



COLORADO  
**COVERING**  
KIDS & FAMILIES

## MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

December 17, 2021

### Connect for Health Colorado

Bailey Dvorak, Connect for Health Colorado, shared that over 158,000 individuals enrolled in health coverage through the marketplace during open enrollment. Connect for Health Colorado is receiving fewer calls to the Contact Center than previous years and have wait times of under two minutes.

Connect for Health Colorado has open seats 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](#).

Connect for Health Colorado has several job openings. Individuals who have experience working in health coverage in Colorado are especially strong applicants for these open positions. Learn more about [open positions](#) at Connect for Health Colorado.

Starting in January of 2022, individuals who are uninsured and qualify for Advanced Premium Tax Credits will be able to enroll in Connect for Health Colorado coverage by checking a box on their tax forms. Customers will be granted a special enrollment period to do so, and proof of documentation is not required.

In 2022 the first phase of the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise will begin, providing new or current customers with incomes from 150 – 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and eligible for tax credits with enhanced cost sharing reductions to further subsidize coverage for those customers. Customers who qualify will receive this benefit automatically, and do not need to apply.

### CKF Updates

Grace Trautman, Covering Kids and Families, shared a handout for newly enrolled Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) members. This resource, now available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), is for assisters to give to clients. It helps explain benefits, how to make a doctor's appointment, the cost of receiving service, and who to call for help. There is a blank space on the first page of the document for assisters to add their organization's logo, if desired.

Shoshi Preuss provided information on CKF's new blog, [Assisting COFA Migrants with Health Coverage](#). The blog includes background on restored Medicaid eligibility for Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants in the U.S. and provides relevant cultural context and tips for assisting COFA migrants in applying for health coverage.

Liz Tansey updated members about the open positions on the CKF Advisory Committee. The CKF Advisory Committee meets quarterly to help guide the work of CKF, and is comprised of members with diversity of specialties, backgrounds, and populations served. CKF is auditing the current Advisory Committee and will work to fill service gaps with new

members, who can self-select into the group. CKF will send an email in January with more information.

## HCPF

Rebecca Ornelas and Lisa Pera, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), provided updates on COFA migrant outreach and enrollment, enrollment for Afghan evacuees, the end of the Public Health Emergency, and current work to revamp renewal packets.

On December 27, 2020, Congress restored Medicaid eligibility to COFA migrants, or people from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. In August 2021, HCPF implemented a build to ensure that COFA migrants are correctly determined in the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) and reran the eligibility of COFA migrants who had applied for coverage from December 27, 2020 to the change on August 8, 2021. As of September 2021, 350 out of an estimated 884 eligible COFA migrants have enrolled in Health First Colorado. HCPF estimates that the number of COFA migrants rose to roughly 520 recently. HCPF encourages all COFA migrants to apply for coverage.

Earlier this year, Congress extended Medicaid and CHP+ to Afghan humanitarian parolees. On November 28, 2021, HCPF implemented an emergency rule to ensure that CBMS will correctly determine the eligibility of Afghan humanitarian parolees. HCPF released a [memo](#) with this change, including instructions to eligibility sites to honor application dates that happened before this rule change. HCPF also added the new status to PEAK, so that individuals can accurately report their status online. Federal systems also made updates to ensure that Afghan humanitarian parolees can be determined correctly based on their immigration status. Afghan evacuees will likely not contact eligibility sites for enrollment assistance, as there are refugee and immigration specialists who work exclusively with this population. If assisting an Afghan evacuee, assisters and applicants should follow the normal process for applying.

HCPF is updating the renewal packet for members. The new renewal packet includes a requirement from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for member signatures on all renewal packets. Members who do not return the signature will be disenrolled. Members can provide signatures through PEAK, mail, or fax. The new process will go into effect in February 2022 for renewals beginning in April 2022 and applies to all renewals going forward. During the PHE, members will not be disenrolled for failing to return signed renewal packets. HCPF also is working on a process that will allow certain eligibility sites to collect telephonic signatures in the future.

Beginning on January 1, 2022, home dialysis for End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) will be covered by Emergency Medicaid. Since February 2019, Emergency Medicaid has covered dialysis for ESRD in inpatient settings and at freestanding dialysis centers. As with all other claims for Emergency Medicaid, providers must certify the presence of an emergency medical condition and indicate on the claims form that services are for a medical emergency.

SB21-009, Reproductive Health Care Program, which requires family planning coverage for undocumented residents, will be implemented in July 2022. Implementation was previously scheduled for January 2022.

HB21-1198, Health-care Billing Requirements for Indigent Patients, requires the state to create a [hospital discount program](#) for low-income patients beginning on June 1, 2022. The program creates a state-wide financial assistance program for hospital care, establishes rules for patient payment plans, and requires hospitals to screen uninsured patients for public programs. Public programs include Health First Colorado, CHP+, Medicare, Emergency Medicaid, the Colorado Indigent Care Program, and the discounted care program. HCPF will host stakeholder meetings to collect consumer and advocate input on the implementation process.

### **Member Sharing**

Covering Kids and Families members shared personal and professional reflections and gratitude for 2021, and goals and plans for 2022.

**Next meeting: January 21, 2022**