



MONTH MEETING NOTES

January 17, 2020

2020 Legislative Session Preview

Alice Steiner, Colorado Community Health Network, provided updates on Colorado's legislative session, which began on January 8, 2020. Upcoming legislation include a follow-up to the public option bill, expected in mid-February; bills about pharmacy and hospital transparency; and the Family Medical Leave Insurance Program (FAMLI) bill first introduced last year.

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates

Marivel Klueckman, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Finance (HCPF) shared a mismatch issue with the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) and interChange, the provider claims system.

Due to a mismatch between the systems, there are about 35,000 people whose services were correctly terminated in CBMS but whose cases were kept open erroneously in interChange. During this time, these members may have continued to receive services, despite receiving a Notice of Action (NOA) that they are no longer eligible for services. In June 2018, HCPF prospectively corrected this error; however, cases from before June 2018 were not corrected. HCPF is undertaking project is fix those issues. Out of the 35,000 members, 81 percent were previously enrolled in MAGI program with roughly 1,000 in nursing facilities, 700 on Home & Community Based Service waivers, and 800 Child Health Plan *Plus* members.

HCPF plans to send a letter to affected members on January 30, 2020, explaining the issue and notifying them of their new termination date of March 31, 2020. This letter will include their previous NOA termination letter and will be available on the member's PEAK account. A second notice will be sent on March 1, 2020, to remind members of the upcoming benefit termination. In both letters, HCPF is encouraging members to reapply for benefits to have their eligibility redetermined. HCPF is directing members to PEAK or the Member Contact Center, rather than county offices given the current backlogs.

The letters explain that neither members nor providers will be held liable for repayment for services used. Additionally, HCPF is working with the Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) and Case Management Agency to identify and contact the most vulnerable members, such as members in nursing home facilities, to ensure that their coverage does not lapse.

A special enrollment period (SEP) to enroll in coverage through Connect for Health Colorado will be available for members who reapply and are found ineligible for Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program). Members must have the letter sent on January 31 or March 1, 2020, to prove their eligibility.

More information is available at HCPF's FAQ sheet is available [here](#).

Q: Were there any members who applied and were determined eligible by CBMS, but whose information did not show up in Interchange?

A: No, not in this population. This fix is only for members who were correctly determined ineligible by CBMS.

Q: Could assisters or Healthy Communities get a list of affected members to conduct outreach to the people in their area?

A: HCPF is working with community partners and presented to counties last week. They are coordinating with partners to ensure that multiple organizations are not reaching out to the same person.

Q: Will you gather data on expenditures from services used by these members?

A: Yes, HCPF is working on this, but doesn't have a timeline yet.

Q: Will the list of affected members be broken down by county?

A: Yes, HCPF is sharing a high-level breakdown with county partners. The numbers are as expected, with more affected members in the larger counties.

Rebecca Ornelas, HCPF, provided updates on the Medical Assistance (MA) site pilot and changes to the Medicaid Buy-In program.

HCPF launched the MA site pilot and trained pilot sites on *PEAKPro*. HCPF is meeting with pilot sites bi-weekly to discuss and address any issues that arise. The pilot is scheduled to conclude in March 2020 and HCPF will provide an update of next steps in April 2020.

Updates to the Medicaid Buy-In program will go live on February 9, 2020. HCPF edited the premium letter to make it easier to read. In addition, HCPF changed the logic of the eligibility system on the backend so that when an individual applies, he or she will be assessed for the Medicaid Buy-In program before long term care and waiver programs. Members will be able to opt-out of the Buy-In program and continue having their eligibility assessed for other programs. HCPF is putting together a training on these changes that will be available through the Staff Development Center and on the HCPF website. When available, the training will be announced in HCPF's At-A-Glance newsletter, County Connections, PEAK Outreach, on the HCPF website, and through coordination with community partners.

Connect for Health Colorado Updates

Saphia Elfituri, Connect for Health Colorado, provided updates on the Open Enrollment period, upcoming changes to Trinity Healthshare, a health care sharing ministry, and the 2020 Legislative Session.

Around 167,000 Coloradans signed up for health coverage during this past Open Enrollment period with roughly 20 percent new customers. Saphia thanked assisters for all their work during Open Enrollment.

In August 2019, the Department of Insurance issues a Cease and Desist notice to Trinity Healthshare. This opened a SEP from January 16 – March 16, 2020, for members. The letter members receive from Trinity will serve as verification for the member's loss of coverage for the SEP.

For the 2020 Legislative Session, Connect for Health Colorado is following the Easy Enrollment bill from the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. This will allow the Department of Revenue to include questions in the state tax filing process about health care coverage and interest in coverage. If an individual identifies that a family member is

uninsured and interested in health care coverage, Connect for Health Colorado will conduct outreach to them and help them enroll through an SEP. This bill is not yet introduced but is expected soon. Connect for Health Colorado is also monitoring bills about the Public Option and Reinsurance program.

CKF Updates

CKF is launching an Advocacy Work Group. The Work Group will meet quarterly, beginning on February 18, 2020, from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. The group will be participatory and discuss how to improve access to coverage and care. For more information, contact Shoshi Preuss, (spreuss@cchn.org).

CKF updated public charge resources available [here](#), including a blog post about [Talking with Clients About Public Charge Concerns](#).

Next meeting: February 21, 2020