



## Colorado Covering Kids and Families

**June 2010**

### **CKF Coalition Update**

#### **CKF Staffing Update**

CKF is excited to welcome a new staff member to the project. Kristen Pieper has been working jointly for two CCHN divisions, Policy and Health Center Operations, for ten months. She has been recently promoted to Special Projects Coordinator (final title TBD) for the Policy Division and will join CKF half time to help move the project's goals and activities forward. Please join us in welcoming Kristen to CKF!

#### **CKF Upcoming Meetings**

The next **CKF Agency Partners Work Group** meeting is **Friday, June 25, 2010 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.** at CCHN (600 Grant St., Suite 800, Denver, CO 80203). A reminder and agenda will be emailed to the Work Group prior to the meeting. For more information, please contact Christy Trimmer, CKF Community Liaison and Policy Analyst, at [christy@cchn.org](mailto:christy@cchn.org).

Please join us for the next **CKF Quarterly Coalition** meeting on **Wednesday, July 14, 2010 from 9:00 to 10:45 a.m.** in Suite 1200 on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor at Rose Community Foundation (600 S. Cherry St., Denver, CO 80246). For more information, please contact Brittney Petersen, CKF Project Manager, at [brittney@cchn.org](mailto:brittney@cchn.org).

The next **CKF Health Policy Work Group** meeting is **Thursday, August 19, 2010 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.** at CCHN (600 Grant St., Suite 800, Denver, CO 80203). For more information, please contact Brittney Petersen, CKF Project Manager, at [brittney@cchn.org](mailto:brittney@cchn.org).

Visit CKF's [Web site](#) for the [2010 CKF meeting calendar](#).

### **Outreach and Enrollment Update**

#### **Changes to Program Policy of Medicaid Parent Expansion**

During the implementation of the Medicaid Parents Expansion to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) confirmed that it is NOT a requirement to have all household members request Medical Assistance to receive coverage under the Medicaid Parent Expansion Program. To read more details and see how this rule change could impact families on the Medicaid Parents Program, please read the [communication](#) that HCPF sent to community organizations and providers on May 7, 2010. The computer system that determines eligibility, CBMS, is still requiring all household members to apply for benefits and is improperly denying applicants that do not have all household members applying. This problem is scheduled to be fixed in CBMS in August. The CKF Agency Partners Work Group discussed the impact of the rule change with Corinne Lamberson, Family Medicaid Policy Specialist from HCPF, at the May 21, 2010 meeting. To see notes from the meeting, please click [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Sanchez at HCPF at [sandra.sanchez@state.co.us](mailto:sandra.sanchez@state.co.us) or (303) 866-2823.



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### **Questions and Answers (Q&A) about Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) Policy Updates**

HCPF has released a [Q&A document](#) that outlines questions about the citizenship and identity documents required by DRA. Although this document is lengthy and is intended for CBMS users, it includes information that may be of use to community organizations, including:

- Updates about the interfaces that will allow for electronic verification of citizenship and identity (questions 1 and 2 on page 1);
- Information on cases that are pending because one person has not provided DRA but others family members have (question 6, page 3 and pages 19-23);
- Descriptions of acceptable types of documentation including expired documents and when it is acceptable to use citizenship and identity affidavits (pages 5-15);
- Clarifies that identity never needs to be verified when an affidavit was previously accepted for a child who turns 16 years of age (question 9, page 9);
- Citizenship and identity never needs to be verified for newborns born to mothers on Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) (question 1, page 15), however, although all Medicaid/CHP+ newborns are exempt from DRA requirements, currently CBMS only recognizes those newborns born on or after 3/1/10 as being exempt (questions 20 and 21, page 18); and
- Newborns born prior to 3/1/10 will be identified and exempt from DRA requirements in a future CBMS change request.

### **Name Change to New CHP+ Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)**

Effective June 1, 2010, the name of the new CHP+ HMO is **Colorado Choice Health Plan**, instead of San Luis Valley HMO. Colorado Choice Health Plan will be available for CHP+ children in Alamosa, Bent, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Las Animas, Mineral, Otero, Prowers, Rio Grande, Saguache, and Yuma counties.

### **Updated CHP+ HMO Chart and Reference Guide**

The updated [CHP+ HMO chart](#) includes the counties that CHP+ health plans are available in, the hospitals and pharmacies CHP+ members can use, and the special services each health plan offers. The [CHP+ reference guide](#) provides a one-page reference sheet that includes income guidelines for Medicaid and CHP+ and a description of eligibility, cost, application and HMO selection process for CHP+.

### **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 June 10, 2010 and can be found [here](#). These sites can verify citizenship and identity documents for Medicaid and CHP+ applicants.

## **Health Policy Update**

### **2010 Colorado Legislative Wrap Up: 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 or human services. The bill does not



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specify the circumstances under which the county departments of human/social services will issue letters of referrals for free birth certificates; however, it is assumed that the free birth certificates will be provided to low-income individuals seeking access to services. This bill was signed into law by the Governor. Stay tuned to CKF for information on how the provisions of this bill will be implemented.

#### *House Bill 1022: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Administration*

This bill makes the following changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the 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 was signed into law by the Governor.

#### *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 was signed into law by the Governor, and will be funded by the Medical Marijuana Sales Tax.

#### *House Bill 1041: Universal Application Children's Medicaid*

As part of Medicaid eligibility modernization, the bill authorizes HCPF to create a universal application or single point of entry for home- and community-based services waivers for children. The bill was signed into law by the Governor.

### **New Rules Simplify Medicaid and CHP+ Redeterminations**

On June 11, 2010, the Medical Services Board passed two rules on the emergency consent agenda concerning redeterminations:

- 1.) [Ex parte renewals now allowed for CHP+](#): A redetermination form is not required to be sent to CHP+ clients if all eligibility requirements can be verified by reviewing information from another assistance program, verification system, and/or CBMS. If verification or information is available for any of the three months prior to the redetermination month, no request for additional information shall be made of the client and a notice of redetermination shall go to the client. The only verification that can be required at redetermination is the minimum verification needed to complete a determination of eligibility. An eligibility site may redetermine eligibility through phone, mail or electronic means.
- 2.) [Phone and electronic renewals allowed for Medicaid clients](#): If the redetermination for Medicaid is performed by phone and no documentation is required, a verbal statement from the client is sufficient verification for redetermination and should be noted in the case record and in CBMS case comments.



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These rules are effective immediately, and will be effective for three months from the date of adoption (June 11). At the July meeting, the Board will vote to permanently adopt the rules. CKF anticipates that HCPF will draft an agency letter describing the rules 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.

### Resources

The **Colorado Health Institute** (CHI) released an issue brief, [Colorado Children's Health Insurance Status: 2010 Update](#), which **estimates the number of Colorado children who were eligible but not enrolled (EBNE) in Medicaid or CHP+ in 2008**. CHI reports that there were approximately 115,000 EBNE children in 2008. CHI used a more robust data source and different methods to calculate EBNE children in the state than they did in their report released in 2009; therefore, the 2010 analysis cannot be compared to previous estimates.

The **Summer Food Program** provides **free nutritious meals** to children aged 18 and younger during the summer. Any child can receive free food; there is no application or paperwork required. Locations that offer the program are available around the state and can be found by visiting <http://www.summerfoodcolorado.org> or by calling 877-93-hunger. You can customize your own outreach materials with the summer feeding locations in your community by going to this [link](#).

The **Colorado Health Foundation** (TCHF) has created a **new funding opportunity** to support partnerships between counties and safety net clinics to increase Medicaid and CHP+ enrollment. Specifically, TCHF seeks to fund two-year projects to create partnerships between safety net organizations and county departments of human/social services or other state-designated medical assistance sites to out-station enrollment technicians at clinic sites. Applications are accepted on the regular TCHF cycle. The next deadline is **July 15, 2010**. For more information, click [here](#). To apply, click [here](#).

The **Colorado Trust** has released a new issue brief titled [The Magnitude of Underinsurance in Colorado](#). The brief shows that number of underinsured in Colorado are nearly equal to the number of uninsured and talks about the role that federal health care reform will have in addressing the adequacy of coverage.

**Colorado's efforts to gear up for implementation of health care reform** have been highlighted in the Georgetown Center for Children and Families' Health Policy Blog in an entry titled [Colorado Acting Boldly on Health Reform Implementation](#).

### Events

The All Kids Covered Initiative is hosting an event **Kids' Health Insurance Coverage Forum: Where are we now and how can we get all kids covered?** on June 30 from 8:30am-1:00pm at the Holiday Inn Select Denver - Cherry Creek. The forum will cover the impact of state and



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national health care reform efforts in Colorado, an update on health insurance coverage among low-income kids and parents, and breakout sessions to discuss innovative ideas for enrolling newly eligible parents and updates on enrollment and retention process improvements. There is no charge to attend the event, but please RSVP to [Larissa Ortiz](#). An agenda can be found [here](#).

Bring your kids and join the **All Kids Covered Initiative** for an event on **July 27, 2010** at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate the enrollment of “**Another 100,000 Kids and Counting**.” Governor Bill Ritter and Joan Hennebery, the Executive Director of HCPF, will be in attendance. The event will include cupcakes and a 100-yard dash. The event will be held in central Denver; specific location to be announced.

safety**NET**working is an event where you can **learn about Federal and other safety net programs** that could be of interest to your clients and to network with others who interact with those same clients. Representatives from participating agencies will be available to talk about programs for low to moderate income individuals and families. The event will be held on **June 25, 2010** in Denver. RSVP's are suggested but not required. This is an event for community organizations only; information or services to the public will not be available. For more information, please click [here](#).

TCHF is hosting their annual **Colorado Health Symposium** on July 28-30, 2010 at the Keystone Resort and Conference Center. The focus of the Symposium will be “Value in Health Care: Improving Quality, Controlling Costs.” Register online [here](#).

### Jobs

Metro Organizations for People (MOP) is hiring a Community Organizer. Application deadline is **July 9, 2010**. For more information, go to the [MOP website](#).