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CKF News

November Coalition Meeting

Click [here](#) to listen to a recording of our November coalition meeting, and [here](#) to review the most recent coalition meeting notes, as well as notes from previous meetings.

Strategic Planning

Covering Kids and Families will be conducting a strategic planning session with Joining Vision and Action (JVA) in December. JVA will be using the information from the survey sent to coalition members and partners to inform the development of Covering Kids and Families' mission and vision statements. If you have not responded to the survey sent by Adam Brock at JVA, please do. Covering Kids and Families will share the outcomes of the strategic planning session with the coalition in February, 2018.

Policy Updates

Future of CHP+

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) has updated their FAQ section and added additional resources and a pre-recorded webinar to the Future of CHP + page. Because Congress has not yet acted to fund the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), HCPF is sending informational notices to Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) clients this week, beginning November 27, informing them that their CHP+ coverage may end January 31, 2018. This is not a termination notice, and CHP+ clients can continue to seek care. See the HCPF press release [here](#). HCPF plans to send notices of action indicating that CHP+ coverage will be terminated January 31, 2018 at the end of December if federal CHIP funding is not extended by then. Click [here](#) to review HCPF's most recent updates. HCPF will continue to

keep this page updated with any relevant information going forward. Connect for Health Colorado also has a new resource page for CHP+ members. See the page [here](#). CKF will continue to keep the coalition informed about these developments and actions assisters can take.

2019 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters

On October 27, 2017 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released its proposed 2019 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters. The proposed rule summarizes all of the major changes that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) intends to implement for the next plan year (beginning on or after January 2019) for the marketplaces, and issuers. HHS is accepting comments on the proposed rule through November 27, 2017. Click [here](#) to review Health Affairs' summary of the insurer and exchange provisions in the proposed rule and [here](#) to review the summary of consumer-facing provisions.

Accountable Care Collaborative Phase II Update

The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) announced that the protest period associated with the Request for Proposal for Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) for the next stage of the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) has ended. HCPF awarded contracts to seven entities, and have published each of their proposals, [here](#). The Department will be immediately focusing on contract negotiations with new vendors, and will begin sharing more information to help providers and stakeholders prepare for the program transition early next year.

Outreach and Enrollment

PEAK Technical Support Center

The PEAK Technical Support Center offers support to clients and assisters who are experiencing technical difficulties with the PEAK website including password resets. Users can contact the support call center at 1-800-250-7741, or message the help desk at CBMS.Help@state.co.us. Click [here](#) to learn more about the PEAK Technical Support Center.

Resources

Individual Mandate Penalty Calculator

The Kaiser Family Foundation has created an Individual Mandate Payment Calculator that uses an individual's household income, family size, ages of family members, and zip code data to make a projection of the penalty they would owe if they do not purchase health coverage. The tool also shares information about their potential eligibility for financial assistance, and premiums for the lowest-cost Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace plan in their local area. The calculator also enables them to assess whether they are eligible for the Medicaid expansion under the ACA. Click [here](#) to access this tool.

Yearly Guidelines and Thresholds for 2018

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities released a reference guide that outlines the thresholds that will be used to determine eligibility for marketplace plans and financial assistance in 2018. These thresholds should be utilized for 2018 tax returns, and the 2017 thresholds should still be applied to 2017 tax returns. Click [here](#) to review the reference guide for 2018.

Upcoming Calls, Trainings, and Events

Notice of Action Webinar

The Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) began sending a new eligibility Notice of

Action (NOA) letter to consumers starting November 19, 2017. HCPF, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services and Connect for Health Colorado, has updated the letter's look, language, and feel. Join the Department and Connect for Health Colorado for a webinar on the new Medical Assistance NOA. Space is limited, and the recording will be available online after the live session. Click [here](#) to register.

- **Wednesday, November 29** from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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 ACA. 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 training will be held:

- **Friday, December 15** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 20** from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. 1200 Federal Blvd., Room 1019, Denver

What We're Reading

Why Discrimination Is a Health Issue

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently published a blog post about the impact of discrimination on African Americans' health. The post explores the relationship between experiences with racism, physiological stress, and mortality rates amongst this population. Click [here](#) to learn more about how discrimination impacts their health, and experiences with health care.

Payment Reform & Alternative Payment Models

The Center for Health Progress published a [brief](#) explaining the different models used to pay for health care in the United States and in Colorado. From fee-for-service to managed care, the brief gives a simple overview of some of the common terms used when talking about health care payment and policy.

Impact of the Proposed Senate Tax Bill on Health Coverage

In a recent [blog post](#), the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities explains how the amended tax bill that was released from the Senate Finance Committee on November 14 could impact health coverage. The bill includes a provision that would repeal the individual mandate, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates that by 2017, 13 million people would become uninsured and individual market premiums would increase by 10 percent. The Senate has not yet voted on the proposed legislation.