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Black Mothers Keep Dying After Giving Birth. Shalon Irving's Story Explains Why.

Colorado Divide: In rural Colorado, doctors are retiring and dying- and no one is taking their place.

CKF News

December Coalition Meeting

CKF will hold its monthly coalition meeting on December 21, 2017, and will distribute the coalition meeting notes the following week. An agenda for the meeting will be sent soon. Please note that the December meeting will start half an hour later than normal at 9:30 instead of 9:00.

Policy Updates

Future of CHP+

Federal funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has not been renewed at this time. Because of this, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) has developed member communications and resources to prepare stakeholders for the potential termination of Colorado's children's health insurance program, Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). 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. In a [draft bulletin](#) issued last week, the Colorado Division of Insurance confirmed that a special enrollment period will be available for those who lose CHP+ coverage due to the program being defunded. The special enrollment period will extend 60 days before and 60 days after the date of the coverage loss. CKF will provide more information on the final bulletin when it is issued. In addition, HCPF recorded a webinar for stakeholders, advocates, and eligibility partners. The recording is now available on its Future of CHP+ page. The recorded webinar provides policy and operational information about the possible end of CHP+. Click [here](#) to access the webinar and corresponding slides.

Informational pages on CHP+ are available from HCPF and Connect for Health Colorado, which include the member communications timeline and sample letters

- [HCPF's Future of CHP+ pages.](#)
- [Connect for Health Colorado's CHP+ page.](#)

Effective Dates and the Connect for Health Colorado Attestation Process

Connect for Health Colorado clarified that effective dates for 2018 plans will default to February 1, 2018 for any enrollments after midnight December 15, 2017. After December 15, 2017, any requests for a January 1 effective date will be reviewed by Connect for Health Colorado. Supporting documentation may be requested during the review. If a customer needs assistance with the attestation process, they are encouraged to contact a Broker or Assister by visiting the Connect for Health Colorado Get Help page, [here](#).

Requests will only be considered for the following circumstances:

- Customer lost coverage and qualifies for a special enrollment period.
- Customer's 2017 health plan is no longer offered.
- Agent or employee error.
- System outage or system error.
- A declared natural disaster.
- A delayed eligibility determination (when application was submitted before midnight December 15).
- Marriage within the last 60 days.

HCPF Seeking Members for Advisory Councils

HCPF is seeking new members for the Department's Member Experience Advisory Councils. The In-Person Advisory Council and the Virtual Advisory Council are in place to help HCPF develop, and maintain, a person-centered approach to member communications. The Member Experience Advisory Councils embrace this approach by engaging Health First Colorado and CHP+ members, family members, and caretakers that have little or no experience collaborating with the Department. Click [here](#) to learn more, and apply.

What's Happening with the Tax Bill and the Individual Mandate?

The proposed federal tax bill is expected to receive a vote this week in both the Senate and the House. The bill includes a repeal of the individual mandate (the requirement to have health coverage), and it is unclear how the repeal would impact the health insurance market at this time. The mandate will still be in effect in 2018 regardless of the outcome of this bill, as stated [here](#). If the bill passes, CKF will continue to share timely updates about any changes to the individual mandate and health care system.

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

December HIL Messaging – What about financial assistance?

The initial sign-up rates for marketplace plans through Connect for Health Colorado have been promising, but many Coloradans are still unsure about whether they qualify for financial assistance. Join the health insurance literacy (HIL) movement's efforts to inform consumers about financial assistance through the marketplace. Click [here](#) to find relevant messaging for consumers and stakeholders.

2018 Enrollment Cheat Sheet

[In the Loop](#), a project of Community Catalyst and National Health Law Program, published a cheat sheet for assisters to use during open enrollment. The fact sheet includes information about the affordability threshold, the 2017 federal poverty level, and acceptable percentages for 2018 coverage. Click [here](#) to review the cheat sheet.

MAGI Fact Sheet

In the Loop also published a fact sheet that covers the types of income that are counted (and not counted) under Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). The fact sheet explains how to calculate household size for both Medicaid and Marketplace coverage. Click [here](#) for the MAGI fact sheet.

Upcoming Calls, Trainings, and Events

DHS Health 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 trainings will be held:

- **Friday, January 26** from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 1200 Federal Blvd., Room 1019, Denver
- **Wednesday, January 31** from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 1200 Federal Blvd., Room 1056, Denver

Jobs

HCPF Member Correspondence Project Coordinator

HCPF is hiring a Member Correspondence Project Coordinator that will be part of the Communications and Content Management Section. Click [here](#) to review the job listing.

What We're Reading

Black Mothers Keep Dying After Giving Birth. Shalon Irving's Story Explains Why.

A recent article published by NPR highlights the disproportionate mortality rates amongst black mothers in the United States through the story of Shalon Irving. The article explores potential reasons behind why high mortality rates impact black mothers across all socioeconomic backgrounds. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Colorado Divide: In rural Colorado, doctors are retiring and dying- and no one is taking their place.

The Denver Post published an article about the connection between the shortage of doctors, and health disparities in rural areas of Colorado. Click [here](#) to learn more about barriers to health care in rural Colorado.

