



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

Covering Kids and Families • Monthly Outreach and Enrollment Update

Notes from the January 23, 2009 Agency Partners Work Group Meeting and Other News

ACS Cares Project Update: The ACS CHP+ Cares Project is a new plan to enhance ACS's level of service and to improve customer satisfaction with CHP+ stakeholders and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Suzanne Danilson is the Communications Coordinator for the ACS Colorado CHP+ Cares Project. Suzanne will be working in Colorado over the next few months to convene Focus Groups of community partners across the state. These focus groups will cover 1) understanding what ACS does 2) rating the ACS Customer Service line, member maintenance email address, and the CHP+ website and 3) suggestions on how to be more responsive to community partners. Suzanne will prepare a report and action plan in March 2009 for addressing the issues raised by the stakeholders in the Focus Groups and other stakeholder contacts. The report will include both those items that ACS will take action on and suggestions for the Department on the CHP+ program. Below is the schedule of regional Focus Groups. If you would like more information or need to contact Suzanne, you can reach her at suzanne.danilson@acs-inc.com.

Group	Counties/Participants	Location	Date	Time
Northern	Larimer, Logan, Morgan Washington, Weld, Yuma	Weld Co. DSS Greeley	February 19, 2009	2:00 pm-4:00 pm
Logan County DSS	Logan County	Logan County DSS Sterling	February 24, 2009	10:00 am- 12:00 pm
Boulder	Boulder, Broomfield, Gilpin, Jefferson,	ACS Office Denver	February 25, 2009	11:00 am- 2:30 pm
Denver	Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, Elbert	ACS office Denver	February 26, 2009	11:00 am- 2:30 pm
Western	Delta, Garfield, Gunnison, La Plata, Mesa, Montrose, Pitkin, San Miguel	Mesa Co. DSS Grand Junction	March 3, 2009	10:00 am- 12:00 pm
Boulder Co	Boulder Co technicians	Boulder Co DSS Boulder	March 4, 2009	2:30 pm-4:30 pm
Salud Clinics	Salud Clinic business managers and financial intake	Ft. Lupton	March 4, 2009	9:00 am- 11:00 am
Mid- Southern	El Paso, Fremont, Kit Carson, Pueblo	Pueblo Library Pueblo	March 5, 2009	10:00 am- 12:00 pm
Southern	Alamosa, Huerfano. Las Animas, Otero	Las Animas DSS Trinidad	March 5, 2009	2:00 am-4:00 pm

Federal and State Policy Updates:



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SCHIP Reauthorization Law: On February 4, 2009 President Obama signed the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization bill (H.R. 2) into law. The law extends the SCHIP program for 4 ½ more years and ensures that the 7 million children currently covered by SCHIP continue to be covered and 4 million more children who are currently uninsured will now be covered. The law contains many important provisions that can strengthen states' SCHIP programs and increase coverage for uninsured children, including:

- Encouraging states to cover children who are currently eligible but unenrolled and providing tools for states to reach these children including incentive funding for states who implement various simplification techniques.
- Providing states the option to cover legal immigrant children and pregnant women who have lived in the United States for less than five years.
- Strengthening the benefits package to provide children with dental and mental health benefits.

CKF and our partners continue to assess the new law to gain a better understanding of opportunities for Colorado's SCHIP program, CHP+.

Colorado House Bill 09-1020: HB-1020, sponsored by Representative Acree and Senator Spence, directs HCPF to establish a process for telephone and online re-enrollment into Medicaid and CHP+. The bill passed the House Health and Human Services Committee and will be heard by the House Appropriations Committee next.

Colorado Hospital Provider Fee: Governor Ritter and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) proposed a hospital provider fee as a revenue stream to cover more uninsured children and adults in Colorado. The State worked extensively with the Colorado Hospital Association for many months as the plan was developed. Through a hospital provider fee, Colorado would receive matching federal funds that would mean over \$1 billion in state/federal funds for Colorado. The hospital fee and matching federal funds will generate new revenue to:

- Increase hospital reimbursement rates under Medicaid and the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP), which will reduce uncompensated care and cost shifting; and
- Cover the uninsured by increasing eligibility for Medicaid and CHP+.

A bill proposing the hospital provider fee is expected to be introduced soon (maybe next week) and offers substantial expansions in health coverage to Colorado's children, parents, and adults without children. CKF will keep you posted.

Medicaid Regulation Rewrite: In January, Colorado's Medical Services Board passed on initial reading a revised Medicaid regulation. The revision restructured the Medicaid rule to create better organization of the rules and update outdated regulations and language. Two new rules in the rewrite of interest include administrative verification of income and ex parte renewal. Below is a description of each rule:

Administrative verification of income: In 2007, Senate Bill 161 directed HCPF to allow for administrative verification of income for Medicaid and CHP+ families. The Medicaid rule rewrite in January established the rule allowing for this process. This means that eligibility technicians will use wage information available through existing state databases to verify a family's income rather than requiring a family to submit proof through pay stubs or employer letters. Families will still have the option to submit verification if the wage database information is inaccurate. HCPF is currently working to implement this process. Implementation has been delayed until changes



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can be made in the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) after April 15, 2009. We will keep you posted once more details are available.

Ex parte renewal: This new Colorado Medicaid regulation requires eligibility technicians to use existing information, such as information from other public programs and databases, when available, to verify if an individual remains eligible for coverage at renewal. This process, known as ex parte renewal, is required by federal regulation. If the technician is unable to verify renewed coverage through the ex parte renewal process, the technician can then send a renewal form for the family to complete. Ex parte renewal is an important simplification technique that decreases the need for families to complete renewal forms if the state already has information that proves the individual remains eligible for coverage. HCPF is currently implementing this process and will be training the appropriate eligibility technicians on this new process. CKF will keep you posted as we learn more.

Job Opportunities:

Denver Public Schools is hiring a School Medicaid Outreach/Enrollment Specialist. [Click here](#) to view the job posting.

Next Meeting

The next Agency Partner Work Group Meeting will be on February 27th from 9-10:30 at CCHN (600 Grant Street, Suite 800) in the big conference room. Phone participation will be available.