



COLORADO COVERING KIDS AND FAMILIES

MONTHLY COALITION MEETING NOTES

June 15, 2017
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

View recording [here](#).

Updates from the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Nina Schwartz, Eligibility Communications Specialist
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF)

Colorado interChange

- The Explanation of Benefits (EOB) and Provider Portal will not be available starting July 1 as originally intended. Stay tuned for additional information in the coming weeks.
- Sending EOBs to Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) members is a legislative requirement. The EOBs will reflect the claims being paid for benefits the Health First Colorado members received.

Q. How are confidential services being addressed/included on EOBs?

A. More to come.

- When providers are unable to verify a Health First Colorado member in the portal, members should contact the Health First Colorado member contact center (1-800-221-3943) to for proof of insurance. More information for providers can be found [here](#).
- Wait times at the Health First Colorado enrollment broker have decreased. To decrease wait times, the Health First Colorado enrollment broker hired more call center staff and created a phone line for providers to check eligibility.

June CBMS/PEAK build

- The build is moved from this weekend (June 18) to next weekend (June 25).
- One of the projects in the June build will affect Parents and Caretaker Relatives. Per Federal regulations, when a dependent child does not have Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) the parent/caretaker is not eligible for Medicaid (if their income is above 69 percent of the Federal Poverty Level). When a parent/caretaker applies for Medicaid for themselves and for their dependent child(ren) at the same time, the parent/caretaker will qualify for Medicaid, however if the child is subsequently found to not be eligible for Medicaid or CHP+, this project will send a verification checklist and a letter explaining the need for MEC for the denied children in order for the parent to stay enrolled in Medicaid. There was a related project in March for parents that did not apply for the child.

Q. Are there considerations for Parents or Caretaker Relatives of undocumented children without access to coverage?

A. HCPF confirmed with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that the policy does impact Parents and Caretaker Relatives of undocumented children.

Q. Why would a parent qualify for Health First Colorado but not the child?

A. This is a rare instance. Most commonly it is for missing verifications.

- Other projects include: updates for non-MAGI programs including spousal verifications, new waivers for Working Adults with Disabilities Buy-In Program, and correspondence updates.

Updates from the Governor's Office of Information Technology

Brandi Simmons, Sr. Manager, Health IT Communications & Client Experience

Colorado Governor's Office of Information Technology

OIT manages the PEAK application on behalf of the agencies with application for benefits in PEAK. Brandi's role focuses on improving the client experience.

PEAK Usability Study

- PEAK was selected as one of five government technology applications to participate in a usability study done by an outside organization.
- PEAK's "Manage My Account" module was selected to be tested on August 9 – 10 with 6 – 12 PEAK power users and 6 – 12 newer PEAK users. Participants will receive \$75 grocery gift cards.
- Recruitment communications will begin the first week of July.

PEAK TLS Upgrade

- Colorado.gov/PEAK is a Salesforce based website.
- Due to national best practices, all Salesforce based websites, including PEAK, are being upgraded to Transport Layer Security (TLS) 2.0, an upgraded security program, on July 22.
- If PEAK users have an out of date operating system or web browser they may not be able to see salesforce or other TLS 2.0 based websites.
- Google Chrome is the recommended browser for using PEAK.
- A communications plan to inform PEAK users and community partners about how to update operating systems and browsers is under review and is coming soon.

June CBMS/PEAK Build

- A conversion is being made from information and frequently asked questions currently built into PEAK to Knowledge Base articles. This change will allow information that may need to be updated more often to be changed or updated without being a project included in an upcoming build, allowing PEAK help article to be updated more quickly and easily.
- Google Analytics and a "thumbs up/thumbs down" feedback loop will be added to the PEAK help pages. This will inform additional improvements in the future.

Updates from Connect for Health Colorado

Kate Harris, Policy and Research Director

Connect for Health Colorado

NASHP ACA/AHCA Report

- There have been questions about the impact of the American Health Care Act (AHCA), if passed. [This report](#) by the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) answers questions on the House of Representatives version of the AHCA.
- There will likely be changes made to the bill in the Senate. NASHP created similar reports for

several states. Connect for Health Colorado is sharing the report with policy makers.

AHCA

- Connect for Health Colorado heard the Senate is hoping to vote on the AHCA before the July 4 recess of the Senate. The text of the bill has not been released and it will not be reviewed in committee. There is a requirement of at least 20 hours of debate and there are an unlimited number of amendments that can be added.
- If the bill is passed by the Senate it needs to go back to the House to be voted on and approved before going to the President for a signature.
- There are several bills in the House that are contingent on AHCA passing and have 2018 implementation timelines. One would allow veterans eligible but not enrolled in TRICARE to receive AHCA tax credits, one would allow a person to use tax credits on COBRA, and the third would require lawful presence before effectuation (i.e. would remove the 90 day Reasonable Opportunity Period for people to provide verification).

Division of Insurance Emergency Rule

- The Division of Insurance is working on an Emergency Rule that among other things will likely extend the open enrollment period through mid-January. The Division of Insurance will make an announcement soon.

Workshop: Draft Colorado Center on Law and Policy Resource for Assisters Helping Immigrants

Stephanie Brooks, Senior Project Manager

Covering Kids and Families

▼ [Handout](#)

Meeting attendees discussed and provided feedback on the draft Resource for Assisters Helping Immigrants created by the Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP). CKF will provide the feedback to CCLP and will help distribute a final version within a month.

Federal Policy Update

Stephanie Brooks, Senior Project Manager

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AHCA

- On May 4 the House of Representatives passed the AHCA. On May 24 the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scored the bill. CBO estimates found the AHCA would have a \$119 billion reduction in the Federal deficit. It would likely result in 14 million more uninsured in 2018 and 23 million more people uninsured by 2026.
- There is a group of 13 Republican senators including Colorado Senator Cory Gardner that are meeting to craft a new version of the bill. Unlike the House, the Senate cannot vote before the CBO score comes in. In addition, the Senate bill must save as much money as the House bill. Only 51 votes are needed to pass the bill.

Q. Will there be changes that go into effect before 2020?

A. There are some changes in the House bill that are scheduled to go into effect in 2018.

Coalition Member Updates and Information Sharing

Centura Health Links helps with Medicare; they are SHIP counselors. They work with QMB, SLMB, and

other Medicare Savings Programs: 720-321-8850.

To better meet Coalition Member schedules, future Coalition meetings will be from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Next meeting: July 20, 2017