



COLORADO  
**COVERING**  
KIDS & FAMILIES

**MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**

Friday, June 21, 2019

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Colorado Community Health Network

**2019 Legislative Session Recap**

Alice Steiner from Colorado Community Health Network provided a recap of the legislative session, which ended on May 3, 2019. Seventy-seven percent of introduced bills passed this session. In comparison, only 60 percent passed last year. This most likely corresponds to the makeup of the legislature. It was a busy session; 24 bills died because they didn't make it all the way through the legislative process and/or were introduced last minute.

Changes to the budget included an increase in the Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) adult dental services cap from \$1000 to \$1500, and an increase in funding for the Health First Colorado member support center. Additionally, dental benefits for pregnant women enrolled in Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) were added. These benefits will begin on October 1, 2019. CHP+ dental benefits will be provided through DentaQuest instead of Delta Dental starting July 1, 2019.

Updates on bills that passed this session include:

- HB 19-1269, Mental Health Parity Act: This bill will ensure that Health First Colorado and private insurance companies provide the same quality of mental health services as primary care.
- HB 19-1004, Proposal for Affordable Health Coverage Option: Requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and the Division of Insurance (DOI) to propose a state option for health care coverage. They are in the process of figuring out exactly what that proposal looks like.
- HB 19-1168, State Innovation Waiver Reinsurance Program: Requires the Commissioner of Insurance to seek a waiver to create a reinsurance program. The DOI has submitted the waiver application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- HB 19-1174, Out-of-Network Health Care Services: Requires health care providers to inform consumers about the risks of seeing a provider who is out-of-network; this is also called surprise billing.

---

**Connect for Health Colorado Updates**

Saphia Elfituri from Connect for Health Colorado provided marketplace updates. CMS deemed the reinsurance program waiver application to be complete a few weeks ago. It is open for comment now and Connect for Health will be submitting a comment.

Saphia briefly discussed SB19-004, a bill that modernized laws about health care co-ops and allows individuals to negotiate health care costs directly with providers. Peak Health Alliance was able to negotiate a specific fee schedule in Summit county, and they are hoping that rates will be 20% lower than previous years through Bright Health.

For the next open enrollment period, Connect for Health Colorado is focusing on making it easier to determine eligibility when applicants or members of an applicant's household are legal permanent residents under 5 years. There will be more formal communication and training soon, and Connect for Health Colorado plans to have this in production before open enrollment. Additionally, Connect for Health Colorado is changing the look and feel of the eligibility results screen, and modernizing the "my documents" page. They are putting together a more formalized list of all of their technology projects, which will be available in mid-July and shared at the CKF meeting on July 19.

---

### **Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates**

Rebecca Ornelas from HCPF provided updates on the Medical Assistance (MA) site program. HCPF has been working with CMS to finalize a new MA site contract. During that process, CMS found that MA sites in Colorado were given more access to determine eligibility than is allowed under federal rules. As a result, current MA sites, with the exception of Denver Health and Connect for Health Colorado which are quasi-governmental organizations, will be transitioning to Eligibility Assistance Partner (EAP) sites. EAP sites will have access to the Colorado Benefit Management System (CBMS) for intake, but case maintenance will be the responsibility of the county department of human/social services. Additionally, EAP sites will be required to provide assistance on applications for long-term care. The current roll-out date for this change is set for August, but that may be pushed back.

HCPF has been working with current MA sites, counties, and partners to hear questions they may have. These questions will form an FAQ document. Send questions to Rebecca ([Rebecca.Ornales@state.co.us](mailto:Rebecca.Ornales@state.co.us)) or Liz ([ltansey@cchn.org](mailto:ltansey@cchn.org)).

Q. Will all EAP sites be required to submit long-term care applications?

A. Yes, in order to maintain consistency in the program and provide comprehensive application assistance.

Q. How is HCPF preparing counties for an increased workload?

A. HCPF does not know what the impact will be, and does not anticipate knowing until the change takes place.

Q. Will current CAAS or PE sites be able to become EAP sites?

A. HCPF is not currently considering this, but may in the future.

---

### **CKF Updates**

Liz Tansey provided CKF updates. CKF has a new, updated website. View the website here: <https://ckf.cchn.org>

CKF also has a new staff member who will be starting next week. You can learn more about her in the CKF newsletter that will go out on Thursday, June 27, and she will attend the July CKF meeting.

---

### **Member Information Sharing**

Liz shared Denver Human Services updates on behalf of Kathy Crusan-Ford. The 2019 DHS Navigator Training schedule is available [here](#). SNAP recipients receive \$1 admission to Colorado museums and cultural centers including the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus, Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Farms, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, History Colorado Center, Denver Art Museum, Wings Over the Rockies Air and

Space Museum, and the Butterfly Pavilion (admission is \$2 per person at the Butterfly Pavilion). \$1 admission to the Denver Zoo will begin again on August 1.

Jill from the Colorado Department of Education shared how school districts reported having spent their Medicaid reimbursement funds. Districts spent \$7.5 million for additional mental health providers in the district. These providers are serving kids during the school day. The districts also invested in outreach to the uninsured as well as program supplies.

---

**Next meeting: July 19, 2019**