

●●● COLORADO ●●●
COVERING
KIDS & FAMILIES

MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

May 21, 2021

Legislative Update

Alice Steiner, Colorado Community Health Network, shared updates from the legislative session, which will likely end mid-June or earlier.

Governor Polis signed the budget bill, restoring funds that were cut last year. For example, the adult dental benefit cap of \$1,000 that was implemented last year, was restored back to \$1,500. The low-income senior dental program cut of \$1 million made last year, was also restored this year. Additionally, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) was directed to explore getting a federal match for the Primary Care Fund, around \$25 million.

Alice provided updates on a few family planning bills, including:

- [SB21-009](#) Reproductive Health Care Program
 - This bill would create the Reproductive Health Care Program to provide contraceptive methods and counseling services to people without documentation. This bill passed through the senate and is now in the house.
- [SB21-025](#) Family Planning Service for Eligible Individuals
 - This bill would require HCPF to seek federal authorization through an amendment to the state Medical Assistance Plan to provide family planning services to individuals who are not pregnant and whose income is between 138% - 250% of the federal poverty level.
- [SB21-194](#): Maternal Health Providers
 - This bill works to improve outcomes for labor and delivery services, including extending Medicaid and CHIP coverage to 12-months postpartum. It would also require insurance carriers to reimburse providers in a manner that promotes high-quality and cost-effective care. This bill is set to pass, though it would not take effect until July 2022.

Alice also shared about [HB21-1232](#), Standardized Health Benefit Plan Colorado Option. This public option bill has been changed from its introduced version, and instead will require insurance carriers to offer a highly-regulated, standardized plan in each county that they currently offer a plan.

Colorado Department of Human Services Programs

Crickett Phelps and Ian McMahon, Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), gave an update on available programs and services. As part of the federal stimulus and economic recovery, more clients may be eligible for these programs and services. Clients may apply on paper with their local county, or online with PEAK. Application walk-throughs for PEAK are available from [PEAK Outreach](#). See below for more information:

- [Overview list of CDHS programs and services](#)
- [Adult Financial program information](#)
- [Colorado Works program information](#)

- [ReHire Colorado employment services](#)
- [Refugee services](#)
- [Workforce Centers](#)

Q: Are any of the employment and training programs open to people without documentation?

A: No, federal benefits require lawful presence so people without documentation would not qualify. Parents of citizen children can sometimes qualify for Colorado Works for supports for the family. People without documentation can also utilize services at the Workforce Center.

Connect for Health Colorado Updates

Bailey Dvorak, Connect for Health Colorado, shared updates on enrollment, as well as changes due to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Connect for Health Colorado published an [interactive open enrollment report](#), which includes county-specific enrollment information from November 1, 2020 – January 15, 2021.

In early 2022, Connect for Health Colorado will share information about the Easy Enrollment program implementation. Connect for Health Colorado will reach out to Coloradans who indicate that they are uninsured and interested in health coverage. Those people will receive a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in health coverage. Assisters can expect to get a copy of the notices and emails before they are distributed to clients.

Connect for Health Colorado has seen about 19,000 enrollments since the special ARPA open enrollment period began. Phase two recently went live, allowing customers who are already enrolled in the exchange to easily update their eligibility under ARPA. For more outreach materials in English and Spanish, view the [ARPA toolkit](#).

Families who have coverage through COBRA will receive subsidies through September. Once the subsidy ends, families become eligible for a Special Enrollment Period. For more information, read the [COBRA notice from the Internal Revenue Service](#).

If an individual enrolls in the [Colorado Jumpstart program](#), which is a return-to-work incentive for unemployment recipients, their payments will be considered as income within Connect for Health Colorado. Customers who qualify for at least one week of unemployment benefits in 2021 are eligible for the \$0 premium Silver Benchmark plan through Connect for Health Colorado.

CKF Updates

Liz, CKF, shared an updated public charge resource called [Key Points for Assisters to Help Clients Understand Public Charge](#). The document includes talking points for clients, quick references, and more in-depth information about public charge.

Next meeting: June 18, 2021