

The logo for Colorado Covering Kids & Families features the word "COLORADO" in a teal sans-serif font at the top, flanked by two horizontal lines of colored dots (green, orange, teal). Below "COLORADO" is the word "COVERING" in a larger, bold teal sans-serif font. At the bottom is "KIDS & FAMILIES" in a grey sans-serif font.

COLORADO
COVERING
KIDS & FAMILIES

JUNE MEETING NOTES

June 19, 2020

Legislative Session Update

Alice Steiner, Colorado Community Health Network, provided updates from Colorado's legislative session which ended on June 15. To balance the budget, there were cuts to several programs, including higher education and a decrease in the Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) adult dental from \$1,500 to \$1,000. One third of the bills proposed this session died due to timing or costs. Successes include [SB 20-215, the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise](#), and [HB 20-1236, the Health Care Coverage Easy Enrollment Program](#). SB 20-215 will collect a fee from insurance carriers that will fund the reinsurance program, supplement subsidies for Coloradans who receive Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTCs), and create a state subsidy program for Coloradans who are not eligible for APTCs to purchase health plans on Connect for Health Colorado. HB 20-1236 allows Coloradans to ask to have their eligibility for Health First Colorado or Connect for Health Colorado plans assessed on their state income tax returns. Additional bills that passed include [SB 20-205, Sick Leave for Employees](#), which requires employers to allow employees to accrue up to 48 hours of paid sick leave, and [SB 20-212, Reimbursement for Telehealth Services](#), which allows for reimbursement of Health First Colorado services at Rural Health Clinics, the Federal Indian Health Services, and Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates

Rebecca Ornelas, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), provided updates on COVID-19 changes to enrollment and coverage.

Emergency Medicaid covers COVID-19 testing for eligible Coloradans experiencing a life or limb threatening emergency. Applicants must provide a statement of the life or limb emergency to be covered for this service. Meeting attendees shared that people without proper documentation who are applying for coverage of a COVID-19 test have had difficulty uploading the life or limb statement as their cases are often closed prior to this.

HCPF released [PM 20-004, COVID-19 Continuous Enrollment for Existing Medical Assistance Members](#), which included attachments to the [Coverage Reopen Letter](#) members received.

Coloradans applying for the COVID-19 Limited Testing Benefit must receive a denial for Health First Colorado first. Applicants using an older paper application can download the most recent paper application, print and have applications complete and attach Worksheet J to be considered for the benefit. This benefit can be retroactive to 90 days, up until March 18, which is the earliest date that testing for COVID-19 will be covered.

Intelliride, the contractor for non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) in nine counties, will begin managing NEMT benefits state-wide. Intelliride will stagger NEMT services county by county, to not overload their system. Until Intelliride is implemented in each county, the county human/social services office will continue to administrate NEMT benefits.

Connect for Health Colorado Updates

Bailey Dvorak, Connect for Health Colorado, shared that Coloradans who lose their employer-sponsored insurance and sign up for COBRA are now eligible to enroll in a Connect for Health Colorado plan with APTCs, if eligible, when they are within the 60-day window, or special enrollment period, for losing coverage.

CKF Updates

CKF shared that on June 18, the Supreme Court ruled that the Trump administration had not provided a sufficient reason for terminating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and so was unlawful in rescinding the program. This decision restores the program and current DACA recipients will continue to be protected under the program.

Member Sharing

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative's Consumer Assistance Program hosts meetings every other month for those helping Coloradans navigate billing and claims issues with insurance carriers, or struggling with hospitals bills or other bills for care received. The next meeting will be August 13 at 1:00 pm. Contact Stephanie Arenales (sarenales@cohealthinitiative.org) for more information.

Next meeting: July 17, 2020