



MONTH MEETING NOTES

March 18, 2022

Colorado Legislative Session Update

Cass Christopher, Colorado Community Health Network, shared an updated on the Colorado legislative session, including health care bills of interest.

[HB22-1289: Health Benefits for Colorado Pregnant Persons and Children](#), referred to as the Cover all Coloradans bill, was introduced. This bill passed through the first committee as of March 25. If passed, the bill 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 (SEP) 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.

Other relevant pieces of legislation include:

- [HB22-1279: Reproductive Health Equity Act](#), which would affirmatively state that people in Colorado have a right to abortion access. This bill passed through the first committee.
- [HB22-1064: Prohibit Flavored Tobacco Regulate Synthetic Nicotine](#), which would ban the sale and distribution of flavored nicotine at shops without age restrictions.
- [HB22-1278: Behavioral Health Administration](#), which would handle most of Colorado's behavioral health programs.

Connect for Health Colorado Updates

Jessalyn Hampton and Ashley Blevins, Connect for Health Colorado, provided information on Tax Time Enrollment and a funding opportunity.

Tax Time Enrollment, previously referred to as Easy Enrollment, is live. Individuals who are uninsured are 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 are granted a SEP to do so, and proof of SEP eligibility is not required. This is available on major e-filers and paper forms when the Department of Revenue releases Colorado's state tax returns.

Within 48 hours of submitting a state tax return with the uninsured box checked, the Department of Revenue notifies Connect for Health Colorado to begin outreach. Currently,

121,000 people have checked the box on their tax forms, and 28 people have enrolled in coverage through Connect for Health Colorado. An assister training is available through the Connect for Health Colorado portal.

Connect for Health Colorado is [requesting applications](#) from certified partners to operate Assistance Sites, Certified Application Counselor Designated Organizations, and Enrollment Centers across the state. Applications are due on April 25, awards will be giving end of May, and the contract period will be from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024.

Updated Renewal Process Walkthrough in PEAK

Dale Whyte, PEAK Outreach, provided an overview of the new renewal process through PEAK, including what a client will see, and potential variations during the renewal process. The renewal will only appear on PEAK for people who were not renewed during the ex-parte renewal process. Clients can provide an online signature through PEAK, and do not have to upload a separate document to do so.

HCPF Updates

Rebecca Ornelas, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), shared information about the updated renewal process, end of the public health emergency (PHE), and Working Adults with Disabilities Buy-In program.

HCPF implemented an updated renewal process and packet beginning for member's whose renewals are in May 2022. The first packets for May renewals were sent out recently. Ninety days before a member's renewal date, the system will run an ex-parte, or automatic, check to see if the member is still eligible. This ex-parte check will use any available electronic information and information in the member's case. If the member's eligibility can be renewed ex-parte, they will receive a Notice of Action of approval and will not receive a renewal packet.

Members who cannot be renewed ex-parte will receive a renewal packet to submit and sign. Signing the renewal can be done electronically over PEAK or by hand on the paper renewal form. Members who do not submit the required documentation or signature with the renewal packet will be disenrolled. Those members are eligible for a 90-day reconsideration period, during which time they can submit their missing information and re-enroll in coverage. After that time, individuals will need to submit a new application. More information about the updated renewal process is available in HCPF's Renewal Revamp [presentation](#), [workbook](#), and [FAQ](#) on HCPF's [Training Topics, Reference Documents, and Guides webpage](#).

HCPF staff are reviewing rules and will follow up during a future CKF meeting to share if assisters can or cannot help clients sign the renewal form remotely during the PHE using the Acknowledgement of Verbal Consent.

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services recently released new guidance for unwinding the PHE, which includes 14 months for states to complete all renewals after the PHE ends. [Register for the stakeholder meeting](#) HCPF is hosting on Friday, April 15 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. to learn more. HCPF will release a communications toolkit to inform members about the end of the PHE and updated renewal process. HCPF is also partnering with counties to pilot a process to collect telephonic signatures from members by recording and storing the signatures.

Previously, adults over the age of 65 were not eligible for the Working Adults with Disabilities (WAwD) Buy-In program. SB20-033 extended eligibility for WAwD to adults over the age of 65 that meet the qualifications. This applies to all individuals, including new applicants and current members, and will go into effect on July 1, 2022. More information is available in this [FAQ](#) and [training](#).

Next meeting: May 20, 2022