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## CKF Coalition Meeting

Our next coalition meeting will be held on Thursday, **October 19, 2017, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.**

## **CKF News**

### **Staffing Updates**

Covering Kids and Families is excited to welcome Cam Goldstein, our new Policy & Communications Coordinator to the team! Cam will be in charge of CKF's outward communications, and will assist the team with policy analysis and advocacy. Cam can be reached at [cam@cchn.org](mailto:cam@cchn.org).

We also wish Jess Rosenthal, CKF's Outreach and Enrollment Learning Collaborative Project Lead, a fond farewell. Jess is now working with the Assistance Network team at Connect for Health Colorado.

## **Health Policy**

### **Summary of Federal Updates**

The most recent attempt to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), known as the Graham-Cassidy bill, was withdrawn from consideration early this week. The ACA remains law. Republican lawmakers had been pushing for the bill to be passed by the end of the month through the budget reconciliation process which allows a simple majority to pass. After the

deadline of September 30, lawmakers are unlikely to utilize the reconciliation process again for legislation to change the ACA, meaning that future legislation will need to garner 60 votes in the Senate to pass instead of just 51.

Federal funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) runs out on September 30. The latest reports indicate that Congress will not pass legislation in time to extend funding by the deadline, but do plan to take up the effort in October. Although this delay may impact some other states immediately, Colorado has CHIP funding in reserve, and Colorado's Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) program will not be impacted for several months. Assistants should continue to enroll eligible children and pregnant women in the program. (See HCPF's Updates on the Future of CHP+ below.)

Federally qualified Community Health Centers (CHCs) also face a funding cliff on September 30. The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) has stated that they anticipate that CHC funding will be brought forward in early October.

### **What is the Status of the DACA Program?**

The Trump Administration announced that it is ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, after a six month period. The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) released a factsheet that explains the implications of the administration's decision, the timeline for renewing DACA status, and what individuals can do protect the rights of undocumented people. The factsheet also discusses legislative advocacy efforts in support of the bipartisan Dream Act of 2017. The bill would provide lawful status and a path to citizenship to undocumented youth and young adults that came to the United States as children, and would include DACA recipients. See the factsheet: [DACA Has Been Rescinded. What Now?](#)

### **Colorado CHIP Coalition Resources**

The Colorado CHIP Coalition has updated a page on the All Kids Covered website to include new information about the amount of kids and pregnant women that stand to lose coverage if CHIP financing is not extended. The website includes new resources such as a CHIP factsheet, a draft social media package, e-mail blasts for newsletters, and updated talking points that illustrate the impact that loss of federal funding to Colorado would have on the state budget. See the website: [Fund CHIP Colorado 2017](#)

### **HCPF's Updates on the Future of CHP+**

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) added frequently asked questions to their Future of CHP+ page in light of the current uncertainty surrounding federal funding for CHIP. The page emphasizes that if CHIP is not refunded by October 1 consumers will not lose their CHP+ coverage right away, they should continue to utilize their benefits, and eligible people can continue to enroll. The website is updated regularly. See the website: [Future of CHP+](#)

### **Outreach and Enrollment**

#### **Building Better Health Conference a Success**

Thank you to everyone who joined CKF and our partners for a successful Building Better Health Conference on September 25 and 26. Materials from the conference sessions will be posted to CKF's Building Better Health page. Please also respond to post-conference survey sent on Friday, September 29 to provide important feedback on your experience with the conference. See the website: [Building Better Health Conference](#).

## **New Medicare Card**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a newly designed Medicare card that contains a randomly-assigned number instead of Social Security-based numbers. CMS indicated that the decision to use a randomly-assigned number was made in hopes of, “preventing fraud, combatting identity theft, and safeguarding taxpayer dollars”. There will be a 21-month period in which medical providers will be able to use the newly assigned number or a patient’s current Social Security-based number to ease the transition. CMS will begin mailing the new cards to Medicare recipients in April 2018. See the website: [New Medicare Card](#)

## **Resources**

### **Key Facts About the Uninsured Population**

The Kaiser Family Foundation released an updated fact sheet that explains how coverage has changed under the ACA, and identifies characteristics that are common amongst the uninsured population. The fact sheet also includes data about changes in the uninsured rate, the financial implications of lacking coverage, and the amount of uninsured people in each state. See the factsheet: [Key Facts About the Uninsured Population](#)

### **Factsheet for Health Coverage Guides and Assistors Serving Immigrants**

The Colorado Center on Law and Policy published a factsheet that provides information for assistors and health care providers to help immigrants understand their rights, and navigate their options while seeking coverage and care. The factsheet highlights privacy laws that protect immigrants’ information in medical settings, and shares key information that can prevent immigrants from making unnecessary disclosures regarding their personal immigration status, or their family’s immigration status. See the factsheet: [Fact Sheet for Health Coverage Guides and Assistors Serving Immigrants](#)

### **2017 Colorado Health Access Survey Findings Released**

The Colorado Health Institute recently released their findings from the Colorado Health Access Survey. Their research provides insight into the reasons behind the current uninsured rates in Colorado, and trends in coverage in recent years. The survey emphasizes Colorado’s maintenance of historic gains in health coverage during politically uncertain times. See the website: [2017 Colorado Health Access Survey: The New Normal](#)

### **Open Funding Opportunities**

The Colorado Health Foundation is accepting grants for their open funding opportunities through October 15. Their open funding opportunities include: health insurance literacy, strengthening primary care, creating healthy schools, outdoor physical activity infrastructure, and out-of-school time physical activity. See the website: [Open Funding Opportunities](#)

### **Nationwide Rate of Uninsured Children Reaches Historic Low**

A new report by the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute analyzes the declining rate of uninsured children since the enactment of the ACA. The report conveys national trends observed in the rate of uninsured children, and provides a state-by-state analysis. The findings emphasize the relationship of this decline with enrollment into public sources of coverage. See report: [Nationwide Rate of Uninsured Children Reaches Historic Low](#)

## **Upcoming Calls, Trainings, and Events**

### **Save the Date! Immigrant Eligibility for Coverage Programs Webinar**

*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 webinar on Wednesday, October 4 from 12:00 p.m. -1:00 p.m. Mountain Time. Please save the date. Registration information is now available on their website. All webinars will be recorded and available for viewing on the *Health Reform: Beyond the Basics* [website](#) after the initial release.

### **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](mailto:Kathleen.Crusan-Ford@denvergov.org). The upcoming trainings will be held:

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

### **Jobs**

#### **County Engagement Coordinator-Connect for Health Colorado**

Connect for Health Colorado is seeking applicants to fill the County Engagement Coordinator position. The County Engagement Coordinator will be responsible for strengthening partnerships and communication between medical assistance sites, counties, and the state. The County Engagement Coordinator will also manage special projects related to enrollment operations, and improving eligibility. See the listing for more details: [County Engagement Coordinator Listing](#)