



## Colorado Covering Kids and Families

January 2012

### CKF Coalition Update

#### Happy New Year CKF Coalition Member,

We hope this month's update finds you enjoying winter in Colorado and looking forward to another year of opportunities to connect more eligible kids to the coverage they need to be healthy! 2012 is expected to be an exciting year based on anticipated decisions about federal and state issues that will impact health coverage for children and families.

- The Supreme Court will hear arguments and make a decision about the constitutionality of a portion of the health care reform law.
- Congress will revisit the federal budget and discussions will likely include Medicaid.
- The November 2012 election results could impact the direction of health policy.
- Colorado will expand Medicaid to cover adults without dependent children (up to 10% of the federal poverty level (FPL)) and adults and children with disabilities via a buy-in program (up to 450% FPL).
- Colorado is putting in place plans to improve CBMS starting the second quarter of 2012.

Thank you for your dedication to Colorado kids and families! We look forward to working with you in 2012 to continue to improve coverage for Colorado children and families.

Sincerely,  
Brittney Petersen

#### CKF Staff Updates – New Year, New Name!

In case you are wondering who Christy Boland is, Christy was married last fall and has changed her last name from Trimmer to Boland. To keep up to date with the latest information on the Agency Partners Work Group, please open those e-mails from Christy Boland! ☺

The next **CKF Agency Partners Work Group** meeting will be held on **Jan. 27, 2012, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.** at CCHN (600 Grant St., Ste. 800, Denver).

The next **CKF Health Policy Work Group** meeting will be held on **Feb. 16, 2012, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.** at CCHN (600 Grant St., Ste. 800, Denver).

The next **CKF Quarterly Coalition** meeting will be held on **April 11, 2012, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.** at Rose Community Foundation (600 S. Cherry St., Ste. 1200, Denver).

Meeting [notes](#) and [recording](#) from the Jan. 11, 2012 Quarterly Coalition meeting are available on our website.

For more information about CKF's meetings, coalition, or work groups, contact Kristen Pieper at [kristen@cchn.org](mailto:kristen@cchn.org).



## Colorado Covering Kids and Families

**January 2012**

Check the CKF website at [www.cchn.org/ckf](http://www.cchn.org/ckf) for the [2012 CKF meeting calendar](#).

### **Outreach and Enrollment Update**

#### **CHP+ Cost Sharing Rule Increases Enrollment Fees Jan. 1, 2012**

The Medical Services Board (MSB) passed a [rule](#) at the November meeting which increases the annual enrollment fee for Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) children in families between 205 and 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to \$75 for one child and \$105 for two or more children. This change was effective Jan. 1, 2012. Click [here](#) for more information.

#### **HCPF Regional Meetings Scheduled**

In late January and early February, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) will be conducting regional meetings throughout the state. Each meeting will be approximately two hours and include an overview of the Medicaid expansions to adults without dependent children and the Medicaid buy-in for working adults with disabilities, as well as the [Colorado Program Eligibility and Application Kit \(PEAK\)](#). Click [here](#) for more information and [here](#) to register.

#### **Updates to Colorado PEAK**

On Dec. 18, the new zip code enhancement was added to the PEAK [online application](#). This enhancement offers a number of improvements to the system:

- Applications will be directed to the appropriate county based on the address of the applicant, eliminating some of the incorrect assignment of cases to counties.
- Applicants will no longer need to select the county in which they live because PEAK will automatically determine that based on the zip code and address they enter.
- The health maintenance organization (HMO) drop-down menu will only display those HMOs available in the applicant's area based on their zip code.
- In the final screen of PEAK, applicants will now see exactly where their application has been sent without having to open the PDF of the application.

Interested in seeing how many PEAK applications and change requests are being submitted in your county? Check out the new report function in PEAK by going to [www.colorado.gov/peak](http://www.colorado.gov/peak) and clicking on reports under "quick links" on the bottom left of the page.

#### **Colorado Receives \$26.1 Million Performance Bonus**

Colorado has been awarded \$26.1 million in federal funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for implementing five policies that make it easier for families to access affordable, quality health care and help the state to stretch tax payer dollars further by cutting red tape. Colorado was one of 23 states awarded a federal "bonus" for



## Colorado Covering Kids and Families

### January 2012

meeting criteria established in the 2009 federal reauthorization of the Child Health Insurance Plan and demonstrating a significant increase in the number of children enrolled in public insurance programs. Of the 23 awards, Colorado's bonus of \$26.1M from the Department of Health and Human Services was the third largest - behind only Maryland and Virginia – and was nearly twice the amount awarded to Colorado last year.

#### **Q&A from MAXIMUS Quarterly Work Group Meeting**

MAXIMUS, the eligibility and enrollment vendor for HCPF, hosted a work group meeting on Dec. 15, 2011 – questions and answers from the meeting are found [here](#).

#### **Check Out AKC's Facebook Page!**

Interested in another way to connect with families who need health care and health coverage and with the organizations that serve them? Check out the All Kids Covered (AKC) Facebook page. Here are four simple ways your organization can participate:

1. Have your organization's Facebook page "like" the [AKC Facebook page](#).
2. Share the content posted on the AKC Facebook page on your organization's Facebook page.
3. Ask your members, partners, constituents, and general audience to participate on the AKC page by including information in your next newsletter or email blast.
4. Post your thoughts about and responses to the content that we post on the AKC page.

#### **Health Policy Update**

##### **No Change to CHP+ Pre-HMO Period – CHP+ Coverage Starts Date of Application**

On Jan. 13, 2012, the MSB passed a [rule](#) to reinstate the pre-HMO period for children applying for CHP+. This means that there will be no change to the current rule; if a child is determined eligible for CHP+, eligibility will begin on the date of application. This reverses a rule passed in Nov. 2011 that would have eliminated the pre-HMO enrollment period. HCPF determined that the elimination of the pre-HMO period would have created a barrier to access to care and would not achieve the budget savings initially anticipated.

##### **HCPF to Propose Using a Lottery to Fill the 10,000 AwDC Slots**

As a result of the amount of feedback the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing received about the fairness of enrolling individuals into the 10,000 slots on a first come, first served basis, HCPF is asking the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to approve a lottery method for enrollment in the upcoming Adults without Dependent Children Medicaid Expansion. Under this plan, HCPF would use uninsured county data that is rolled up by [Regional Care Collaborative Organization](#) (RCCO) regions to allocate the 10,000 available slots across all RCCOs. When the lottery is first run, HCPF would take all applications that have been deemed eligible, ensure they are appropriately associated with the correct RCCO based on their home address, and use a lottery method to fill each RCCO's allocated number of slots. Once



## Colorado Covering Kids and Families

### January 2012

the 10,000 cap is reached all other individuals deemed eligible will be placed on a waitlist and awarded slots from a monthly lottery. Details of this plan are still being determined and will need to be approved by CMS. In addition, HCPF is considering moving the start date for the expansion rollout. Stay tuned for updates from CKF.

### Resources

#### **New Health Coverage Options Resource Guide Now Available**

The Colorado Consumer Health Initiative has launched a new [website](#), which includes a new resource guide and interactive map. The [resource guide](#) directs consumers and advocates to information on health coverage options and the [interactive map](#) directs them to health providers and resources based on location and needed services.

#### **Learn about Food Assistance and Anti-Hunger Resources in your Community**

Looking for resources to help hungry people in your community? Interested in providing application assistance for food assistance programs? Hunger Free Colorado can provide:

- Help applying for the Food Assistance Program in English and Spanish
- Referrals to food pantries and free meals
- Information on child and senior nutrition programs
- Training for groups interested in community-based outreach or learning how to provide application assistance for food programs

For more information, call the Hunger Free Hotline at 720-382-2920 or toll-free at 855-855-4626 or go to [www.HungerFreeColorado.org](http://www.HungerFreeColorado.org) .

#### **CMS Launches New Medicaid and CHIP Website**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) launched a new Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) website at [www.medicaid.gov](http://www.medicaid.gov).

#### **Family Voices Colorado Publishes Online Resource Directory**

The Colorado Resource Directory is a comprehensive repository developed to assist Colorado families in finding assistance and resources. Click [here](#) for more information and to view the directory.

### Events

#### **Register Now for "Speak Up for Kids' Health at the Capitol" Event**

The Colorado Children's Campaign and Children's Hospital Colorado invite you to learn more about the legislative process and current issues facing Colorado's kids at the "Speak Up for Kids' Health at the Capitol" event on Feb. 9, 2012. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

#### **Save the Date: CCHI's Health Care Day of Action**



## Colorado Covering Kids and Families

### January 2012

Mark your calendars and save the date for CCHI's annual Health Care Day of Action on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012.

### Jobs

#### **CCMCN Hiring Staff Accountant**

The Colorado Community Managed Care Network (CCMCN) is hiring a staff accountant. Click [here](#) for the job description. The deadline to submit applications is **Jan. 20, 2012**.