



MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

Friday, February 15, 2019

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Colorado Community Health Network

2019 Legislative Session Overview

Alice Steiner, Colorado Community Health Network, provided an update on some bills mentioned last month:

- [HB 19-1004](#) – This is a bill that would study a public option for health coverage in the state, using infrastructure that already exists. The bill will study the potential options which could be a Medicaid buy-in, something through the state health insurance plan, or other option. The goal of creating a public option is to create more competition with health insurance and get prices lower. The bill would require HCPF and the Division of Insurance (DOI) to submit a 1332 waiver and financing is to be determined. The bill passed through its first committee and is now headed to appropriation
- [HB 19-1038](#) – Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) Dental Benefits for Pregnant women – passed unanimously through first committee and is now in appropriations.

Alice also mentioned two newly introduced bills that may be of interest to CKF members:

- [HB 19-1174](#) and [SB 19-134](#) are similar and aim to address surprise out of network bills (e.g. if a person goes to a doctor that happens to be out of their health insurance network).

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates

Rebecca Ornelas, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), provided the following updates:

- Kim Bimestefer was confirmed to stay on as the Executive Director of HCPF. She has three key goals:
 - Improving health and quality of care delivered to people in Colorado
 - Helping the most vulnerable people in Colorado to thrive
 - Lowering health care costs to Coloradans, employers, etc.
- Kim Bimestefer wrote a newsletter that will be sent to stakeholders soon.
- The 1095-B form is a tax form that includes information about the months members were covered through Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) and CHP+. HCPF sent this letter to members January 10 through 25. Members are not required to provide the 1095-B when they file their taxes, but the form should be retained if they are ever audited. If there are any corrections that need to be made the member can contact HCPF through the Member Contact Center, or the county can use a help-desk ticket. The 1095-B is also available in their PEAK account. Children in TRAILS (children who have been in foster care) have different process in order to protect them, and more information will be shared next time.
- In May 2018, HCPF asked certified sites (CAAS, PE, MA sites) to give a link to customers to complete a customer experience survey. The goal was to use the feedback from the survey to inform sites of anything that could help improve

service to customers. HCPF received 94 responses which they determined was not a high-enough response rate to provide accurate results from the survey. This pilot survey ended in December 2018.

- Several sites in the room had not heard about the end of the survey, and wondered how it had been communicated to sites. Rebecca will follow-up on this.
- Request for a future update: information on Healthy Communities, (e.g. well child checks, funding for the program, how are they working with the RAEs, what kind of training and support they are getting from HCPF, anything on database upgrades?)
 - Reach out to Liz if you have other ideas for what to ask about Healthy Communities at the March 15 meeting (ltansey@cchn.org).

Get Ahead Colorado | Tax Help Colorado

Brooke Visser, The Piton Foundation

- Slides: [Piton Foundation Partner Presentation](#)
- Goal of the program is to spread awareness of tax credits, especially the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Get Ahead Colorado is the public awareness campaign, and Tax Help Colorado prepares taxes for people who earn \$55,000 or less (for the household).
- EITC is one of the most effective tools for lifting families out of poverty.
- The federal EITC is worth up to \$6,400 this year. Families can qualify if the household earns \$55,000 or less for the household and have dependent kids. The state return also has a 10 percent match for EITC (e.g., up to \$640). As well, the child tax credit is higher this year – up to \$2,000. The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (available for other caretakers taking care of the child) is available up to \$3,000. About 118,000 Colorado families miss out on the EITC every year – one in four families who qualify don't claim the credit and Colorado has one of the lowest participation rates in the country. Individuals (without children) who make below \$14,000 can also qualify for the EITC.
 - Reminder that families need to file taxes in order to claim the EITC, even if they do not make enough money that would require them to file taxes.
- Tax Help Colorado operates free tax sites across the state that are available for anyone who earns \$55,000 or less. The tax sites are staffed by IRS-certified volunteers through community college programs. On average, families can save about \$200 by using Tax Help Colorado locations. There are 30 Tax Help Colorado sites across the state. Dial 2-1-1 or go to GetAheadColorado.org to find a free tax site. These sites can help with filing tax returns up to three years back.
- Online software is also available. MyFreeTaxes.com is available for families who made \$66,000 or less in the year. It is completely free and there is no cost to file federal or state taxes. It is sponsored by H&R block offered through United Way.
- Outreach materials are available: flyers and posters in English and Spanish. Go to: www.PitonResources.com for more, and to order for free. You will need to create an account. The site also has a tax reform FAQ, site list, videos, and marketing toolkit.

Coalition Member Information Sharing

- **Denver Human Services:** Kathy is working on new resources. There is a new website for Denver Human Services (www.denvergov.org/humanservices), and Kathy encouraged everyone to visit it. She handed out folders about programs

available through Denver Human Services, and this information is now available on the website as well. The website can help guide clients to the services they need. Contact Kathy if you would like to be on her distribution list (Kathy.crusanford@denvergov.org). Monthly 3.5 hour navigator trainings are available to sign up for on the website. You do not need to be in Denver County to benefit from the training. She is also working on a more in-depth community partner training program (version 2.) that would include more in-depth information, (e.g. steps to apply for food assistance, redeterminations, behavioral health, etc.) This should be available for registration in April with classes starting in May. Kathy will also send out information for partners through her distribution list.

CKF News

- CKF's new website should be live in the coming weeks, although a few changes will still be made over the next month. Please let Liz know if you cannot find something you are looking for so that we can make sure the website is meeting the needs of coalition members. (ltansey@cchn.org)

Next meeting: March 15, 2019