



COLORADO COVERING KIDS AND FAMILIES MONTHLY COALITION MEETING NOTES

Thursday Feb. 15, 2018
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

CHP+ and Health First Colorado Updates

Nina Schwartz, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) Strategic Policy Manager

- The last continuing resolution (passed January 22) funded the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for six years, and then Congress extended funding by four more years in the most recent continuing resolution (passed February 8). CHIP is now funded for the next ten federal years through September 2027.
- HCPF sent letters in late January indicating that Colorado's CHIP program, Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) will continue. You can find the letters, [here](#).
- The new, personalized, Health First Colorado member handbooks are now available on PEAK. HCPF has also created [posters](#) you can display to inform members about the new personalized handbooks. The handbooks are in PDF format.
- The 1095-B form is a tax document that shows the months in the previous year that a person had health coverage through Health First Colorado. Corrected 1095-B forms are being sent out this month. No changes have been made to reporting from last year, and the form can still be accessed from the PEAK mail center. The 1095-B is for members' tax records, but members do not have to submit the form with their taxes.

Connect for Health Colorado Updates

Saphia Elfituri, Connect for Health Colorado Policy Associate

- Connect for Health Colorado is currently working on an open enrollment report. The report will compare enrollments by county, discuss outreach efforts, and tax credits. The report will be released next month.
- 1095-A forms, which are tax documents showing the months in the previous year an individual had private insurance, have been sent out to customers. If you need a form corrected, you should call the Connect for Health Colorado customer service center. This form needs to be submitted with tax returns.
- The board approved an initiative to build Connect for Health Colorado's own eligibility system for tax credits, and cost sharing reductions, outside of PEAK and the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS). Please see slides from Connect for Health Colorado on the eligibility system changes [here](#).
 - Connect for Health Colorado is still working to understand how this will impact mixed eligibility households, and what can be done to minimize enrollment issues for this demographic.
 - Connect for Health Colorado hopes to have monthly status updates for communication.
 - Connect for Health Colorado provided the following reasons for moving forward with their own eligibility system:
 - Improve customer experience: there will be fewer screens for people to go through, and will decrease the amount of non-real-time-eligibility enrollments.
 - Bring Connect for Health Colorado into federal compliance: Connect for Health

Colorado wants to be more compliant with federal regulations by addressing previous audit findings related to data, enrollee verification, and reporting.

- Increase ability to predict and control technology costs
- Decrease Eligible but Not Enrolled (EBNE) Population and increase enrollment overall
- The new system will reduce the number of questions needed to assess eligibility. For example, in order to verify lawful presence, they hope to reduce the number of questions for U.S. citizens to two or three questions, and eight questions for individuals who are lawfully present.

Q: What is Connect for Health's vision for the client's journey?

A: Connect for Health Colorado is still in the development phase, and nothing has been finalized. If it looks like a member is eligible for Medicaid, they will be redirected to PEAK. HCPF will still manage Medicaid enrollment. Connect for Health Colorado will handle Advanced Premium Tax Credit (ATPC) and Cost Sharing Reduction (CSR) eligibility determination.

Q: There is an existing population that has information in both systems. How, and why, are we going to make them go through it all over again? How are we going to address problems with enrollees being sent to the wrong parties?

A: We are still in the development phase, and are open to hearing any ideas you may have.

CKF Coalition members provided the following suggestions:

- There should be a timeframe that determines whether consumers have to go through the application again, if their information is already in the system.
- Connect for Health Colorado should find a way to get information from CBMS instead of asking assisters to request that information multiple times from consumers.
- Connect for Health Colorado should ensure that any screening tool incorporates specific rules for Medicaid, including for lawfully present individuals who have not resided in the U.S. for five years, and should be eligible for APTCs and CSRs instead of Medicaid.
- Create a map outlining the client journey through the system.

Q: How will HCPF and OIT make sure their rules match up with Connect for Health Colorado to make sure no one gets lost?

A: Nina Shwartz from HCPF stated that changes on the CBMS/ PEAK timeline have not been finalized yet, and that HCPF will be working closely with OIT and Connect for Health Colorado to make sure that things run smoothly.

Q: There will be an initial screening page that either directs the consumer to Connect for Health Colorado or to PEAK. Am I correct in assuming that if someone fills that out, and is APTC and CSR eligible, the information they provide in the screening page will be entered into the full Connect for Health Colorado application? Will that information be autopopulated?

A: This is still to be determined. We want to make sure people don't have to enter the same information multiple times.

Q: Would this be a revision of the PEAK system, or a whole new system? Every time we encounter a layer or change to a new system, we deal with issues. How are we going to prevent this?

A: This is an all new system for Connect for Health Colorado; those who are APTC and CSR eligible will stay with Connect For Health Colorado and will not be routed to PEAK. Connect for Health Colorado is working with HCPF and OIT to determine the best process for assessing mixed

eligibility households (i.e. eligible for APTCs and CHP+). Stakeholder feedback about prior experiences will help inform the development of this system.

Q: Can you elaborate on the benefit of creating a new eligibility system a bit more?

A: Connect for Health Colorado is aiming to improve the customer experience. Right now when a consumer fills out an eligibility application in PEAK, there are many questions that they have to answer. Not all of these questions are necessary for APTC and CSR determination. Connect for Health Colorado wants to minimize the number of questions customers have to answer. There were also some compliance issues with federal regulations that have been difficult to manage because of the shared eligibility system.

Q: Because PEAK relies on the shared eligibility system, OIT will have to make changes to PEAK to not assess APTC anymore. Will APTC be removed from PEAK?

A: I do not have the answer to that question yet

Q: What contingency planning is being put in place to address the timing of this?

A: This process isn't contingent on anything in the CBMS transformation. We don't see that impacting timelines for us.

Partner Presentation: Early Milestones & LAUNCH Together

Molly Yost, Early Milestones Colorado Senior Project Manager

- Please see slides from presentation [here](#).
- Early Milestones is a policy and issues nonprofit bringing innovation to complex early childhood systems.
- LAUNCH Together supports Colorado communities in expanding evidence-based prevention and promotion strategies and building coordinated systems to support the wellness of children, prenatal through age 8, and their families with a focus on behavioral health and social and emotional development.
 - The initiative combines efforts supported by public and private funding to improve mental health for children in Colorado.
 - Focus on systems improvements and implementation of evidence-based strategies.
 - Emphasis on the connection between early childhood mental health and successful learning.
- Project LAUNCH is looking at all settings that children use to learn and grow. The goal of this is to infuse mental health knowledge in those places, and as well as within adults working with kids.
 - Aiming to infuse mental health knowledge in the home visit workforce, including: mental health consultation, enhanced home visits, family strengthening, screening, and assessment.
 - Early Milestones and LAUNCH Together is looking for connections in the implementation community. Please contact Molly Yost at myost@earlymilestones.org if you would like to help make these connections, or would like more information about the initiative.

CKF Updates

CKF is considering moving the Coalition Meetings to Fridays instead of Thursdays. If this change is made, we will announce it next month, and implement it in April.

Coalition Member Updates and Information Sharing

What is going well for you? What is causing your work to go slowly? Have you experienced any recent successes or barriers?

- Rory with the PEAK Outreach Team shared that the PEAK Outreach Team will be working to understand all changes that are happening with eligibility systems. They will use normal channels to communicate about changes to the PEAK system as the Connect for Health Colorado system develops.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 15, 2018 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.