



FEBRUARY MEETING NOTES

February 21, 2020

2020 Legislative Session Updates

Alice Steiner, Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), provided updates on Colorado's legislative session, which began on January 8, 2020. There are currently three bills regarding vaccinations, which are mostly supported by anti-vaccine community including:

- [HB 1239](#) – Consumer Protections Concerning Vaccinations which would protect consumers regarding vaccination by requiring the dissemination of vaccination information to patients, the completion of a vaccination contraindication checklist, and the reporting of adverse vaccine reactions; prohibits the recommendation or administration of a vaccine to a minor without the consent of the minor's parent or guardian; prohibits certain actions against persons who delay or decline vaccinations; authorizes the assessment of fines; and requires the department of public health and environment to post information about the rights, duties, and penalties specified in the act on its website.
- [HB 1297](#) – Immunization Status and Child Abuse Neglect which clarifies that personal immunization exemptions cannot be used as the sole basis for child abuse or neglect.
- [SB 163](#) – School Entry Immunization which would tighten vaccine requirements in schools by requiring the state to develop standardized forms and a submission process to claim a nonmedical exemption for an immunization, evaluate immunization practices, and have an advisory committee recommend best practices and guidelines. After a heading that lasted until 1:00 a.m., the bill passed on a party line vote.

CCHN has seen a draft of the 2020 Family Medical Leave Insurant Program (FAMLI) bill and expect it to be introduced within the next few weeks. A bill on total cost of care, being brought by the Hospital Association should be out this week; this bill would set a benchmark and set parameter and guide rails for increases to that benchmark.

Stephanie Brooks, CCHN provided information on [HB 1236](#) – Health Care Coverage Easy Enrollment Program, which would create the ability for Coloradans without health insurance to opt-in to being contacted by Connect for Health Colorado for enrollment assistance when filing their state income taxes, if their tax information indicates that they would likely be eligible for health coverage through Connect for Health, Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program), or Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). Several organizations testified in support of this bill including Connect for Health Colorado, Colorado Hospital Association, Association for Health Plans, Children's Hospital Colorado, Children's Campaign, and CCHN. The bill passed through committee yesterday with one amendment based on a request of health plans. If signed into law, this would not go into effect until the 2021 tax year for enrollment in 2022.

There are varying reports on how much money is available in the state budget to implement new bills. It will likely be a difficult year for bills with high fiscal notes to pass due to TABOR refunds.

Q. There have been a lot of changes to the FAMLI bill, is CCHN supporting it?

A. CCHN is reviewing it and CCHN's Public Affairs committee will decide on a position in two weeks. In 2019, CCHN had a position of actively monitor.

HCPF Updates

Rebecca Ornelas, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) provided an update on the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS)/interChange (iC) mismatch.

Due to a mismatch between the systems, there are about 35,000 people whose coverage were correctly terminated in CBMS but whose cases were kept open erroneously in the provider billing portal, interChange. During this time, these members may have continued to receive services, despite receiving a Notice of Action (NOA) that they are no longer eligible for services. Out of the 35,000 members, 81 percent were previously enrolled in MAGI program with roughly 1,000 in nursing facilities, 700 on Home & Community Based Service waivers, and 800 CHP+ members.

HCPF sent a letter to affected members on January 30, 2020, explaining the issue, notifying them of their new termination date of March 31, 2020, and requesting they reapply for coverage. Of the 35,000 letters sent, 5,000 (15 percent) were returned. Reminders letters will be sent to the 30,000 whose original letters were not returned on March 1, 2020. This is considered a life-changing event, so members are eligible for a special enrollment period to purchase insurance through Connect for Health Colorado.

HCPF's member contact center received 133 calls as of February 19, 2020. The majority of the calls were from members who did not realize they had benefits.

Outreach efforts have been conducted by Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) and Case Manager Agencies. RAEs are contacting people directly and nursing home residents are being contacted in-person. HCPF is determining if Health Communities can provide support in contacting members. The main thing HCPF wants members to know is that they will stop being covered on March 31, 2020, and even if they still qualify, they must reapply.

Rebecca will follow up during the March CKF meeting with answers to the following questions:

- Do providers have a way to see if a patient is impacted by the CBMS/iC mismatch?
- Will HCPF require RAEs to share a list with Healthy Communities since they already have data sharing agreement?
- Is 15 percent a standard returned-mail rate for HCPF?

Q. In the CBMS newsletter, there was information about changes to qualifications for adult financial assistance and the way members are screened. What impact will this change have on applicants for adult financial assistance?

A. Rebecca will look into it and follow up.

Supporting your Clients During the 2020 Census

Gillian Winbourn, Together We Count presented on the 2020 Census. Slides are [here](#).

Highlights include:

- The Census is a count of the number of people living in the country and is used for a variety of purposes including federal funding, redistricting, and philanthropy.
- Colorado receives \$2,800 per person, per year.
- There are three ways to respond to the 2020 Census: internet (13 languages), mail (English and Spanish), and phone (13 languages).
- The first mail flyers will be sent to households in March 2020.
- Census day is April 1, 2020.
- Door to door enumeration begins May 2020 and ends July 2020.
- Census numbers are delivered to the President in December 2020.

CKF Updates

Shoshi Preuss, CKF shared CKF's 2019 Health First Colorado and CHP+ Enrollment Analysis –Year in Review (see the report [here](#)). Overall, there was a 4.9 percent decrease in enrollment in 2019 across non-disability Health First Colorado and CHP. CHP+ had an increase in enrollment during the first quarter of 2019 but a decrease in enrollment the final three quarters, ending the year with a total decrease of 6.1 percent. Health First Colorado enrollment decreased by 4.3 percent, with the enrollment decrease began to level off as the year went on. The Parents/Caretakers category decreased much more than other categories.

Q. Will CKF look at the Parent/Caretaker enrollment trends to see if they have maintained or changed due to the 2016 rule that parents do not qualify as Parents/Caretakers if their children do not have health coverage?

A. CKF will begin analyzing this data and will share more information soon.

Member Sharing

CKF members discussed the fear about public charge and that they are working with community members who are hesitant to enroll their children in Health First Colorado or CHP+. Low-cost programs or sliding fee scales at Community Health Centers are not included in the definition of public charge rule and provide an option for children and adults to get care. To help assisters, CKF built a [public charge resources page](#) on the CKF website that includes Colorado specific and national resources. CKF developed resources for members and community-based organizations including a [timeline of public charge events](#), and two blog posts with an [overview of public charge](#) and [strategies for talking with clients about public charge](#), as well as a [job aid](#) for assisters helping clients understand the changes to public charge.

Next meeting: March 20, 2020