



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

April 2009

### CKF Coalition Update

Please join us for a special **CKF Quarterly Coalition** meeting to be held on **Wednesday, April 15, 2009 from 9:30am – 11:30am** at The Colorado Trust (1600 Sherman Street in Denver)\*. CKF will present our upcoming white paper, *“The Maze: The Barriers That Keep Colorado’s Eligible Children and Families Out of Medicaid and CHP+ and Recommendations to Create a Direct Path to Enrollment”*. This special white paper explores the more than 40 barriers that create Colorado’s complicated eligibility maze and provides 20 concrete recommendations for legislative and administrative policy reforms to simplify Colorado’s Medicaid and CHP+ eligibility system, including improvements that can be implemented in the next year. The report provides a clear guide as Colorado’s decision-makers and stakeholders continue their efforts to enroll more eligible children and families.

\*Conference call will be available at 303-539-3205 pin number: 5394568. Please note the new conference call number is for this meeting only.

The next **CKF Agency Partners Work Group** meeting will be **Friday, April 24, 2009 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 Field Coordinator for more information ([christy@cchn.org](mailto:christy@cchn.org)).

The **CKF Health Policy Work Group** is reconvening on **Thursday, April 30, 2009 from 9-10:00am** at CCHN, located at 600 Grant Street, Suite 800 in Denver. Please join us to discuss priorities and activities for the coming months. A reminder and agenda will be emailed to Work Group members prior to the meeting. Please contact Brittney Petersen, CKF Policy Analyst for more information ([brittney@cchn.org](mailto:brittney@cchn.org)).

**Check our website ([www.cchn.org/ckf/](http://www.cchn.org/ckf/)) for the 2009 CKF meeting calendar.**

### Outreach and Enrollment Update

**Updated Income Guidelines for Medicaid and CHP+:** On April 1 the income guidelines for Medicaid and CHP+ were adjusted based on the 2009 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Links to the updated income guidelines for each program can be found on CKF’s website on the “Hot Topics” page under “Helpful Resources for Application Assistance Sites” by [clicking here](#).

To provide some perspective on what the revised income guidelines mean for families, here are the new guidelines for a family of four in Colorado:

- To qualify for Medicaid,
  - Children ages 0-6 and pregnant women must live in a family that earns less than \$29,327/year (133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)).
  - Children ages 7-18 must live in families that earn less than \$22,050/year (100% FPL).
  - Parents of Medicaid eligible children must earn less than \$13, 230/year (60% FPL).
- To qualify for CHP+, children and pregnant women (in a family of four) must earn less than \$45,203/year (205% FPL).



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### **Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Announces Regional Conferences**

Save the Date: The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is planning regional conferences this May and June, which will provide medical assistance training for all who administer programs on behalf of the Department, with a separate track focused on best practices for increasing enrollment for children.

The conferences are for a wide audience including Community Based Organizations, eligibility workers, case managers, children's advocates, Single Entry Points, Community Centered Boards, and Medical Assistance sites.

Conference dates and locations:

May 4 and 5	Fort Collins
May 7 and 8	Denver
May 19 and 20	Grand Junction
June 2 and 3	Burlington
June 15 and 16	Durango
June 18 and 19	Alamosa
June 22 and 23	Colorado Springs

Please email your interest to Sarah Roberts at [sarah.roberts@state.co.us](mailto:sarah.roberts@state.co.us). CKF will keep you posted as more information is available.

### **State Outreach Update:**

- Enrollment Fair Mini-Grants: The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing awarded 23 Enrollment Fair Mini-Grants to organizations across Colorado for a total \$120,000. [Click here](#) to view the list of grantees. The Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved (CCMU) Kids Blitz project was selected to create a resource manual on how to conduct a successful enrollment fair to assist grantee and other community partners.
- State Outreach Funds: Colorado's \$1.3 million dedicated to outreach is still available for State Fiscal Year 2009. The Department returned \$600,000 of the \$1.4 million *additional* outreach dollars to the state. The Department will spend the remaining \$800,000 on technical assistance, the Enrollment Fair Mini-Grant Program, Certified Application Assistance stamps for every certified site, Certified Application Assistance Site training, joint application revision, Spanish translation of the Single Purpose Application (SPA) for public benefits and the CHP+ HMO insert in the joint application, and the statewide regional training conferences to be held in May and June. The Department surveyed counties, community based organizations, and others that provide enrollment services to help develop training material. The Department's outreach funding for next fiscal year is \$1.3 million. As a result, the Department is not renewing the Maximus contract and bringing all outreach activities in house. CKF will keep you posted on the Department's new plans for the state outreach funds.



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### Health Policy Update

**The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA):** Extends the CHIP program through September 30, 2013. The law provides funding for continued coverage, expansion, and tools for states to reach children who are eligible but not enrolled. Provisions go into effect at staggered times, beginning immediately through two years from now. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid must issue guidance for many of the law's provisions in order for states to move forward. Colorado, along with all other states, will need to modify their policies (laws and regulations) to comply with the required components and determine whether to implement the optional components. **Colorado's Medicaid and CHP+ policies remain the same until the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing makes changes to reflect the new CHIPRA provisions.** CKF will keep you posted on any changes to the current Medicaid/CHP+ policies when they occur.

#### Citizen Documentation Requirements

*For States to Make Effective Immediately:*

- States must provide benefits to individuals who meet other eligibility requirements while gathering citizenship documents.
- Newborns whose birth was paid for by Medicaid no longer need to prove their citizenship after one year of eligibility ends.
- States must accept certain tribal documents to establish citizenship.

*Other changes States Must Make Effective January 1, 2010:*

- DRA documentation requirements will apply to CHIP.
- States have the option to work with the Social Security Administration to set up electronic exchange to verify citizenship.

#### Fiscal Incentives to reach eligible but not enrolled

In order to qualify for bonus funding, states must adopt five of eight performance measures and reach specific enrollment targets.

1. Adopt 12 month continuous eligibility
2. Eliminate asset test for children
3. Eliminate in-person interview at application and renewal
4. Use joint application and same application and renewal procedure for both Medicaid and SCHIP
5. Allow for administrative or paperless verification at renewal through pre-populated forms or *ex parte* determinations
6. Presumptive eligibility for children
7. Implement Express Lane Eligibility
8. Implement available options regarding premium assistance

#### Additional Provisions

- Benefits package must include dental coverage starting October 1, 2009.
- Mental health parity: If a state provides mental health services through CHIP, the benefits must not be more restrictive than the medical or surgical benefits.
- \$100 million for outreach for 2009-2013.
- States have the option to (starting April 1, 2009):



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- ◇ Cover “lawfully residing immigrant children and pregnant women.” States can abolish the five-year waiting period currently in place for legal immigrant children and pregnant women.
- ◇ Cover pregnant women with CHIP dollars without waivers.
- ◇ Increase eligibility levels to cover more children. CHIPRA repeals the August 17, 2007 act that limits state flexibility to set income eligibility level. CMS will reimburse at the lower Medicaid match for any expansion over 300%.
- ◇ Provide dental only coverage or cost sharing dental coverage to eligible children with other group or employee sponsored health insurance.
- ◇ Establish premium assistance programs.

For a more detailed CHIPRA summary, please visit the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families at <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/>.

**Colorado House Bill 09-1293:** The Colorado Health Care Affordability Act (HB 09-1293) passed its third reading of the House on March 25, 2009 and the Senate on April 6, 2009. Stay tuned for the date of bill signing!

HB 1293 establishes a hospital provider fee that:

- Imposes a fee on hospitals; Colorado will receive matching Federal funds for this fee
- Increases eligibility for:
  - ◇ Parents of children eligible for Medicaid and CHP+ up to 100% of the federal poverty level.
  - ◇ Childless adults or adults without a dependent child at home up to 100% of the federal poverty level (subject to federal authorization).
  - ◇ Children and pregnant women under CHP+ up to 250% of the federal poverty level.
  - ◇ Disabled individuals participating in a Medicaid buy-in program up to 400% of the federal poverty level.
- Provides for 12-month continuous eligibility for children with Medicaid.
- Increases hospital reimbursement rates under Medicaid and the Colorado Indigent Care Program.

The bill also establishes an oversight and advisory board to make recommendations to the Department about amount and collection of the fee, and changes to eligibility requirements if monies from the fee are insufficient to cover eligibility expansions.

**Colorado House Bill 09 1020:** Directs the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to establish a system for online or telephone re-enrollment for Medicaid and CHP+. The bill passed the House Second Reading with amendments on April 6, 2009. The bill was amended to eliminate the fiscal note, make implementation contingent on future state appropriations, gifts, grants, or donations, and include the option for a pilot program.

**Colorado Senate Bill 09 228:** Removes the 1991 Arveschoug-Bird law from Colorado statute. The Arveschoug-Bird law is a budget formula that places an annual six percent cap on growth of the state general fund. Money collected above the six percent is often used to fund transportation and other building projects. The bill passed in the Senate and was introduced in the house and assigned to Transportation, Energy, and Appropriation Committees.



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### **Accountable Care Collaborative**

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing continues to move forward with the Accountable Care Collaborative. The goal of the Collaborative is to improve health outcomes for Medicaid clients through a coordinated, client-centered, outcomes-driven system while supporting and protecting providers. The current conceptual framework includes:

- Statewide Data and Certification Organization – create web-based health information system, use data to identify opportunities for improvement, and provide care management software and provider IT support.
- Regional care coordination organizations – offer care-coordination services and support local participating providers and clients in all regions.

A draft Request for Information (RFI) was released early March 2009 for public comment. The Department plans to use comments received and feedback provided at the four spring 2009 public meetings to inform development and implementation of the Collaborative. The Department will release the final RFI in April 2009. Additional information is available on the Department's web site.

### **Events**

- **2009 Colorado Health Care Safety Net Symposium, *Colorado's Safety Net: Building and monitoring caring communities*** sponsored by the Colorado Health Institute will be held May 3-4, 2009 at the Denver Marriot West in Golden, Colorado. [Click here](#) for more information.
- **University of Colorado Denver's School of Public Affairs Center on Domestic Violence announces their first course of the Certificate in Interpersonal Violence and Health Care**, May 21-23, 2009, Hilton Garden Inn, Denver. Enroll in this course or enroll in the full certificate. To learn more, [click here](#). To enroll in the May 21-23 course (PAD 5960) or the full certificate, [click here](#). Questions? Phone 303-315-2736 or email [cdv@ucdenver.edu](mailto:cdv@ucdenver.edu)
- **2009 Colorado Health Symposium: *The New Health Policy Landscape*** (formerly the Dorsey Hughes Symposium) presented by The Colorado Health Foundation in cooperation with *Health Affairs* will be held July 30 - August 1 at the Keystone Resort & Conference Center. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Jobs**

- **Denver Public Schools** is hiring a **Medicaid/CHP+ Outreach and Enrollment Specialist**. [Click here](#) for more information. The position is listed under Pro Tech category.
- **Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN)** is hiring a **Clinical Project Coordinator**. [Click here](#) for more information.