



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

August 2018 Coalition Update

August 23, 2018

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CKF News

August Coalition Meeting Notes and Recording

Click [here](#) to listen to a recording of the August Coalition Meeting, and [here](#) to review the meeting notes.

Annual Report Released

We published our first ever Annual Report that provides a sneak preview of CKF's upcoming rebranding efforts. Over the coming months, we will share information about our new logo, mission, values, website, and blog. In the meantime, we are sharing our Annual Report to inform members about the work completed over the last fiscal year and impact on the assister community. Click [here](#) to read about CKF's work and rebranding in the Annual Report.

Policy Updates

DOI Draft Rule on the Open Enrollment Period

The Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI) released a draft regulation that says that the upcoming the open enrollment period will take place from November 1, 2018 to December 15, 2018, to align with federal regulation. The open enrollment period will be extended to January 15, 2019, by adding a special enrollment period to help protect Coloradans' health coverage in the face of the volatility in the current health insurance market. The draft regulation also establishes these dates as Colorado's annual open enrollment period. If the regulation is

finalized as it is currently written, the open enrollment period will last from November 1 through January 15 for each year. Click [here](#) to read the draft regulation.

Short-Term Health Plan Rule

The Trump administration finalized a [rule](#) that overturns an Obama administration directive that limited short-term health plans to 90 days. The new federal rule allows insurers to sell short-term health insurance plans that are good for up to 12 months, and renewable for up to three years. Colorado law only allows short-term plans to be sold up to six months but allows consumers to enroll in two consecutive six-month plans. Unlike qualified health plans that are sold through Connect for Health Colorado, short-term health plans do not have to meet the minimum essential health benefit requirements established through the Affordable Care Act. Consumers should be informed that conditions treated during their first six-month plan will be considered pre-existing conditions when they enroll in a second short-term plan. If they chose to enroll in a second short-term plan, their pre-existing conditions will not be covered and their deductible will begin again. DOI published a consumer advisory message to educate Coloradans about the risks of enrolling in a short-term plan. Click [here](#) to read DOI's Consumer Advisory message.

CBMS IEVS Enhancements and FAQs

During the June 2018 Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) build, updates and enhancements were implemented to the Income Eligibility Verification System (IEVS). The changes included the implementation of reasonable compatibility checks for Non-Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) categories. IEVS completes reasonable compatibility checks to see whether someone's income is within ten percent of what is documented in Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's records. The reasonable compatibility update aligns functionality with current policy and did not change the rules for when an IEVS letter is sent. Click [here](#) to read the IEVS and Reasonable Compatibility frequently asked questions (FAQ).

Resources

MAGI Flowchart and FAQs

The Colorado Department Health Care Policy and Financing published FAQs in June 2018 for household composition for MAGI Medical Assistance Programs and rereleased a Household Composition Medicaid Budget Unit (MBU) Flowchart published in 2016. Click [here](#) to find the FAQs, and [here](#) to find the flowchart.

Creating Thriving Communities in Colorado: An Equity Action Guide

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Office of Health Equity developed a new guide called, "Creating Thriving Communities in Colorado: An Equity Action Guide". The guide examines the root causes of inequity across the Colorado a detailed review of community characteristics, stories, and data. Click [here](#) to review the guide.

Upcoming Calls, Trainings, and Events

DHS Health Navigator Training

Denver Human Services (DHS) offers a navigator training for community partners in and outside of the Denver area. The navigator training includes an overview of food assistance, basic eligibility for Health First Colorado and cash programs, energy assistance, child support, childcare assistance program, PEAK, veteran services, adult protective services, and child

welfare. Contact Kathy Crusan-Ford, at Kathleen.Crusan-Ford@denvergov.org or call 720-944-2148 to register. Upcoming trainings include the following:

- **Wednesday, September 26** from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- **Friday, September 28** from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CBPP Health Reform: Beyond the Basics Webinar Series

This September and October, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) will present their Health Reform: Beyond the Basics webinar series on key information assisters need to help enroll people in coverage for 2019. Registration is now open for the upcoming fall webinars, including an updated four-part series on core elements of eligibility and enrollment. Click [here](#) to register for the upcoming webinars.

CCHI Consumer Voices for Change Conference

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) is hosting the Consumer Voices for Change conference to support advocates in learning from industry experts about current health care policy issues. This year's Consumer Voices for Change conference will focus on health equity and the intersections of care, financial security, and economic justice as well as feature a keynote address delivered by Dr. Nita Mosby Tyler. The conference is on September 20, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the PPA Event Center. Click here to register for the conference.

Jobs

Colorado Community Health Network Health Center Operations Specialist

Colorado Community Health Network is hiring a Health Center Workforce Specialist. This position is responsible for coordinating projects within the organization's Health Center Operations Division and providing technical assistance to Community Health Center members. Click [here](#) to learn more about this opportunity.

What We're Reading

Immigrants Have Lower Health Care Costs Than People Born in US

A new report by researchers at Harvard Medical School and Tufts University found that immigrants have lower health care costs than people born in the United States. Their findings show that while immigrants make up 12 percent of the United States' population, they only account for approximately nine percent of health care spending. This information suggests that immigrants are likely helping support public health insurance programs. Click [here](#) to read the report, and [here](#) to read a summary published by The Hill.

Health Insurance Coverage for Health Groceries? More Food-Based Interventions May Be Coming

An article published by Forbes explores America's changing perspective on the importance of nutrition in preventative health care, and the way this perspective is being reflected in public policy. While health insurance has historically only provided coverage for medical treatment and care, changes may come as research highlights the impact of nutrition on health outcomes and health care spending. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently expanded its definition of "primarily health-related" benefits that insurers can include in Medicare Advantage policies to cover things like meals and health groceries. Some experts believe that this announcement is the beginning of a new trend in health coverage. Click [here](#) to learn more about recent changes in coverage for food-based interventions.

