

●●● COLORADO ●●●
COVERING
KIDS & FAMILIES

MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

Friday, March 15, 2019

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Colorado Community Health Network

2019 Legislative Session Overview

Stephanie Brooks from CCHN provided an update on the legislative session.

- **HB19-1004, Proposal for Affordable Health Coverage Option:** This bill passed the House, passed its first committee hearing in the Senate, and has been referred to appropriations.
- **HB1038, Add Dental Services onto Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) for Pregnant Women:** This bill passed the House, passed its first committee hearing in the Senate, and has been referred to appropriations.
- **HB1168, Create a Reinsurance Program in Colorado:** This bill would create a reinsurance program which acts as an insurance program for health insurance providers. The expected impact is that insurance providers could then lower premiums for consumers. The bill has passed its first committee in the House and has been referred to appropriations.
- **HB1174, Addressing Surprise Billing:** This bill addresses the problem when consumers go to an in-network hospital but are cared for by an out-of-network provider. Another similar bill is trying to address this issue. The bill has passed its first committee in the House and has been referred to appropriations.
- **HB1170, Residential Tenants Health and Safety Acts:** This bill gives residential tenants recourse to live elsewhere while health hazards within their home such as mold, are mitigated. The bill has passed the House and been introduced in the Senate, where it's been assigned to the Local Government Committee.
- **Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program, SB188:** This bill would create a state-based family and medical leave program. The bill passed its first Senate committee and is now being referred to the Senate Finance Committee. There's a lot of support for the bill, but businesses are starting to come forward with concerns.

PEAK Updates

Liz Tansey from CKF provided an update on PEAK. Starting April 5, Internet Explorer versions 9 and 10 will no longer be compatible with PEAK. The PEAK Outreach Initiative and the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) recommend updating Internet Explorer or moving to Google Chrome.

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates

Rebecca Ornelas from the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) provided updates from HCPF:

HCPF released a policy memo on types of exemptions available to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The policy did not change. The memo is designed to clarify the existing rules. Please take time to review the [memo](#), and if you have any questions or concerns you can email Liz at ltansey@cchn.org.

Income guidelines for 2019 have been updated in CBMS and will go into effect on April 1, 2019. (Update as of 4/1: Find the 2019 Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) income guidelines [here](#), the 2019 Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) income guidelines [here](#), and the Colorado Indigent Care Program income guidelines [here](#).) Additional information is in the 2019 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines memo [here](#).)

Colorado WIC

Brigitte Boyd from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment [shared a presentation](#) on the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Key points from the presentation included:

- WIC is designed for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or postpartum and children up to their 5th birthday.
- Current participation in Health First Colorado, Food or Cash Assistance, or food distribution program on Indian reservations is automatic income eligibility for WIC. The other way to determine eligibility is gross household income.
- There are over 100 WIC locations in Colorado. Most staff are bilingual in Spanish. WIC is not county-specific so participants can go to any location even if they do not live in that county.
- 450 grocery stores in Colorado accept WIC; this number increases every year.
- WIC now has: the eWIC card; WIC shopper app; phone or online appointments; online nutrition education which includes the health eKitchen, an online recipe book; and appointment text reminders one week and one day before scheduled appointments.
- You can connect families to WIC by:
 - Going online at www.coloradowicsignup.com
 - Calling a WIC office directly
 - Finding locations at www.coloradowic.com
 - Through PEAK

Member Information Sharing

Kathy Crusan-Ford, Denver Human Services shared that navigator training is ongoing, and that the GIVE Center is conducting a hygiene drive; if anyone is interested in donating hygiene supplies such as soap or shampoo, or making a monetary donation, please do so. Learn more about the GIVE Center [here](#).

Audrey Hoener is leaving Denver Health. Her last day is April 5, 2019.

Next meeting: April 19, 2019