



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

June 2009

CKF Coalition Update

Thank You for Taking Action!

CKF received support from over 25 organizations and individuals for our letter to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing that advocates for specific reforms from our “The Maze” report to increase the impact of current Department initiatives to improve Colorado’s system. Thank you for your support!

The **CKF Agency Partner Work Group meeting scheduled for Friday, June 26 has been cancelled.** Our next Agency Partner Work Group meeting will be held July 24. Gina Robinson from HCPF will speak about the State’s new outreach plan, Healthy Communities. For more information or to join this work group, please contact Christy Trimmer, CKF Field Coordinator at christy@cchn.org.

The **CKF Health Policy Work Group** will meet on **Thursday, June 18, from 9-10am** at CCHN. A reminder and agenda will be emailed to Work Group members prior to the meeting. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Brittney Petersen, CKF Policy Analyst for more information at brittney@cchn.org.

Health Care Policy and Financing Update

Department’s 2008 Annual Report Released: The Department released their first-ever annual report. The report, which covers calendar years 2007 and 2008, provides an overview of the programs and services provided by the Department and includes updates on their various initiatives. The report can be found under the “what’s new” link on the Department’s website, <http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf>.

Unprecedented Increases in Colorado’s Medicaid Caseload: The Department announced that as of April 30, 2009, more people are covered by Medicaid in Colorado since the inception of the program in 1969. The number of clients receiving Medicaid benefits has risen to 457,699 – enough people to fill the Pepsi Center 24 times. This is an increase of over 9,000 clients from last month and 72,597 from this time last year.

The Department stated that the increase in Medicaid enrollment is directly related to economic conditions and the outreach efforts by the Department. The Department predicts that the growth rate in Medicaid should slow down as more jobs are created through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Outreach Update

Governor Ritter to Host Free Help Fair for Working Families: Gov. Bill Ritter and several state agencies, nonprofits and other service providers will host a free help fair at the **State Capitol (East side of the State Capitol, off of Grant Street between Colfax and 14th) on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 from 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.** for working families struggling to survive the economic downturn. In case of rain, the fair will take place inside on the first floor of the Capitol building.

State agencies, non-profits and other service providers will offer free information at a “Help for Working Families Fair.” Counselors and other experts will direct people to information, resources and relief regarding finances, mortgages, unemployment insurance, healthcare, housing, utility assistance and



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home weatherization. Participating agencies include the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Colorado Foreclosure Hotline, Colorado Nonprofit Association and Governor's Energy Office.

During the fair, Gov. Ritter also will sign into law legislation that will help responsible homeowners avoid foreclosure, provide additional unemployment benefits to Coloradans who've lost their jobs, and ensure that hard-working families do not improperly lose their unemployment or workers' compensation benefits.

Free Webinar on Back to School Outreach Strategies: America's Promise Alliance, a partner of National Covering Kids and Families, is hosting a **free webinar** entitled ***Back to School Outreach: Strategies for Connecting Uninsured Children to Health Coverage***. The webinar will take place on **Thursday, June 11, from 1:00 – 2:30 pm (Mountain Time)** and will share best practices in outreach during back-to-school time. Please RSVP by Monday, June 8 to CarolineB@americaspromise.org. Call-in and log-in instructions will be provided in advance to those who RSVP.

Health Policy Update

UPDATE: The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA): On May 8, 2009, the Medical Services Board heard and **temporarily adopted** a revised rule regarding two

CHIPRA citizenship documentation requirements:

1. Newborns whose birth was paid for by Medicaid no longer need to prove their citizenship after one year of eligibility ends.
2. States must accept certain tribal documents to establish citizenship.

The revised rule includes a clause that retroactively rescinds denials for both situations if specific criteria are met. **The temporary rule is effective immediately** and will be effective for three months from date of adoption (until August 8.) In June, the Board will vote to permanently adopt the revised rule. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is currently drafting an agency letter describing the rule and procedure changes to send to counties and other partners. CKF will share more information, including an estimated release of the agency letter, as soon as it becomes available.