



# COLORADO COVERING KIDS AND FAMILIES MONTHLY COALITION MEETING NOTES

## Meeting details

Nov. 16, 2017, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., at the Colorado Community Health Network

## Welcome and introductions

This is CKF's first monthly meeting since adding additional people who joined the CKF email list from the Building Better Health conference. If you are new, welcome to CKF's monthly coalition meeting. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of almost every month to make connections between community-based assisters with the information they need to help Coloradans enroll in affordable, high quality health coverage. These meetings are recorded and available for one month on the CKF website, and we typically send out notes about a week after the meeting to summarize the key points.

## Immigrant Health Coalition Updates & Connections

*Aubrey Hill, Director of Health Systems Change, Center for Health Progress*

### Handouts:

- [Coalition for Immigrant Health Principles](#)
- [Coalition for Immigrant Health Vision](#)
- [iDrive Whitepaper](#)

### Presentation:

- The Coalition for Immigrant Health has meetings on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m.
- In 2013, Colorado passed a law that allowed immigrants without documentation to apply for licenses. Since then, legislative decisions have led to changes in the program that decreased the amount of Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) offices that can review their applications.
- This presents challenges to the immigrant community because of the distances they have to travel to submit an application, as well as the risk of being pulled over without a license. The fear of being pulled over, and subsequently being deported, creates significant obstacles to obtaining a license and accessing health care.
- In order to help combat these barriers, the coalition has launched the iDrive Campaign to advocate for legislative decisions that strengthen immigrants' ability to safely obtain licenses.
- Aubrey shared a white paper (linked above) that makes the public health case for the importance of obtaining a license, and encouraged the CKF Coalition to share it with organizations that may be interested in supporting the effort.
- The Coalition on Immigrant Health is aiming to make legislative changes in 2018 session that will make licenses for immigrants more accessible. She encouraged those with who

are interested and able to engage in the legislative process to advocate, and share stories from working on the ground.

- The Coalition on Immigrant Health can also connect CKF coalition members to trainings that guide people through the processes of getting licenses. Please contact Stephanie to be connected ([sbrooks@cchn.org](mailto:sbrooks@cchn.org)).

## Updates from Connect for Health Colorado

*Saphia Elfituri, Policy Associate*

### *Open enrollment update*

- Open enrollment is off to a good start. The website and call center traffic have been encouraging.

**Q:** Is Connect for Health Colorado aware of issues with PEAK redirecting cases to the county?

**A:** Connect for Health Colorado is still seeing issues with cases going to the county, and is encouraging people to keep reporting these issues to them so they can continue to convey the issues to the technology team. The best way to get those issues resolved is to send screen shots of examples so that they can research issues occurring with specific cases.

- Connect for Health Colorado has an online store containing free communications materials, and shipping is free as well. One of the materials available is called the Pre Enrollment Tool Kit, and it is designed to help consumers prepare for their appointments. The document helps people understand their true annual costs, gather necessary documentation, and think critically about their health needs. The store is available at <https://c4hcstore.com/login>. You will need to create a free account.
- The store also offers Health Insurance 101 brochures, cost brochures, tax info brochures, and posters that can be displayed in offices. They are currently only offered in English and Spanish. You may not have access to all of the items depending on the organization you work for. Contact Outreach Manager, Patty Maorga if you would like to have access to something specific.

### *CHP+ planning*

- Coalition members stated that they are encountering a lot families that are concerned about the end of CHIP, and are frustrated by the uncertainty surrounding congressional action. Current users of CHP+ want to know what they can access in the marketplace, and if kids eligible for Medicaid will be automatically enrolled.
- If the CHP+ program ends, anyone enrolled in CHP+ will have their eligibility redetermined through the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS), and given APTC and CSR determination if eligible.
- The most important thing to tell CHP+ consumers is to make sure information in PEAK is as up to date as possible. It is especially important that they ensure that their tax filing information is updated so they can be evaluated for APTC. In order to receive APTC, married couples must file jointly.
- Connect for Health Colorado is continuing to plan and work closely with HCPF to see what outreach can be done with pregnant women that are currently enrolled. Termination of CHP+ would result in consumers losing minimum essential coverage, and therefore would trigger a special enrollment period.

## Updates from the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Nina Schwartz, Strategic Policy Manager

### New Notice of Action (NOA) Webinars

- HCPF will be providing a NOA Webinar on November 21, and Nov 29. Please register in advance, space is limited. [Click here to register](#)

### CHP+ Updates

- HCPF CHP+ information and FAQs is available on the Future of CHP+ page: <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/future-child-health-plan-plus-chp>
- HCPF anticipates that the majority of CHP+ enrollees will be eligible for marketplace programs if federal funding is not authorized in CHIP.
- HCPF's Future of CHP+ website, contains a sample letter that is going out the week of November 27<sup>th</sup>. The letter will remind CHP+ members to continue to use their benefits, and encourage them to continue to see their providers.
- HCPF will be sending out a stakeholder message, and will also post a pre-recorded short webinar that provides an overview of where we are, and an outline of resources available.
- Official notices about the termination of CHP+ will go out at the end of December if Congress does not act by that time. HCPF is prepared to convey a change of plans if Congress does act.
- Connect for Health Colorado is updating its website with FAQs for CHP+ termination, and they are trying to come up with scenarios to share how much premium tax credit some families may receive. CHP+ enrollees can browse full price plans on the website.

**Q:** If a CHP+ member has access to Employer Sponsored Insurance (ESI) they are not eligible for subsidies through Connect for Health Colorado, and their ESI may not have an open enrollment period at the same time that CHP+ termination letters may be sent. How can assisters support those clients?

**A:**

- Determine that ESI is affordable. ESI is only considered affordable if it costs 9.6% or less of an individual's income.
- Employers also have special enrollment periods, and assisters should encourage customers to check in with their human resources department to see if the end of CHP+ would qualify their kids for a special enrollment period.
- The Division of Insurance is also expected to share more information about Special Enrollment Periods if CHP+ ends. Look for a bulletin in December.

**Q:** If people should still enroll and re-enroll in CHP+, do they still need to pay the enrollment fee?

**A:** Yes. Anyone who receives enrollment fee letters needs to pay the fee. If CHP+ ends, HCPF is not sure if consumers will get a portion of this payment back. However, if a CHP+ member's coverage is terminated due to the program ending, and then the program returns and they reenroll, they will not be charged the enrollment fee twice in the same year

## Policy Update

Stephanie Brooks, CKF Senior Project Manager

- A bill that would extend funding for the federal CHIP program has passed the House. It includes funding for CHIP for five years, as well as Federally Qualified Community Health Center funding for two years. The bill currently primarily has support from Republicans. Democrats are not supporting the bill because the funding would be reallocated from the public health fund. The bill has moved to Senate, but not much is happening because of the current focus on tax reform.
- CKF has heard that action is likely to be taken in the last weeks of December,
- Please email [sbrooks@CCHN.org](mailto:sbrooks@CCHN.org) if you have feedback about what questions you've been hearing from members re: CHP+.

## 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?*

- There has been some confusion about the individual mandate, and consumers should continue to be informed that the mandate is in effect.
- Medicaid enrollments are reportedly skyrocketing.
- Kelly from Denver Health and Family Services stated that a lot of our native communities have come to their health clinic. They have noted a large number of parents trying to apply, and they are leaning toward the Connect for Health Colorado marketplace.
- Assistors working with the homeless population mentioned the difficulties surrounding enrolling people who do not have contact information.
- Coalition members stated that people are starting their applications on Connect for Health Colorado's website, and are being told to contact their counties because they already have an open case. Saphia from Connect for Health Colorado recommended contacting Ezra Watland or Jessica Rosenthal in the Assistance Network with specific examples that you are running into. If there is a Medicaid or CHP + only approval, it tends to be assigned to the county.
- Several coalition members expressed consumers' frustrations with calling customer for the Provider Portal/interChange support and the need for consumers to call to correct their own case. It is difficult to motivate consumers to stay on hold for 45 minutes. Consumers appear to be eligible in CBMS, but they are not showing up in the Health First Colorado portal.

**Next meeting: December 21, 2017**