



SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTES

September 18, 2020

Here for You, Colorado Campaign

Michelle Adams, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), discussed the new campaign *Here for You, Colorado*, which aims to spread the word about Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) to Coloradans who need health coverage as well as recruit more health care providers to serve populations in need. The campaign's [website](#) includes resources and materials for providers, individuals seeking insurance, as well as partner organizations involved in health coverage. Some examples of these resources are information on Health First Colorado, newsletters, sample emails and social media, and ads featuring community members who benefit from programs like Health First Colorado and CHP+. If you need content or a format type that isn't available on the webpage, email HCPF_Comms@state.co.us.

Connect for Health Colorado Updates

Bailey Dvorak, Connect for Health Colorado shared that they are prepping for open enrollment, and have a scheduled outage from September 23 – 25 to update and modernize the system. During this time applications and accounts cannot be accessed. Additionally, the customer contact center will be closed.

Connect for Health Colorado's annual assister and broker training is currently available online through the training learning management system. In addition to annual certification training, CoverCO will be held virtually this year from October 6 – 8. Learn more and register [here](#).

The End of the Public Health Emergency

Marivel Klueckman and Lisa Pera, HCPF, discussed the status of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). Currently, the PHE is set to expire on October 23. The PHE is set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which has not indicated if or when it is going to be extended. On September 14, HCPF sent a [letter](#) to CMS outlining several requests to help Colorado prepare for the end of PHE, including:

- That CMS provide states with at least 60 days' notice before ending the PHE.
- That CMS provide states with at least 90 days after the end of the PHE to resolve redeterminations and complete continuous coverage disenrollment.

Currently, Colorado has locked in approximately 270,000 Health First Colorado members due to the continuous eligibility requirement in the PHE. When the PHE terminates, HCPF is required to redetermine the eligibility of these members to see if their circumstances have changed, and reassess their eligibility for benefits. HCPF is currently preparing for this redetermination process and is proactively working to make the process as smooth as possible for counties and eligibility sites when the PHE does end. They will release a report on redetermining these members shortly as well as setting up a meeting with eligibility sites to provide guidance around the report.

HCPF recently identified that some individuals who applied for coverage during the PHE were missed during the continuous eligibility lock-in process. These individuals were requesting retroactive coverage. HCPF is currently working on identifying retroactive applications to reopen and lock in those members and will resolve this issue so that it doesn't happen again in the future.

Other updates from HCPF included:

- Recently, eight of Colorado's MA sites were renamed as Eligibility Application Partners (EAPs). This name change was the first of several changes will be in place by June 30, 2021. EAPs, in comparison to MA sites, will not provide ongoing case management to clients once these additional changes are in place, but will accept and assist with applications and making referrals to MA sites for case management, when necessary. There are just three MA sites remaining in the state: Denver Health, the Colorado Medical Assistance Program (CMAP), and Connect for Health Colorado.
- About 800 uninsured individuals have utilized the COVID-19 limited testing benefit. When they applied, these individuals were not eligible for Health First Colorado, but are able to utilize this limited benefit for COVID-19 testing only. HCPF is re-running their applications to redetermine if they are now eligible for additional benefits.
- HCPF will be releasing a memo and form in the near future allowing for verbal signatures on applications.

CKF Updates

Grace Trautman is CKF's new Communications Coordinator. She can be contacted at gtrautman@cchn.org.

There are two upcoming PEAK outages to be aware of: October 4 – 5 and October 11 – 12 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. OIT will be updating their systems to hopefully reduce the number of PEAK outages in the future.

The deadline to respond to the Census is September 30, one month earlier than originally planned. It is important to inform clients and colleagues of the quickly approaching Census deadline and encourage them to complete their as soon as possible. CKF's recent [blog post](#) discusses the importance of getting an accurate Census count as well as recent updates to Census operations.

CKF's new document [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) outlines key elements of the PHE, including its timeline, impact on various programs, and requirements for eligibility.

Next meeting: October 23, 2020