



MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

November 19, 2021

Connect for Health Colorado Updates

Bailey Dvorak, Connect for Health Colorado, shared that over 33,000 customers have signed up for health coverage during open enrollment so far. Auto-renewals will take place on December 1, and customers who are auto-renewed can make changes to their plan until December 15.

[CoverCO recordings, slides, and handouts](#) are all now available on the Covering Kids and Families website.

Connect for Health Colorado has open positions for assisters or brokers to join their Board Advisory Group. This group meets every few months to discuss the individual market and provide feedback to Connect for Health Colorado staff on a variety of topics. To apply for the Board Advisory Group, visit the [Connect for Health Colorado website](#).

CKF Updates

Shoshi Preuss, Covering Kids and Families, provided an update on the quarter three enrollment analysis. CKF publishes quarterly and end-of-year analyses on Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) enrollment data published by the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF).

For quarter three, July through September 2021, overall enrollment in Health First Colorado and CHP+ increased by 2%, which is about 29,000 members. This increase, which has slowed since the beginning of the year, is primarily within the Health First Colorado population. Additionally, unemployment was 5.6% in September, compared to about 2% unemployment before the pandemic. The public health emergency (PHE) was extended into at least January. States will receive at least 60 days' notice before the PHE is scheduled to end.

The Build Back Better (BBB) bill passed in the House and was sent to the Senate on November 19. It includes new information on what is required of states during the PHE unwind. Information includes when the unwind will begin, and changes to the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage that states have been receiving during the PHE. CKF will share more information after BBB has passed and is signed into law.

Grace Trautman shared that CKF's handout for clients, [Newly Enrolled, What's Next?](#), will be translated into Spanish and distributed by email or the CKF newsletter in early December. The group shared that this document is a useful onboarding tool for new enrollment specialists.

Liz Tansey shared that Covering Kids and Families is working with a contractor to develop a Health First Colorado and CHP+ Manual. This manual will be a comprehensive resource for all information related to both programs.

HCPF

Lisa Pera and Rebecca Ornelas, HCPF, discussed the status of health coverage eligibility for Afghan evacuees, and provided information about the BBB bill.

Between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022, around 1,000-2,000 individuals from Afghanistan will enter Colorado under refugee status, or the Afghan Humanitarian Parolee status. Immigrants with the Humanitarian Parolee status will receive the same benefits as individuals with refugee status, due to congressional intervention. An emergency build will go into the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) on November 28 removing the five-year waiting period for Health First Colorado and CHP+ coverage. HCPF will release a memo as the rules are updated.

HCPF is updating the renewal process. As part of the new process, HCPF will continue to leverage 'ex parte', or automatic renewals, before generating a renewal packet. If a member's information can be verified through other sources, they will not receive a renewal packet. The new renewal process includes a requirement from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that requires member signatures on all renewal packets. The new process will go into effect in February 2022. During the PHE, members will not be disenrolled for failing to return signed renewal packets.

Next meeting: December 17, 2021