commons, a model of integrated medical, behavioral health, dental, public health and WIC services in the historic South Valley of Albuquerque.

Dr. Kaufman is passionate about impacting the upstream drivers of health through the transformation of primary care practice, the partnership with community members and community-based partners and finding innovative ways to increase the opportunities for good health for his patients and community. Dr. Kaufman completed Medical School at the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine, Family Medicine Residency at The Lawrence Family Practice Residency (the first "Teaching Health Center" in the country) and completed his Masters in Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Assistant Medical Director

Monica E. Briones, MD

Dr. Briones is Board Certified in Family Medicine. She completed her undergraduate education at the University of Texas at Austin and then did her medical school training at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. She moved to New Mexico to do her Family Medicine Residency at the University of New Mexico.

Dr. Briones has been with First Choice Community Healthcare since 2006. She chose to work for First Choice because of its commitment to quality healthcare for all patients, including the uninsured and underserved. She is fluent in Spanish and enjoys the opportunity to speak Spanish with her patients. Her special interests in medicine include prenatal care and Women's Health, but she also loves seeing babies and kids. She enjoys working with her patients to help keep all members of the family healthy- from newborns to the elderly.

"I think one of the best things about being a Family Doctor is the special privilege and opportunity to get to know my patients- I thrive on that continuity of care."

Her personal interests include travel, camping, hiking, reading and photography. She lives in the East Mountains with her family.

Medical Providers by Location

Christopher French, Family Practice MD

Dr. French is an internal float provider. He attended Harvard University Medical School, in Boston, MA and graduated in 1978. He is Board Certified in Family Practice. Dr. French started his employment with First Choice Community Healthcare in 2014. Dr. French's interests include hiking, folk dancing, and people.

[Alameda Health Center](#)

R. Shaun Aries, MD

Dr. Aries graduated from the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine with honors in research in 2004. He completed his residency in 2007 at the University of New Mexico Hospital, Internal Medicine. Dr. Aries enjoys cycling in his spare time.

Mona Cabrera, MD

Dr. Cabrera attended the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine. She did her residency at our South Valley Commons. Dr. Cabrera enjoys spending time with family and friends in her spare time.

Our Patient-Centered Healthcare Home makes you feel welcomed and cared for by a team that:

- Knows your health history and goals
- Communicates effectively with you and with each other
- Gives you appointments when you need them
- Coordinates the complexity of labs, prescriptions, referrals and insurance

We go the extra mile to help our patients get help paying for their health care.

- We assist with Medicaid applications
- We help patients find insurance on the Marketplace
- We enroll patients in special programs when they are eligible
- We provide a discount for services based on family size and income

Milton Godinez, MD

Dr. Godinez graduated from the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine and completed his residency in OB/GYN at Kaiser Foundation Hospital from 1976-1980. He has been in practice with First Choice Community Healthcare since 1992, providing family planning, gynecological exams, colposcopy, gynecological office procedures, and consultation.

Darla Henderson, FNP-BC

Darla attended the University of St. Francis where she received her Master of Science in Nursing for Family Nurse Practitioner. She graduated in 2015 and is Board Certified through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Some of her professional interests are Health Promotion and Patient-Centered Care.

James Libertoff, LCSW Behaviorist

James is the behaviorist at the Alameda Medical Center. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Previously he worked at the South Valley Commons as a behaviorist and briefly as program coordinator. He started seeing patients at First Choice in 2006. James received his Masters from Salem State University. He enjoys hiking and reading the newspaper in his spare time.

Emily Pike, Internal Medicine, MD

Dr. Pike graduated in 2014 from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, in Greenville, NC. She completed her residency at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA, in 2017. Dr. Pike is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. She enjoys reading, hiking, and spending time with family in her spare time.

Nora Sanchez-Ortega, FNP

Nora attended the University of New Mexico; she graduated in 2005 with a Masters in Nursing. She is Board Certified with the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Jennifer Searcy, FNP

Jennifer completed her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of St. Francis in May of 2017. She is Board Certified through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Some of Jennifer's interests are promoting Health and Wellness. She also enjoys providing care to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. She has been a sexual assault nurse examiner for eleven years.

[Alamosa Health Center](#)

Ben Buxton, MD

A graduate of East Tennessee State University College of Medicine, Dr. Buxton completed his residency at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. He is Board Certified in Family Medicine Clinical Informatics. He began working for First Choice Community Healthcare in 2009 at the Alamosa Center, and subsequently held the position of Clinical Supervisor for that location. He performs the duties of Chief Medical Informatics Officer in addition to his clinical duties. He has been appointed Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine with the University of New Mexico Department of Family and Community Medicine for precepting medical students at the Alamosa Center, and regularly precepts family medicine residents at the South Valley Center, in addition to caring for his panel of patients at the Alamosa Center. Personally, he is passionate about many things including active outdoor recreation like mountain biking and hiking. He is fluent in German and capable in Spanish.

Tatyana Guerrero-Pezzano, MD

Dr. Guerrero-Pezzano graduated from Escuela Latino Americana de Medicina in 2010 before completing her residency at the University of New Mexico, School of Family and Community Medicine in 2014. She came to First Choice Community Healthcare in 2014, where she pursues her interests in immigrant health, maternal and child health and overall community health and wellbeing. "I love road trips with my family, reading and playing with my kids, family bicycle rides, rowing down the river."

Maria Hamilton, MD (Pediatrician)

Dr. Hamilton attended the University of New Mexico and graduated as a Doctor of Medicine in 2011. She completed her residency at the University of New Mexico Children's Hospital as a Pediatric Resident. Dr. Hamilton started with First Choice Community Healthcare in 2014 at our Alamosa Medical site. Her professional interests are general pediatrics, obesity and adolescent's health. In her spare time, Dr. Hamilton enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her husband and son.

Stephanie Hucker, FNP

Stephanie completed her degree at Boston College William F Connell School of Nursing in 2016. She is Board Certified through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She also received her Bachelor in Sociology and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Wesleyan University in 2011. Some of Stephanie's professional interests are women's and LGBTQ health. Her personal interests are hiking, dog training, and spending time with family and friends.

Galen Loughrey, MD

Dr. Loughrey attended the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine in 2009; he received his degree of Medical Doctor. Dr. Loughrey completed his residency at the University of New Mexico Family and Community Medicine in 2012. Dr. Loughrey's interest is health equity.

Lucinda Reyes, LCSW, LADAC Behaviorist

Lucinda attended New Mexico Highlands University and graduated with a dual degree in Social Work and with an MBA in 2009. Lucinda is fluent in Spanish and English. She started with First Choice Community Healthcare at Alamosa in February of 2016. Lucinda is specialized in Humanistic, CBT, MI, crisis intervention and in EMDR. She works with adult individuals and couples. She also has a LADAC and is specialized in addiction treatment. On her days off she enjoys relaxing at home, cooking, gardening, reading and traveling. She believes in personal self-care and tries to take at least 3 to 4 vacations a year with her husband.

Anjoli Reed, LCSW Behaviorist

Anjoli received her Master of Social Work from the University of Texas in 2011. She has been working at FCCH since 2016.

Adela Tam, MD

Dr. Tam is Board Certified in Family Medicine. After completing medical school at George Washington University in Washington D.C., she completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Tam practices at First Choice Community Healthcare's Alamosa Center. Dr. Tam's interest is in women's health. In her spare time, she enjoys rock climbing, biking, and yoga as well as spending time with family. Fluent in Spanish and Cantonese.

[Belen Health Center](#)

Savannah Apodaca, FNP

Savannah completed her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of St. Francis in 2017. She became Board Certified through the American Academy Nurse Practitioner Certification in October 2017. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2007 from the University of New Mexico. Savannah has nine previous years of registered nurse experience in the specialty areas of neonatal intensive care, pediatric chronic home healthcare, and school nursing for chronically ill children. Savannah looks forward to expanding her nursing skills to become an advanced practice nurse.

Holly Burks. FNP

Holly attended the Walden University, she graduated in 2018. Holly is Board Certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners National Certification.

K. Gallagher, Certified Nurse Midwife

Thanh-Tam Ho, Certified Nurse Midwife

Scott Jeansonne, DO, MPH

Dr. Jeansonne attended DePaul University and Nova Southeastern University, graduated in 2009. He completed his residency with the UNM Department of Family and Community Medicine in 2012 before coming to First Choice. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. Jeansonne has chosen to settle in Central New Mexico to work for the medically underserved. He was born and raised outside of Dallas, TX and now lives with his wife and three children in Valencia County, where he pursues his interests in camping, economics, public policy, bicycles, coffee, social welfare, and mental health.

K. Kivlighan, Certified Nurse Midwife

Therese Flores, LCSW

Therese attended Southern Illinois University where she graduated with a Master's in Social Work. She is board certified as an LCSW in the State of New Mexico. Therese's professional interests include trauma and addiction. In her spare time, Therese enjoys reading, studying history, attending Isotopes games and spending time with family and friends. Therese's professional mission statement is - walk beside those I serve as they face life challenges, to provide support and guidance to improve their quality of life. Therese's favorite quote is by Abraham Lincoln, "A person is as happy as they choose to be."

[Edgewood Health Center](#)

Monica E. Briones, MD Assistant Medical Director

Dr. Briones is Board Certified in Family Medicine. She completed her undergraduate education at the University of Texas at Austin and then did her medical school training at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. She moved to New Mexico to do her Family Medicine Residency at the University of New Mexico.

Dr. Briones has been with First Choice Community Healthcare since 2006. She chose to work for First Choice because of its

commitment to quality healthcare for all patients, including the uninsured and underserved. She is fluent in Spanish and enjoys the opportunity to speak Spanish with her patients. Her special interests in medicine include prenatal care and Women's Health, but she also loves seeing babies and kids. She enjoys working with her patients to help keep all members of the family healthy- from newborns to the elderly.

"I think one of the best things about being a Family Doctor is the special privilege and opportunity to get to know my patients- I thrive on that continuity of care."

Her personal interests include travel, camping, hiking, reading and photography. She lives in the East Mountains with her family.

Frederick Blodgett, FNP

Frederick attended Mass General Institute of Health Professional where he received his Master in Nursing in 2014. He is Board Certified by ANNC. Frederick enjoys yoga, hiking and walking on his spare time.

Kelly Dickson, LCSW

Kelly received her Master's from New Mexico State University, School of Social Work in 2014. She is Board Certified as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker from the New Mexico Board of Social Work Examiners. Kelly is happy to be working with her community and helping people gain wellbeing. She also enjoys creating garden areas and natural habitats for plants and animals. Some of her other interests are reading and sewing her spare time.

Danielle Draper, MD

Dr. Draper is a Board Certified Family Medicine physician. She attended the University of Arizona College of Medicine, graduating as an MD in 2012. She completed her residency in Family Medicine at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center in Martinez, CA in 2015. Dr. Draper's professional interests are care of the whole family, prenatal care, chronic liver, and heart disease. She speaks Spanish. In her spare time, Dr. Draper enjoys live music, yoga, hiking, cooking and hanging out with her dog, Dusty.

Deborah Fuller, C-FNP

Deborah attended Arizona State University; she received her Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner in 1998. She is certified as a Diabetic Educator. Deborah started working for First Choice Community Healthcare in 2003. She enjoys bow hunting and motorcycling in her spare time.

Jeanne Marotta, FNP

Jeanne attended the University of New Mexico where she received her Bachelor in Science of Nursing in 2001. She then attended Walden University and graduated in 2015 with her Master in Science of Nursing-FNP. Jeanne worked for 15 years in the ER as an RN. Some of Jeanne interests are family ranching, hunting, fishing, and show horses on the national level.

Saverio Sava, MD

Dr. Sava is Board Certified in Family Medicine. After graduating from Albany, New York Medical School, he completed a residency in Family Medicine at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Sava is a Professor in the University of New Mexico Department of Family & Community Medicine and was the former medical director of First Choice Community Healthcare and practices at our Edgewood location.

Milena Sudak, LCSW

Milena received her Bachelor's in Social Work and her Master's in Clinical Social Work from New Mexico Highlands University in 2012. Her interests are traveling, live music, cooking, and baseball.

[Los Lunas Health Center](#)

Kresta Antillon, Family Practice MD

Dr. Antillon graduated from Rio Grande High School. She then attended the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 2006. She received a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2010. Dr. Antillon continued her education at the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine; in 2015 she received her Doctorate of Medicine. Dr. Antillon is Board Certified in Family Practice. Dr. Antillon enjoys being a mom, running, and hiking

Felicia Aragon, PA-C

Felicia attended the University of St. Frances and graduated in 2014. She has been certified by the Board of New Mexico as a Physician Assistant since 2014. Felicia is interested in providing quality care to those in need.

Katrina Cole, MD (Pediatrician)

Dr. Cole attended the University of Illinois in Chicago. She graduated in 1999. Dr. Cole completed her residency at the Advocate Hope Children's Hospital. She started at First Choice Community Healthcare at Los Lunas in August 2018.

K. Gallagher, Certified Nurse Midwife

Thanh-Tam Ho, Certified Nurse Midwife

K. Kivlighan, Certified Nurse Midwife

Yvonne R. Moghadam, LMHC

Yvonne is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Substance Abuse Associate. Yvonne is a Bilingual (Spanish & English) Behaviorist and works with teens and adults. Yvonne has completed EMDR (Eye Movement, Desensitization & Reprocessing) training for trauma work and is working towards national certification.

Karen Phillips, MD

Dr. Phillips is a 1994 graduate of the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine. She completed her family practice residency in 1997 at the University of New Mexico. She joined First Choice Community Healthcare 2002. Dr. Phillips' interests include preventive medicine and gardening.

Sasha Sokolowski, PA-C

Sasha received her Master of Science in Physician Assistant from the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program in 2014. She is Board Certified through the National Committee on Certification of Physician Assistants. She is active in the NMAPA and UNM SOM PA Alumni Association and loves to volunteer for local events. Sasha started with First Choice Community Healthcare in 2014 at our Los Lunas Medical location. Some of Sasha's interests are spending time with her fur babies, yoga, Escape Rooms, dancing, bike riding, and watching the Dallas Cowboys!

Jacinda Stroud, FNP

Jacinda is a Native New Mexican, whose family roots in the area go back for generations. She is a first-generation college graduate, proudly earning her RN and BSN in 2012. Following her specific interest in healthcare led her to return to Graduate School for her degree and licensure as a Family Nurse Practitioner. She graduated from Gonzaga University in December 2018 with her MDN, FNP. Her focus as a healthcare provider is on wellness promotion, disease prevention/early detection & management, and patient education. She enjoys partnering with her patients, prioritizing holistic and individualizes care for those she works with. She enjoys working with all patients regardless of age or gender but does have a special interest in Women's Healthcare. As a Nurse Practitioner with FCCH Los Lunas, she is excited to contribute to this healthcare team, providing inclusive and accessible healthcare in her home state.

[North Valley Health Center](#)

Savanna Bustos, MD

Dr. Bustos graduated in 2012 from the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine. She did her residency at the University of New Mexico Family and Community Medicine. Dr. Bustos has been Board Certified since June 2015 as a Physician. Some of her interest that she enjoys are; women's health, cooking, and hiking.

Tamara Hudson, MD

Dr. Hudson is Board Certified in Family Medicine. She attended the Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud and completed her residency training at St. Vincent's East in Birmingham, Alabama. She is interested in integrative medicine, wellness, community involvement, gardening, and family time.

Steven Ogas, MD

Dr. Ogas graduated from the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine in 2010. He completed his residency at the University of New Mexico Hospital, Family and Community Medicine. He joined First Choice Community Healthcare in 2010. Some of Dr. Ogas interests are full-spectrum family medicine(prenatal, pediatrics, etc.). In his spare time, Dr. Ogas enjoys kickboxing, mountain climbing, soccer, and cooking.

Gregory Roland, LPCC

Greg received his Master in Counseling from the University of New Mexico in 2010. He is Board Certified as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor. Some of Greg's interests that he enjoys are traveling and food.

Mateo Seifert, FNP

Graduated in 2016 from Frontier Nursing University, he is Board Certified from American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. He takes honor in being able to assist fellow community members in improving their health and wellbeing. Personally, Mateo enjoys being with his family whether it is a simple BBQ, hiking/camping trip, enjoys playing coed soccer, and watching his daughter play soccer.

James Stapleton, FNP

I have been a Family Nurse Practitioner for 16 years; I graduated from the University of New Mexico FNP program. All of my clinical experience has been in family practice clinics with underserved populations. My interests include early pediatrics/development and management of chronic diseases. I enjoy First Choice because it provides high-quality care to all ages.

Lisa Torres, PA-C

Lisa Torres graduated in August 2014 with a Master of Science degree from the Physician Assistant program at the University of New Mexico. Some of her interests include; exercising, hiking, cooking, reading, traveling, and spending quality time with family and friends.

[Rio Grande High School](#)

Analicia Baldonado, PA-C

Analicia completed the Physician Assistant program at the University of California Davis Medical Center in 2016 and is Board Certified in New Mexico. She received a Bachelor in Biology, a minor in Spanish and Psychology at the University of New Mexico.

Letha Olmos, LCSW Behaviorist

Letha received her Master in Social Work in 2006 at New Mexico Highlands University. She has her NM License for Clinical Social Worker. She enjoys working with children and families.

[South Broadway Health Center](#)

Tasha Barnes, DO

Dr. Barnes is Board Certified in Osteopathic Family Medicine. She graduated from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Maine. She completed her residency at the University of New Mexico Family and Community Medicine. She is currently a full-time provider of Family Medicine at South Broadway First Choice Clinic.

Juliana Chavez, MD

Dr. Chavez graduated from the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine in 2011 and completed her residency training at UNM Hospitals before coming to First Choice Community Healthcare in 2014. She was born and raised in Albuquerque, NM and grew up in the South Valley. "This is my home and I am proud to serve the community that gave so much to me." Her interests are in Women's Health, adolescent medicine, and martial arts.

Caline Cone, MD

A New Mexico native, I completed both medical school and a residency in Family and Community Medicine at the University of New Mexico. I enjoy practicing family medicine at First Choice Community Healthcare because of the variety of patients I see, and I especially like serving multiple generations within the same family. I provide prenatal care and attend the births of my patients whenever possible. I have been in practice since 2008.

Silvia Juarez, MD

Dr. Juarez graduated in 1995 from the University of California San Diego Medical School. She completed her residency at Rush, Illinois Masonic Family Practice in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Juarez is board certified in family medicine.

Rebeca Mendoza-Gomez, PA-C

Rebeca graduated from the University of New Mexico, Physician Assistant Program with a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies in 2018. Her interest is working in primary care.

Jennifer Pentecost, MD

I am a Board Certified as a Family Physician. I went to Medical School at the University of Kansas and did my residency in Pueblo,

CO finishing in 1995. I have worked in community health centers my entire career in Colorado, Washington and for the past 8 years here in New Mexico at First Choice. I practice the full spectrum of family medicine except for OB. I have a special interest in school wellness and obesity prevention. I strive to use an integrative approach to disease prevention and management whenever possible. I joined First Choice because I feel that quality, accessible, affordable health care is a human right and should not be only for those that can pay.

Patricia Pesantez, LMSW

Patricia studied at New Mexico Highland University. In 2014 she received her Master in Social Worker-Bilingual Bicultural Concentration. Some of her personal interests are crochet, traveling, and jewelry making.

Lariza Rosas-Valdez, PA-C

Lariza received her Master of Science in Physician Assistant from the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine, PA program. She started with First Choice Community Healthcare in 2017 at our South Broadway location. Born in Mexico, grew up in a small town in New Mexico.

Mona Shah, MD

Dr. Shah graduated from medical school at Saint Louis University in Missouri 2000-2004 and completed her Pediatric Residency at the University of New Mexico from 2004-2007. She was Chief Resident of Pediatrics at UNM from 2007-2008. She is Board Certified in General Pediatrics and has practiced as a General Pediatrician since 2004, working with First Choice Community Healthcare since 2008.

Nicole Stringfellow, LMSW

Nicole attended the University of New York, Silver School of Social Work. She received her Master in Social Work in 2016. Nicole is Board Certified as a Licensed Master Social Worker. She enjoys hiking, yoga, and traveling.

Jessica JesperenChavez, PMSW Behaviorist

Jessica attended New Mexico Highlands University in 2017 and received her Master in Social Work.

[South Valley Health Center](#)

Analicia Baldonado, PA-C

Analicia completed the Physician Assistant program at the University of California Davis Medical Center in 2016 and is Board Certified in New Mexico. She received a Bachelor in Biology, a minor in Spanish and Psychology at the University of New Mexico.

Jesse Barnes, MD

Dr. Barnes graduated in 2007 from the University of Massachusetts Medical School as a bilingual provider, he did his residency at the University of New Mexico and is Board Certified in Family Medicine.

Minda Brown-Jaramillo, LISW-S

Minda graduated from Case Western Reserve University located in Cleveland, Ohio in 1992. Some of her personal interests are traveling, reading, swimming, and watching movies.

Silaja Cheruvu, MD

Dr. Cheruvu attended Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and graduated in 2009 as a Doctor of Medicine. She trained at First Choice Community Healthcare for her residency and she loved it so much she decided to stay. She delivered a baby in residency and saw him recently for a 7-year WCC. That's the beauty of her job being there with her patients as they grow. Dr. Cheruvu is the education director as well as helping to train a future generation of caring, smart and community-engaged family medicine physicians. This will be likely the most meaningful thing she will do in her career. She wants to thank First Choice for the opportunity to care for this amazing community and explore young doctors to its treasures.

Emily Cohen, MD

Dr. Cohen attended Ben-Gurion University and Columbia University Medical Center from 2009-2014. She completed her residency at the University of New Mexico Family and Community Medicine in 2017. Dr. Cohen is Board Certified in Family Practice. Her interests are women's health, yoga, meditation, and nutrition.

Cassie Fairchild, MD

Dr. Fairchild graduated from the University of Maryland, School of Medicine in 2014. She completed her residency at the University of New Mexico Family and Community Medicine. Dr. Fairchild started at First Choice Community Healthcare 2017 after getting experience at First Choice in her residency training. Some of Dr. Fairchild's interests are women's health, nutrition, and integrative medicine combining various modalities with western medicine. She has a small farm in the South Valley and loves living and working in this community.

Amber Francia, LMSW

Amber attended New Mexico Highland University. She graduated in 2017 with a Master in Social Work. She is licensed as a Licensed Masters Social Worker (LMSW) in the State of New Mexico. Amber is a Native New Mexican and enjoys helping improve the lives of those in the local community.

Will Kaufman, MD, MPH

Dr. Kaufman is the Medical Director of First Choice Community Healthcare. Dr. Kaufman practices family medicine at the First Choice clinic located within the South Valley Health Commons, a model of integrated medical, behavioral health, dental, public health and WIC services in the historic South Valley of Albuquerque.

Dr. Kaufman is passionate about impacting the upstream drivers of health through the transformation of primary care practice, the partnership with community members and community-based partners and finding innovative ways to increase the opportunities for good health for his patients and community. Dr. Kaufman completed Medical School at the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine, Family Medicine Residency at The Lawrence Family Practice Residency (the first "Teaching Health Center" in the country) and completed his Masters in Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Patricia Lake, MS, LPCC

Has a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling, Concentration in Alcohol Studies from the University of Wisconsin- Stout, Menomonie, Wisconsin. Patricia is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor in New Mexico. Her interests are providing treatment for Substance-Related problems, perinatal issues, Trauma, Grief and Loss, Emotional Resilience.

Suzanna Lueras, LMHC

Has a Master's degree in Counseling from the University of New Mexico and is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. Suzanna provides mental health counseling services in both English and Spanish and is trained in EMDR therapy.

Caryn McHarney-Brown, MD

Dr. McHarney-Brown attended the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine. She graduated in 1986. She is Board Certified in Family Practice. Some of her interests are community health and outdoor activities.

Jessica Monthan, MD

Dr. Monthan graduated as a Doctor of Medicine in 2011 from the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine. She is Board Certified. Dr. Monthan enjoys traveling, reading, cycling, and running.

Stephanie Nevarez-Fernandez, MD, FAAP

Dr. Nevarez-Fernandez attended the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine. She graduated in 2003 with a Medical degree, completed her residency at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, TX from 2003-2006. She was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Laura Price-Waldman, LMSW

Laura has a Bachelor's degree in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and a Master's degree in Bilingual/Bicultural Clinical Social Work from New Mexico Highlands University.

Amy Rohr, FNP

Amy received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing at UNM in 2014, her Masters of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner) at Frontier Nursing University in 2017 and completed her Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) at Frontier Nursing University October of 2018. She is a practicing primary care provider at the South Valley First Choice and has a passion for preventative medicine and quality improvement. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honors Society of Nursing (STTI), Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), American Nurses Association (ANA), American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), New Mexico Nurse Practitioner Council (NMNPC), New Mexico Nurses Association (NMNA), and a Golden Key member. She also considers herself an active part of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). When not performing patient care, Amy enjoys soccer, volleyball, yoga, tea, gardening, dancing, singing, traveling and spending time with her friends, her partner Alex, and her two kittens Llewelyn and Rory.

Aissa Steiner, MD

Dr. Steiner attended the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine. She graduated in 2014. She completed her residency at the University of New Mexico Health Science Center, Department of Family and Community Medicine in 2017. Dr. Steiner's interests are community health and wellness.

Marcela Trujillo, LMSW

Marcela attended New Mexico Highlands University in 2017 and received her Master in Social Work. Her interests are to travel and trying new foods.

Keith Vargas, MD (Pediatrician)

Dr. Vargas graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in 2014 and received his Doctorate of Medicine. He completed his residency at the University of New Mexico Children's Hospital, and he is also Pediatric Board Certified. Dr. Vargas was born and raised in Rio Rancho, NM. He was a student-athlete at Rio Rancho High School. Dr. Vargas then went to Eastern New Mexico University where he received his Bachelor of Science in General Biology with minor in Chemistry and played collegiate soccer. He worked at the University of New Mexico Biomedical Research center and has multiple publications on breast cancer-field cancerization and vaccinations.

First Choice Community Healthcare is a 501 c3 non-profit, community-based health center system that provides access to quality, patient-centered, comprehensive health care to all people who need it -- regardless of ability to pay. We are a health center grantee under 42 USC 245b and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 USC 233 (g)-(n).

Healthcare

- Locations/ Contact Us
- Medical Services
- Dental Services
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Careers

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- Job Openings
- Our Model of Care
- Staff Testimonials
- Health Prof. Education
- Training

Community Health

- Community Resources
- Events
- Expansion Plans
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- Partnerships
- Get Involved

