



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

May 2009

### **CKF Coalition Update**

The **CKF Agency Partner Work Group** will meet on **Friday, May 22, from 9:00- 10:30am** at CCHN. An agenda will be emailed prior to the meeting. For more information or to join this work group, please contact Christy Trimmer, CKF Field Coordinator at [christy@cchn.org](mailto:christy@cchn.org).

The **CKF Health Policy Work Group** met on Thursday, April 30, 2009 to discuss activities and priorities for the coming months. Our next meeting is **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](mailto:brittney@cchn.org).

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

### **Request for Action!**

On April 22, 2009, CKF released a new report, "[The Maze](#)," that examines the path uninsured kids and families must navigate to enroll in Colorado Medicaid and CHP+. Using valuable insight from Coalition members, CKF describes the numerous barriers applicants face and options for reform and provides twenty recommendations to guide Colorado's decision-makers as they work to simplify the path to Medicaid and CHP+ coverage. CKF worked with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to have them review the report and provide feedback. Prior to the report release, the Department provided a written response that outlines several current and future initiatives that address barriers to enrollment. We will post the Department's response on CKF's web site later this month.

CKF created a letter addressed to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing that advocates for specific reforms that will increase the impact of current Department initiatives to improve Colorado's system. Please email [brittney@cchn.org](mailto:brittney@cchn.org) by **Friday, May 15** if you would like to sign on to the letter. We hope you will consider signing on!

### **Health Care Policy and Financing Update**

#### **HCPF "At a Glance" Newsletter Provides Monthly Updates from the Department**

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing has begun issuing a monthly newsletter to keep their partners updated on the Department's priorities. The newsletters will be posted under the "what's new" link on HCPF's website, <http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf>. The May 8 edition of the newsletter can be found [by clicking here](#). To be added to the "At a Glance" e-mail distribution list, please e-mail Jennifer Larsen at [jennifer.larsen@state.co.us](mailto:jennifer.larsen@state.co.us).

#### **Quality Improvement Initiatives at HCPF**

The Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control (MEQC) program is implementing a statewide pilot project to review presumptive eligibility (PE) sites. The purpose of this pilot is to evaluate the accuracy of the PE eligibility determinations and the timely processing standard for these cases. This pilot project will take place between April 2009 and September 2009, though the cases that will be audited will have been processed between January and April 2009. Cases and PE sites to be reviewed will be randomly selected by the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF). HCPF will send letters to the



## Colorado Covering Kids and Families

### May 2009

selected sites requesting information about randomly selected cases, and sites will have 10 days to respond. The populations that will be excluded from the audit are children in foster care, people who receive Supplemental Security Income or are enrolled in CHP+, or programs that are 100 percent federally funded. For more information, contact Kieu Pham, MEQC Analyst Lead at HCPF at [Bichkieu.Pham@state.co.us](mailto:Bichkieu.Pham@state.co.us) or call 303-866-2022.

### Outreach and Enrollment Update

#### Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Regional Conference Registration Now Available

Registration and descriptions of conference sessions for the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's regional conferences are now available at <http://hcpftraining.gosignmeup.com>. The conferences provide medical assistance training for all who administer programs on behalf of the Department.

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.

Remaining conference dates and locations:

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 contact Sarah Roberts at [sarah.roberts@state.co.us](mailto:sarah.roberts@state.co.us) with questions.

#### Spanish-language Novela Now Playing on Univision Colorado

On May 3, Entravision Communications broadcast the first episode of the novela, *Encrucijada: Sin Salud No Hay Nada*. The novela is a Spanish-language soap opera with health themes intended to raise awareness about public insurance and access to care. This was the first of 12 installments that will be broadcast at 5 and 10pm the first Sunday of every month on Front Range Univision Colorado stations. At the end of each episode, viewers are directed to an informational website and a toll-free number (1-888-747-2583) for help with accessing health care.

#### KidzBlitz Enrollment Fair Resource Manual Now Available Online

KidzBlitz, an initiative striving to decrease the number of children who are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+, has developed an Enrollment Fair Resource Manual. This manual describes how to plan and execute an enrollment fair and can be downloaded from <http://www.ccmu.org/programs.asp>. KidzBlitz will publish an Enrollment Fair Tool Kit in August 2009 that will include a more comprehensive description of Enrollment Fair practices and procedures.

### Health Policy Update

#### Colorado Affordability Study

On April 29, 2009, the Colorado Center on Law and Policy and Colorado Voices for Coverage released a



## Colorado Covering Kids and Families

### May 2009

new study, "[The Cost of Care: Can Coloradans Afford Health Care.](#)" The study examines what affordability means to families across Colorado, how policymakers can address affordability, and a definition of affordability that would ensure all Coloradans could access care. Data for the study was gathered through surveys of approximately 1,000 families under 500% of the Federal Poverty Level conducted at 100 community budget workshops conducted throughout Colorado. The study found that many Colorado families have little or nothing to pay for health care, and, in many cases, health care costs force families to make financial tradeoffs with other necessary expenses.

**The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA):** On May 8, 2009, the Medical Services Board heard 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 rule will be presented again in June to allow enough time for the public to participate. The Department is waiting for further guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid regarding the last related provision: states must provide benefits to individuals who meet other eligibility requirements while gathering citizenship documents.

**Colorado House Bill 09-1353:** CHIPRA gives states the option to cover "lawfully residing immigrant children and pregnant women" that have not been in the U.S. for five years. A late bill was introduced regarding the removal of the five-year waiting period for legal immigrant children and pregnant women to be eligible for Medicaid or CHP+. The bill passed in both the house and Senate and has been sent to the Governor. Implementation is contingent on funding.

**Colorado House Bill 09-1293:** Governor Bill Ritter signed the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act (HB 09-1293) on April 21, 2009. HB 1293:

- Imposes a fee on hospitals; Colorado will receive matching Federal funds for this fee
  - Expands eligibility for:
    - ◇ Parents of children eligible for Medicaid and CHP+ up to 100% of the federal poverty level (*Implementation Spring 2010*).
    - ◇ Children and pregnant women under CHP+ up to 250% of the federal poverty level (*Implementation Spring 2010*).
    - ◇ Disabled individuals participating in a Medicaid buy-in program up to 450% of the federal poverty level (*Implementation Summer 2011*).
    - ◇ Childless adults or adults without a dependent child at home up to 100% of the federal poverty level (*Implementation Early 2012*).
    - ◇ Provides for 12-month continuous eligibility for children with Medicaid (*Implementation Spring 2012*).
  - Increases hospital reimbursement rates under Medicaid and the Colorado Indigent Care Program.
- The bill establishes an advisory board to make recommendations to the Department about amount and



## Colorado Covering Kids and Families

### May 2009

collection of the fee, and changes to eligibility requirements if monies from the fee are insufficient to cover eligibility expansions. **Please note the implementation dates above are tentative.** Next steps include: 1) forming and holding first Advisory Board meeting in June, and 2) developing provider fee model to submit to CMS in August for approval.

**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 allows the Department to create a pilot program to serve a small population before rolling out statewide. The bill passed both the House and Senate and has been sent to the Governor.

**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. A deal was reached between the governor, lawmakers, and advocates. The compromise limits General Fund appropriations to 5% of Colorado personal income. Transfers from the General Fund to transportation, capital construction, and the reserve are for a five-year period starting fiscal year 2012-2013. These transfers will only begin if personal income increases by at least 5%. The transfers are as follows: 2% to transportation, 0.5% years 1-2, 1% years 3-5 to capital construction, and 0.5% to a General Fund reserve. The bill passed in both the house and Senate and has been sent to the Governor.

CKF will continue to keep you posted on the implementation of legislation passed this session.

### Accountable Care Collaborative

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing continues to move forward with the Accountable Care Collaborative. The Collaborative is part of the Medicaid reform effort, and the current framework consists of a statewide data and certification organization and regional care coordination organizations. The regional organizations will offer care-coordination services and support the local participating providers and clients in the regions. In exchange for the additional clinical support, providers will be asked to offer increased access to clients (extended office hours, some same-day appointments, etc.) and to begin to use state-supplied health information technology.

The Department has delayed the posting of the final Request for Information to May 2009 to incorporate additional stakeholder feedback. The remaining public forum is scheduled for June 11, 2009 from 2:00-5:00pm. More information is available on the Department's [web site](#).

### Events

- **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 Dorsey Hughes Symposium) presented by The Colorado Health Foundation in cooperation with *Health Affairs* will be



## Colorado Covering Kids and Families

**May 2009**

held July 30 - August 1 at the Keystone Resort & Conference Center. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Resources

- The **Southern Institute on Children and Families** released a new report, [Medicaid and CHIP Retention: A Key Strategy to Reducing the Uninsured](#), which shares information learned during the *Retention Initiative: Achieving Stability in Medicaid and SCHIP Coverage* funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- New **Families USA** issue briefs continue series on implementation of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA). [Covering More Children, Rewarding Success: State Performance Bonuses](#), discusses the new system of performance bonuses created by the new CHIP law which are designed to reward states for enrolling more uninsured low-income children in Medicaid. [Exploring New Opportunities for Children's Coverage](#) examines the new provisions that were included in the reauthorization and how they will affect implementation in the coming months.
- **Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families** and the **Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured** released the next topic in the *CHIP Tips* series entitled [CHIP Tips: Citizenship Documentation Changes](#).
- The **National Academy for State Health Policy** issued a report, [Express Lane Eligibility and Beyond: How Automated Enrollment Can Help Eligible Children Receive Medicaid and CHIP](#), which shares information on how automated enrollment strategies make it easier for eligible children to obtain and retain health coverage.