



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

April 2010

CKF Coalition Update

The next **CKF Agency Partners Work Group** meeting is **Friday, April 23, 2010 from 9-10:30am** at our office at 600 Grant Street, Suite 800 in Denver. A reminder and agenda will be emailed to the Work Group prior to the meeting. Please contact Christy Trimmer, CKF Community Liaison and Policy Analyst, for more information (christy@cchn.org).

The next **CKF Health Policy Work Group** meeting is **Thursday, June 17, 2010 from 9-10:00am** at CCHN, located at 600 Grant Street, Suite 800 in Denver. Please contact Brittney Petersen, CKF Project Manager, for more information (brittney@cchn.org).

Please hold **Wednesday, July 14, 2010** on your calendar for the next **CKF Quarterly Coalition** meeting. More detailed information will be available in the coming months.

Check our website (www.cchn.org/ckf/) for the 2010 CKF meeting calendar.

Outreach and Enrollment Update

Medicaid Parents and CHP+ Expansions to Take Effect May 1, 2010

On March 31, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the structure of Colorado's new hospital provider fee that will enable the state to extend Medicaid eligibility to more parents and expand CHP+ effective May 1. The [Medicaid Parents Expansion](#) is for parents with one or more children on Medicaid and will increase the eligibility level from 60% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 100% FPL. This expansion group will receive the same benefits as clients currently enrolled in Medicaid. The [CHP+ Expansion](#) will increase the eligibility level for children and pregnant women up to 250% of the FPL. The expansion population is expected to receive the same benefits as clients currently enrolled. Stay tuned to CKF for additional information.

Status of Annual Federal Poverty Level Adjustment for 2010

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) has not yet released the annual adjustment to the 2010 FPL. HCPF received notification from the federal agency that oversees Medicaid (CMS) that the downturn in the economy may lead to a downward adjustment to the 2010 FPL, instead of the more common increase. **CMS directed HCPF to continue to use the 2009 Federal Poverty Level until further notice**, even though the 2009 FPL was set to expire on March 31, 2010. Certified application and presumptive eligibility sites will be notified once the new FPLs are published. If you have any questions, please contact Medicaid.Eligibility@hcpf.state.co.us.

HCPF 2010 CBMS User Conferences

HCPF is offering five Medicaid Eligibility Regional Trainings across the state for eligibility workers and others that work with Medical Assistance Programs and use CBMS. Agendas and descriptions of the training sessions are available on [HCPF's web site](#). The trainings have three tracks: Track 1 – Family Medical Programs and CHP+, Track II – Adult Medical and Long Term Care, and Track III – Processing and audit issues. The trainings are:

April 20-21 – Denver

April 27-28 – Fort Collins

May 12-13 – Grand Junction



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May 25-26 – Alamosa

June 2-3 – Colorado Springs

To register for the conferences and for specific conference locations, please go to <http://hcpftraining.gosignmeup.com>. For questions, contact HCPF at Medicaid.Eligibility@hcpf.state.co.us.

New Bilingual Medicaid ID Cards

Beginning June 1, 2010 the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing will begin issuing Medical Identification Cards with a new look. The new cards will be in English and Spanish and will be more informative. These new cards do not replace cards issued before June 1, 2010, therefore, please accept both versions. For more information, please contact [Roberta Lopez](#).

Here is an example of what the new Medicaid cards will look like:



Intent to Award Maximus Eligibility and Enrollment Contract

HCPF announced its intent to award Maximus with the Eligibility and Enrollment for Medical Assistance Programs contract. HCPF is working to address a protest that was filed by one of the competing applicants and does not have a timeline for when a decision will be made. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Congratulations to the New MA Sites!

Pueblo StepUp and Jefferson County Public Schools were recently approved as medical assistance (MA) sites. Pueblo StepUp and Jefferson Public Schools began processing Family Medicaid and CHP+ applications in the 2007 school-based enrollment pilot project started and will now be able to continue their work processing Family Medicaid and CHP+ applications as stand-alone MA sites.

In addition to Family Medicaid cases, Pueblo StepUp will begin processing applications for Adult Medicaid programs, as well as Medical Program redeterminations and adding babies to cases. They are not currently receiving applications from organizations outside of their partners.



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Jill Mathews, School Medicaid Coordinator for Jefferson County Public Schools, shared that JeffCo Schools is pleased to continue to be able to serve Jefferson County families enrolling in Family Medicaid and CHP+. Jill is grateful to The Colorado Health Foundation and HCPF for their support of this work.

List of Certified Application Assistance and Presumptive Eligibility Sites Updated

The list of organizations that are certified application assistance and presumptive eligibility sites was updated on April 8, 2010 and can be found [here](#). These sites can verify citizenship and identify documents for Medicaid and CHP+ applicants.

Maximizing Medicaid/CHP+ Outreach, Enrollment and Retention Grants

In fall 2009, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing was awarded a 5-year, \$43 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to fund the Colorado Comprehensive Health Access Modernization Program or [CO-CHAMP](#). A portion of CO-CHAMP funding will be used to implement the Maximizing Outreach, Retention and Enrollment (MORE) Grant Program to design, develop, and implement outreach for Medicaid and CHP+ expansion populations identified in the [Health Care Affordability Act](#). The first year of funding for the MORE Grant Program is \$640,000, with up to \$100,000 available for individual grants. If you are interested in applying for MORE Grant Program funding, please continue to watch the “what’s new” section of the HCPF website, www.colorado.gov/hcpf for the application. CKF will provide updates with additional details as they are made available. If you have any questions, please contact Cindi Terra at Cindi.Terra@state.co.us.

Interested in providing input about the implementation of the CO-CHAMP grant? HCPF has convened a CO-CHAMP advisory committee that meets during the second hour of the eligibility modernization task force meeting, held on the first Thursday of the month from 9:00-11:00am. [Click here](#) for the meeting agendas, location, and call-in information.

Colorado PEAK Phase II Outreach and Training

The Colorado PEAK (Program Eligibility and Application Kit) website, <http://www.colorado.gov/benefits>, allows people to screen to see if they may be eligible for food, medical and cash assistance benefits and also check the status of their existing benefits. Phase II of the Colorado PEAK website will encompass an online application form and the ability for clients to submit changes to their information electronically. In an effort to create and promote training statewide for community-based organizations, the Colorado PEAK Outreach Team has been formed. The Colorado PEAK Outreach Team welcomes your feedback on the forthcoming training materials and looks forward to working with you to make sure you have the tools necessary to assist clients across the state. Stay tuned to CKF for more details.

211 Advisory Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the 211 Advisory Committee on Covering All Kids will be held on **Tuesday, May 18 from 1-3pm at the Colorado Children’s Campaign** (1580 Lincoln Street, Suite 420). An agenda will be posted [online](#) prior to the meeting. A small working group is currently researching the committee’s recommendation to allow for “rolling renewal”. If you are interested in helping this small group, please email Stacey Moody at moody@casbhc.org.



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Health Policy Update

DRA Documents Required for CHP+

Effective March 1, 2010, CHP+ applicants need to provide citizenship and identity documentation. This rule change is a result of a provision included in the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA). Current CHP+ clients will be asked to provide citizenship and identity documentation at the time of renewal. The Medical Services Board permanently adopted this new rule on February 19, 2010. An agency letter is now [available](#).

Please note that for both Medicaid and CHP+, CBMS (the computer system that determines program eligibility) looks at citizenship and identity documents at the case level, not at the individual level. This means that if the DRA documents are missing for one of the people applying on the application, the case will pend for everyone on the application who is applying for benefits. Please inform your clients of the importance of submitting their citizenship and identity documents for all people who are applying for benefits!

Health Care Reform Signed Into Law

President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on March 23, 2010. This law, along with a set of amendments adopted shortly after, includes provisions that will expand coverage, control health care costs, and improve quality. Provisions will go into effect at different times, starting now through 2016. A few key provisions for kids and families are highlighted below.

- Expands Medicaid up to 133% FPL to all individuals under 65 years old
- Requires most individuals to have health coverage
- Requires employers with more than 50 employees to offer coverage or contribute to exchange purchased coverage for employees
- Extends CHIP through 2019, with full funding through 2015
- Creates state-based exchanges for individuals and small businesses. These exchanges can be separate or combined and administered by a government or non-profit agency
- Subsidies available for individuals/families up to 400% FPL that participate in the exchange
- States must at least maintain current Medicaid and CHIP coverage and enrollment procedures

The Kaiser Family Foundation put together a [summary of national health care reform](#) focused on provisions to expand coverage, control health care costs and improve the health care delivery system.

[Health Care Reform and Colorado](#) - The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) issued a summary of health care reform and Colorado, which includes a description of what the various reforms do and when they take effect, benefits for consumers and public health programs, and talking points of how Coloradans will benefit.

[Holding the Line on Medicaid and CHIP: Key Questions and Answers About Health Care Reform's Maintenance-of-Effort Requirements](#) - The Georgetown Center for Children and Families issued a brief that describes the requirement for states to maintain their current eligibility standards for Medicaid and CHIP as a result of the health care reform legislation.



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2010 Colorado Bills that May Impact CKF Partners

Senate Bill 006: Identification Documents Reduce Poverty

This bill prohibits the state from charging a fee for a certified birth or death record if the applicant has a letter of referral from a county department of social services or human services. This bill would also prohibit the state from charging a fee for a Colorado identification card to an applicant referred by, or released within the prior 6 months from, the Department of Corrections, the Division of Youth Corrections, or a county jail. This bill passed out of the Senate and the House Health and Human Services Committee and has been referred amended to the House Appropriations Committee.

House Bill 1022: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Administration

This bill makes the following changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamp Program:

- Renames the program from the food stamp program to SNAP;
- Changes the certification period for food assistance;
- Changes the eligibility criteria for food assistance by removing the asset test; and
- Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to create an outreach plan to promote awareness and access to the food assistance program.

This bill passed out of the House Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committee, and has been referred amended to the House Committee of the Whole.

House Bill 1033: Screening Brief Intervention Referral

This bill adds screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment for alcohol and other substance abuse services to the list of optional services provided to Medicaid recipients. This bill passed out of the House April 14, 2010, introduced in the Senate and assigned to Health and Human Services on April 19, 2010.

House Bill 1041: Universal Application Children's Medicaid

As part of the Medicaid eligibility modernization, the bill authorizes the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to create a universal application or single point of entry for home- and community-based services waivers for children. The Governor signed the bill on March 18, 2010.

Resources

HCPF Five-Year Calendar

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing released a [5-year calendar](#) that outlines a timeline for the implementation for various initiatives including eligibility expansions under House Bill 1293, eligibility modernization efforts, Medicaid reform, quality initiatives, and cost avoidance efficiencies.

Role of Community Organizations in Enrolling Families in Public Health Insurance Programs

The Colorado Trust has published an issue brief called "[Trusted Hands: The Role of Community-Based Organizations in Enrolling Children in Public Health Insurance Programs](#)." This paper examines how community organizations help families overcome some of the barriers to utilizing the public health insurance system. It also provides an overview of an evaluation underway in Colorado to test the effectiveness of comprehensive assistance that community organizations provide to families enrolling in public health insurance programs.



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Events

CASBHC Annual Conference: Building Bridges to School Health

The Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care is hosting its annual conference, *Building Bridges to School Health*, on May 6 and 7 in Denver. CASBHC is also hosting a pre-conference training on its new Adolescent Reproductive Health Toolkit on May 5. For more information and to register for these events, go to <http://casbhc.org/Events.asp>.

Denver Children's Advocacy Center Workshop

The Denver Children's Advocacy Center is offering a workshop designed to increase awareness and comfort around the topic of personal safety and abuse prevention within the special needs community. The workshop will be held on April 21 from 9:00am-4:00pm in Denver. For registration information, please click [here](#).

Denver Broncos Boys and Girls Club's Race Against Violence

The Race Against Violence will be at the Denver Broncos Branch of the Boys and Girls Club on April 24th. The event will also include a Safe Summer Fair that will have booths set up by violence prevention and community organizations to advertise their summer programs. If you are interested in promoting your summer community activity or program, see the contact information on the flyer attached [here](#).

Jobs

The **Department of Health Care Policy and Financing** is hiring 52 staff to implement the CO-CHAMP grant and Medicaid and CHP+ expansions from the Health Care Affordability Act. If interested, please frequently check the [state employment website](#) for job postings.

The Colorado Health Foundation is hiring for a number of positions, including a Program Officer for Health Coverage and a Public Policy Officer. For more information, please go to <http://www.coloradohealth.org/jobs.aspx>.