



COLORADO
COVERING
KIDS & FAMILIES

MONTH MEETING NOTES

January 21, 2022

CCHN

Cass Christopher, Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) shared updates from the current legislative session. The legislative session started on January 12. CCHN is working with partner organizations to support a bill called Cover all Coloradans, which would expand care to undocumented children and pregnant people. The bill has not yet been introduced, but as currently drafted, it would:

- Provide full comprehensive Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) health insurance benefits for pregnant people without documentation, whose income is up to the CHP+ eligibility income limit.
- Provide 12-months of continuous postpartum coverage for people who receive prenatal and delivery care, regardless of documentation status.
- Provide full CHP+ coverage for undocumented children under the age of 19.
- Create a Special Enrollment Period in Connect for Health Colorado for pregnancy.
- Strengthen requirements for Colorado's Health eParents Survey.
- Allocate additional funding for activities and programs that are important during the perinatal period.

This bill will have a large fiscal note. The portion of the bill that covers children would be fully state-funded, and the perinatal component would receive a 65% federal match.

Connect for Health Colorado

Hannah Sieben, Connect for Health Colorado, provided an enrollment report. More than 190,000 people enrolled in coverage through Connect for Health Colorado during this open enrollment period, which is an 8% increase from January of 2021. Two-thirds of customers who applied for financial help in 2021 but did not qualify, are eligible for financial help in 2022 due to the American Rescue Plan Act.

Connect for Health Colorado is monitoring the legislative session and will provide any necessary updates during the February CKF monthly meeting.

Connect for Health Colorado worked with the Division of Insurance to open a special enrollment period (SEP) for individuals who are impacted by a disaster such as the Marshall fires or the COVID-19 pandemic. The SEP is for new customers only, is based on self-attestation, and will be open until March 16.

Individuals who are uninsured and qualify for Advanced Premium Tax Credits will be able to enroll in Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program), CHP+, or Connect for Health Colorado by checking a box on their tax forms. Customers will be granted a SEP to do so, and proof of documentation is not required. This will roll-out on major e-filers and paper forms when the Department of Revenue releases Colorado's state tax returns.

CKF Update

Shoshi Preuss, CKF, shared a new job aid for [Health Coverage Options for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) recipients](#). The job aid includes an overview of the program, eligibility criteria, health coverage options, and FAQs.

CKF is co-leading the Update Your Address campaign, working with Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Colorado Health Policy Coalition, and the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF). This campaign is to address members who are currently locked-in to health coverage and will need to be redetermined at the end of the public health emergency (PHE). The campaign includes a toolkit of messages for members with information on how to ensure HCP has their current mailing address.

HCPF

Lisa Pera, HCPF, shared information on the end of the PHE, Emergency Medicaid, updates to the renewal process, prescription refill information for individuals impacted by the Marshall fires, and a clarification on which applications are permitted.

The PHE was extended until at least April 16. The Build Back Better (BBB) bill, if passed by the senate, would de-link some requirements from the PHE itself, including continuous coverage and the timing of eligibility reviews for disenrollment.

HCPF is updating the renewal process, including changing the name from 'RRR' or 'Redetermination' to 'renewal' based on member feedback. As part of the new process, which will go into effect in February, 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 also includes a requirement from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that requires member signatures on all renewal packets. Members can provide a signature through PEAK or sign and return a paper copy to their county or eligibility site. Without a signature, a renewal is not complete. HCPF is working with stakeholders and advocates to ensure that members experiencing homelessness receive and return the signature page. During the PHE, members who fail to return signatures will be found ineligible but will remain locked-in to coverage.

People who were impacted by the Marshall and Middle Fork fires can request prescription refills on lost medication, even if it would otherwise be too early to refill their prescriptions. To refill a prescription, members should contact their pharmacy, tell the pharmacist they were impacted by the fires, and request a refill as soon as possible. Some new medications may need prior authorization before the pharmacy can fill the new prescription. In this case, pharmacies can give a three-day emergency supply.

People with private insurance should contact their insurance companies to explain that they were impacted by the fires and request a prescription refill. People with prescription drug coverage from Medicare should contact their Medicare drug plan to find a nearby network pharmacy through which to refill prescriptions.

HCPF sent an email to all Certified Application Assistance Sites and Presumptive Eligibility sites with instructions for sites to not use old versions of the Health First Colorado application. Applicants must use the most current version of the Health First Colorado application, which can be found on the HCPF website.

Next meeting: February 18, 2022