



COLORADO
COVERING
KIDS & FAMILIES

MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

Friday, April 19, 2019

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Colorado Community Health Network

2019 Legislative Session Overview

Alice Steiner from Colorado Community Health Network provided an update on the legislative session. The session ends in just under two weeks and more bills continue to be introduced.

- The Colorado state budget, also known as the long bill was introduced and passed easily.
- **HB 1004, Proposal for Affordable Health Coverage Option:** This bill passed the House.
- **HB1038, Dental Services for Pregnant Women on Children’s Basic Health Plan Plus:** HB 1038 was signed by the governor. The Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) dental benefit will go into effect for pregnant women on Oct. 1, 2019.
- **HB 1168, State Innovation Waiver Reinsurance Program:** This bill is currently making its way through the legislative process. There have been significant changes in how it would be financed, which have involved compromises with the hospitals. CCHN expects this bill to pass.
- **HB1174, Out-of-Network Health Care Services:** This bill is moving through the legislative process. It has passed the House and its first committee in the Senate.
- **HB1170, Residential Tenants Health and Safety Act:** CCHN expects that this bill will pass.
- **SB 188, FAMLI Family Medical Leave Insurance Program:** This bill passed its first two Senate committees with significant changes to the original bill text, including an opt-out for businesses who provide similar or better plans. There is a lot of support for this bill, but it will be a fight to the end.
- Several bills were introduced in the last two weeks, particularly regarding substance use disorder and the opioid crisis.

Healthy Communities Presentation

Jeff Helm from the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) presented on the Healthy Communities program and highlighted several key facts about the program, including:

- The Healthy Communities program serves children, young adults, and pregnant women eligible for Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid Program) or CHP+ at no cost to families. They provide outreach, navigation, and health education to newly eligible members and families wanting to apply for coverage.
- The funding for Healthy Communities is maintaining at \$3,124,000 annually. Of the funding, 95 percent goes to funding the sites and five percent is for administration. In previous years, 10 percent went to administration.
- There are 95 Healthy Communities coordinators throughout Colorado, with 27 contractors serving all 64 counties. The program has been around under different names since 1968.

- Healthy Communities has introduced contract language with the Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs): RAEs and Healthy Communities are required to have an MOU or contract. This contract outlines roles around member onboarding, creates an onboarding plan, specifies how Healthy Communities and the RAEs will communicate with each other, and eliminates duplication of effort.
- Healthy Communities sends a welcome letter to new members with information about how to download the member handbook. Members can also request a printed copy. Healthy Communities is required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to contact the members twice within the first 60 days of eligibility with new members.
- Healthy Communities has instituted a statewide toll-free number: (844) 577-KIDS. Callers get a brief message about the program and are routed to their local Healthy Communities office based on zip code. The number itself is completely automated. There will be updates in the coming year to ensure that callers are being routed to the correct office if their zip code is in more than one county.

Connect for Health Colorado Updates

Saphia Elfituri from Connect for Health Colorado presented Connect for Health Colorado's "By the Numbers: Open Enrollment Report". Saphia provided a high-level overview of highlights from the document, including:

- 170,741 Coloradans are covered by medical insurance.
- The average net premium after tax credit for customers is \$117, and there was a 14% decrease in average net premium after tax credit.
- 76% of customers are receiving financial help for 2019. This is up from 69% in 2018.
- 22% of customers were new, 78% were returning. The majority of people enrolled are over the age of 55. Most customers are enrolled in bronze plans, but half of customers are enrolled in silver plans with financial help.
- Connect for Health Colorado has interactive maps online to see county-specific information.

CKF Updates

CKF updated our ["Immigration Status and Eligibility for Health Coverage Programs" job aid](#). This document is comprehensive of the immigration status/class codes including as options in PEAK. The job aid is NOT meant to provide legal advice.

Member Information Sharing

Rebecca Ornales from HCPF shared an update on HCPF's secondary aid code project, which began in Feb. 2019. Before this project, members who qualify for Medicare Savings Programs were automatically being approved for a secondary aid code without verifications being requested. The rules changed, and members are now required to submit verifications. If members do not submit verifications for their secondary aid code, they are receiving termination letters for their secondary aid – despite the fact that they are still covered under the primary aid code. The notification does not state the denial is for the secondary aid code. This will be fixed in a future build, but it is unclear at this time when that future build will happen. If a member receives this notice, assisters can let them know that they are NOT losing their Medicare Part A or Part B coverage; the difference is that this coverage will be paid for by the primary aid code rather than the secondary aid code. Assisters should advise members to submit the verification that HCPF is asking for.

Kathy Crusan-Ford from Denver Human Services (DHS) shared printed resources. DHS still offers high-level navigator training; the 2.0 in-depth training will be offered after CBMS transformation. Sign up for training [here](#). Additionally, DHS is holding a hygiene drive. Donated hygiene products are available to anyone, not just Denver County residents. To get hygiene products, visit the DHS GIVE Center and get five hygiene products per month.

Next meeting: June 21, 2019