



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

March 10, 2010

CKF Coalition Update

The next **CKF Agency Partners Work Group** meeting is **Friday, March 26, 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).

Please join us for the next **CKF Quarterly Coalition** meeting on **Wednesday, April 14, 2010 from 9:00am-11:00am** at the **Rose Community Foundation**, 600 South Cherry St, Suite 1200 in Denver. An agenda will be emailed to the Coalition prior to the meeting. Please contact Brittney Petersen, CKF Project Manager, for more information (brittney@cchn.org).

*Conference call will be available at 1-866-453-5550 pin number: 2228909.

The next **CKF Health Policy Work Group** meeting is **Thursday, April 15, 2010 from 9-10:00am** at CCHN, located at 600 Grant Street, Suite 800 in Denver. A reminder and agenda will be emailed to Work Group members prior to the meeting. Please contact Brittney Petersen, CKF Project Manager, for more information (brittney@cchn.org).

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

Outreach and Enrollment Update

HCPF Staff Transitions: New Staff Member Dedicated Solely to Presumptive Eligibility

Georgann Garcia is now the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's full-time employee dedicated solely to presumptive eligibility. Georgann will handle all of the daily activities of PE, including site certification and recertification. *Please note that this does not change the current process that entails emailing your questions to the PE eligibility email address.* If you have questions, please send them to Pe.Eligibility@hcpf.state.co.us.

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 March 1, 2010 and can be found [here](#). These sites can verify citizenship and identify documents for Medicaid and CHP+ applicants.

Remaining Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Outreach Conferences

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing continues to host regional outreach conferences in March 2010 for organizations interested in better assisting Coloradans with applying for public health insurance. There will be a separate training for CBMS users in spring 2010.

Remaining conference dates:

March 17 and 18 – Greeley

March 30 and 31 – Colorado Springs

Click [here](#) for information on conference topics. Email outreach@hcpf.state.co.us with questions and register for the conferences at <http://hcpftraining.gosignmeup.com/>.



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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 Carol Rieder at carol.rieder@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.

School-Based Grant Opportunity from The Colorado Health Foundation

The Colorado Health Foundation (TCHF) seeks to fund two-year grants to create partnerships between school districts and county departments of human/social services or other state-designated medical assistance sites. To apply, please use TCHF’s [online grant application](#). The next grant proposal deadline is April 15. Please contact Amy Latham at ALatham@ColoradoHealth.org with questions.

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 time of renewal. The Medical Services Board permanently adopted this new rule on February 19, 2010. Look for an agency letter from HCPF in the coming weeks.

Health Care Reform Update

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Affordable Health Care for America Act on November 7, 2009 and the U.S. Senate passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on December 24, 2009. On February 22, 2010, President Obama revitalized the health care reform debate by announcing a proposal incorporating ideas from the both the Senate and House bills. The President’s proposal and the two bills focus on provisions to expand health care coverage, control health care costs, and improve the health care delivery system. The Kaiser Family Foundation has put together a [side-by-side comparison](#) of the health care reform proposals by the Senate, House and President Obama.

The next steps in the process, as outlined by the President and Democratic leadership, are for the House to pass the health care bill approved in December by the Senate. After that, both chambers would approve a separate package of changes using a parliamentary device known as budget reconciliation, which requires a simple majority vote in the Senate for approval. The legislation would revise the Senate



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health bill to reflect compromises between House and Senate Democrats and suggestions by President Obama. For more information, please visit the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) and the [Georgetown Center for Children and Families](#).

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 was assigned to the Health and Human Services Committee in the House.

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 Committee on February 11 and has been passed to the House Appropriations Committee.

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 bill was sent to the Governor to be signed into law on March 8, 2010.

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 Health and Human Services Committee on February 22 and has been passed on to the House Appropriations Committee.

Resources

Ranking of Healthiest and Least Healthy Counties

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently released the *County Health Rankings*, which identifies the healthiest and least healthy counties within every state in the nation. Each county is ranked by healthy behaviors, how long people live, access to care, social, economic, and environmental factors such as high school graduation, unemployment and violent crime rates, air pollution levels, liquor store density, and number of children living in poverty. The brief can be found at www.countyhealthrankings.org.

HCPF 2009 Annual Report

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing released the [HCPF 2009 Annual Report](#), highlighting the progress the Department has made in reforming Colorado health care from January 2007



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to December 2009. The report includes program information and updates in the areas of increasing the number of insured Coloradans, improving health outcomes, increasing access to health care, and containing health care costs.

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>.

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.