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CKF Coalition Meeting

Thursday, September 21, from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
CCHN (600 Grant St., Ste. 800, Denver)
[August Meeting Recording](#)

Register Now for the Building Better Health Conference

Join us **Monday and Tuesday, September 25 – 26** for Building Better Health, the only in-person training and networking opportunity for Colorado's assisters, brokers, community based organizations (CBOs), and advocates. This statewide health coverage open enrollment kick-off and training event is hosted by Colorado Covering Kids and Families with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), the Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), Connect for Health Colorado, the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, and PEAK Outreach. Building Better Health is funded by the Colorado Health Foundation.

The conference will include:

- Up-to-date health coverage policy information;
- Resources to prepare for the fifth open enrollment period (OE5) from November 1, 2017 – January 12, 2018;

- Training on outreach and enrollment best practices, increasing enrollment efficiency, and health insurance literacy;
- Access to the latest uninsured data and coverage resources; and
- Networking time with assisters, brokers, community based organizations, and advocates.

[Register today](#) to join your colleagues in preparation for the 2018 open enrollment period. For more information, contact BBHinfo@cchn.org.

Health Policy

Future of CHP+ Update

Unless Congress acts, federal funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known as Child Health Plan *Plus*, or CHP+ in Colorado, ends September 30, 2017.

At this time, there are no changes to CHP+ eligibility or the CHP+ program, however, HCPF is beginning to plan for the necessary actions that will need to be taken if Congress does not continue funding.

Current law allows states to spend unspent federal dollars collected before October 1, 2017. HCPF estimates that Colorado can use these funds for health care for CHP+ members until sometime in the first quarter of calendar year 2018. Learn more [here](#).

If you or your organization is interested in advocacy resources in support of the CHIP program, please contact [Sarah Barnes](#) at the Colorado Children's Campaign to be added to the Colorado CHIP Coalition, or read more [here](#).

CHIP: The Path Forward Hearing

The U.S. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch and Ranking Member Ron Wyden will convene a hearing to discuss the future of CHIP on **Thursday, September 7**, at 8:00 a.m. MT. For more information, visit the Committee's [website](#).

DOI Adopted Emergency Regulation for OE5

The DOI adopted the [emergency regulation](#) for 2018 private health insurance coverage. OE5 will effectively last from **November 1, 2017, to January 12, 2018**. The open enrollment period will legally extend from November 1 to December 15, 2017, however a transitional special enrollment period will be tacked on to the open enrollment period in Colorado to extend it. Customers should not experience any difference between the open enrollment period and transitional special enrollment period, however customers need to choose a plan by December 15 in order to have coverage effective as of January 1. People who choose a plan after December 15 and by January 12 will have coverage effective February 1 in most cases. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a final rule earlier this year shortening the health insurance open enrollment period from 12 weeks to six weeks, however states with state-based exchanges had the opportunity to effectively extend the open enrollment period through a transitional special enrollment period.

HHS Announces Reduction in Navigator Funding

Last week, HHS announced that it is changing Navigator funding awards for the grant year beginning September 1. The Connect for Health Colorado Assistance Network is not funded by HHS or through the Navigator program. Estimates suggest that the new award calculation will

bring overall Navigator funding down to \$36 million, compared to \$63 million awarded last year, causing a potential decrease in the number of Navigators available to assist consumers in enrollment using healthcare.gov.

Technology Updates

PEAK September Build Updates Webinar and Post-Build Support Call for CBOs

The PEAK Outreach team is holding a webinar and post-build support call on the September PEAK updates. September updates include changes to:

- Account creation - removal of 2222 verification option;
- New other liquid asset type for Medical Assistance;
- Marketplace real time eligibility message updates;
- Limits to reporting multiple changes;
- Reporting loss of minimum essential coverage; and
- Updated help language.

The webinar will be held Thursday, September 14, at 2:00 p.m. ([Register here](#)) and the post-build support call for CBOs will be Thursday, September 21 from 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. To join the support call, dial: 1-877-820-7831 and us passcode: 349141#

Case Number available from PEAK Technical Support

As a reminder, the Technical Support Call Center (1-800-250-7741) is able to provide Case Numbers or Medicaid ID numbers to members (not necessarily head of household) who provide the member's:

- Name;
- Date of birth;
- Social Security Number; and
- Address.

PEAK Customer Survey Extended to Friday, September 15

The State of Colorado is gathering customer feedback on the usability of PEAK. They are requesting assistance in sharing an online survey with PEAK customers that will inform future system improvements and measure year-over-year progress. Below is a suggested email to send to customer distribution lists. Please add the survey link to newsletters, bulletins, flyers, etc. Contact Brandi Simmons (brandi.simmons@state.co.us) with questions.

Customer-Facing Content:

Calling all Colorado PEAK users... The State of Colorado wants to hear from you! If you have used PEAK, we invite you to take a short survey to tell us your thoughts:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/COPEAK.

As a reminder, Colorado.gov/PEAK is the fast and easy way to complete an application and manage your benefits online. By getting helpful feedback from customers like you, we can continue to improve the website used by thousands of Coloradans each month.

Please help us improve PEAK by taking this survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/COPEAK.

Thank you in advance for your valuable feedback!

Outreach and Enrollment

Good News for Coloradans Using SNAP

More Coloradans who are facing difficult life circumstances and financial challenges will be able to keep their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits under a recent set of rule changes unanimously approved by Colorado's State Board of Human Services. Recent federal guidance on SNAP has encouraged states to exempt a broader set of participants from work requirements for those who may not be physically or mentally able to work or participate in employment training, such as those who are experiencing homelessness. Among the changes:

- People who are experiencing chronic homelessness are no longer subject to work requirements or employment training because their situation can directly impact their mental or physical ability to pursue and maintain employment;
- Individuals not fit to work can get an exemption from medical professionals such as physicians' assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, designated representatives of a physician's office, and licensed social workers. Previously, only physicians were allowed to grant such exemptions based on a patient's ability to work;
- People who reside with juveniles will not be subject to the three-month time limits on receiving SNAP benefits; and
- Counties may now elect to operate a fully voluntary Employment First program for participants who are not considered "able-bodied adults without dependents."

Learn more about the SNAP rule changes from the Colorado Center on Law and Policy [here](#).

Resources

The Colorado Health Foundation's New Vision: Across Colorado, each of us can say: "We have all we need to live healthy lives."

During the Colorado Health Symposium, the Foundation's President and CEO Karen McNeil-Miller shared the Foundation's new emphasis on how it is changing the way the foundation tackles issues, starting with their vision as an organization. McNeil-Miller said, "There's a whole population across the state that doesn't have health in reach, and that's who we'll be targeting most." The Foundation's new vision, is that: Across Colorado, each of us can say: "We have all we need to live healthy lives." Learn more about the Foundation's new vision and the Colorado Health Symposium in a blog post by Michael Booth [here](#).

New HCPF Video for Health First Colorado Members

HCPF released a new [video](#) for Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) members on keeping their personal information up-to-date. The video is available on the Health First Colorado website in a [format that can be downloaded](#) for use in waiting rooms, county office, eligibility sites, or anywhere Health First Colorado members may see them. Other videos are also available on topics including teen depression screening and substance use disorder benefits.

Relaunch of Connect for Health Colorado's Quick Cost and Plan Finder

Connect for Health Colorado launched an improved version of the [Quick Cost & Plan Finder](#), the personalized plan browsing tool. Here are the features that are new:

- Prescription medications are included in the out-of-pocket costs;
- The number of screens a user has to click through is reduced by 50 percent;
- Significantly more data is used to estimate the out-of-pocket costs, which results in more accurate estimations;

- 5.1 million medical claims and 4.5 million prescription claims which help the tool provide more accurate cost estimates;
- Estimates are regionalized meaning that someone in Steamboat will not have metro Denver claims data mixed in with their estimate; and
- Additional health insurance literacy elements queue the user on key decision points so they can choose a plan that is better for them.

Plans currently displayed are for the 2017 plan year. The tool will be updated when 2018 plan data is finalized and released later this year.

Upcoming Calls, Trainings, and Events

Register Now for the Building Better Health Conference

Read more about the Building Better Health conference, above. [Register today](#) to join your colleagues in preparation for the 2018 open enrollment period. For more information, contact BBHinfo@cchn.org.

2017 CHAS Presentations

The Colorado Health Institute is holding 15 Colorado Health Access Survey (CHAS) presentations throughout the state on **September 19 and 20**. Learn more, including the location and times of the presentations, and register [here](#). The registration deadline is September 8. The CHAS is the premier source of information on health insurance coverage, access to health care, and use of health care services in Colorado. More than 10,000 households in the state have been interviewed via a telephone survey of land lines and cell phones. The first CHAS was in 2009, and is repeated every two years allowing comparisons across a time marked by sweeping changes in health policy.

Save the Dates! Health Reform: Beyond the Basics Fall Webinars

Health Reform: Beyond the Basics is a project of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities designed to provide training and resources that explain health coverage available through Medicaid, CHIP, and the Marketplace, to assisters. They are offering a number of webinars this fall. Please save the dates. Registration information will be available in early September. All webinars will be recorded and available for viewing on the *Health Reform: Beyond the Basics* [website](#) after the initial release.

4-Part Eligibility and Enrollment Series

- Part I: Premium Tax Credits
Tuesday, September 19
- Part II: Determining Household Size and Income
Thursday, September 21
- Part III: Plan Design and Selection (Reminder: Since Colorado has a state-based marketplace, not all of the information in this webinar will apply to Colorado.)
Tuesday, September 26
- Part IV: Exemptions
Thursday, September 28

Additional Fall Webinar

- Immigrant Eligibility for Coverage Programs
Wednesday, October 4

DHS Offers Navigator Training

Denver Human Services (DHS) offers a navigator training for community partners. The navigator training includes an overview of the programs DHS offers, including food assistance, basic eligibility for Health First Colorado and cash programs, energy assistance, child support, childcare assistance program, PEAK, and a brief overview of the Affordable Care Act. For more information and to register, please contact Kathy Crusan-Ford, Agency Trainer for SNAP Into Health, at Kathleen.Crusan-Ford@denvergov.org. The upcoming trainings will be held:

- **Friday, September 22** from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 1200 Federal Blvd., Room 1019, Denver
- **Friday, October 27** from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 1200 Federal Blvd., Room 1019, Denver

Register Now for the Hungry for Change Summit

HungerFree Colorado is hosting their 2017 Summit on **Wednesday, September 27**. This year's Summit will cover topics, such as racial justice in the anti-hunger fight, local advocacy resources, data-driven messaging, and the State Plan to End Hunger. View the agenda [here](#) and register [here](#). The nonprofit registration rate is \$60, the corporate and business rate is \$80.

New to PEAK or Need a Refresher? PEAK eLearning Modules Available

The PEAK Outreach Initiative created short eLearning modules for common uses and elements of the PEAK application including [Who Should Use Apply for Benefits](#); [Apply for Benefits: Household Program Selection](#); [Apply for Benefits: Start](#); and others, with new modules being added regularly. Two new modules are [Create an Acct vs. Apply as Guest](#) and [Apply for Benefits: About Your Application \(Who is helping you apply\)](#). Visit the PEAK Outreach Initiative [training webpage](#) to see all training resources.

Jobs

Colorado Children's Campaign Hiring Research Analyst

The Colorado Children's Campaign has an opening for a Research Analyst. Candidates can learn more about how to apply on the website at <http://www.coloradokids.org/about/opportunities/>. Applications are being taken on a rolling basis.