



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

September 22, 2009

CKF Coalition Update

Upcoming CKF Meetings

CKF Quarterly Coalition Meeting: The next CKF Coalition meeting is **Wednesday, October 7, 2009 from 10:00am to noon** at the Young Americans Education Foundation (3550 East First Avenue, Denver). Conference call will be available. There will be important updates on the upcoming Colorado PEAK launch (Program Eligibility and Application Kit- the online screening, application and benefit check tool), federal grant updates and information on health care reform. The full agenda will be emailed the first week of October.

The next **CKF Agency Partners Work Group** meeting will be **Friday, September 25, 2009 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 Field Coordinator for more information (christy@cchn.org).

The **CKF Health Policy Work Group** will meet on **Thursday, October 15, 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 (brittney@cchn.org).

2009 Second Quarter Colorado Medicaid & CHP+ Enrollment Report Available

CKF's [2009 Second Quarter Enrollment Report](#) is now available on our web site. This report illustrates children's enrollment changes in Colorado's Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) programs and if appropriate, identifies corresponding legislation, rule changes, and other factors that may have contributed to an increase or decrease. Enrollment for both programs continued to increase during the second quarter. This increase could be attributed to several factors – continued rising unemployment and ongoing outreach efforts by communities and the Regional Outreach Coordinators.

Please be sure to check our website (www.cchn.org/ckf/) for the 2009 CKF meeting calendar.

Outreach and Enrollment Update

Online Application Updates – Phase 1 of the new online application, Colorado PEAK (Program Eligibility and Application Kit) will be rolled out on October 27, 2009. The first phase will allow individuals to screen for eligibility and check on the status of existing benefits for Food Assistance, Adult Financial, Colorado Works and Medical Assistance Programs. In March 2010, the State will launch Phase 2 which will enable individuals to apply for benefits and report changes to their case. Check out www.colorado.gov/benefits, to read more about PEAK and review a roadmap for CBMS realignment updates. The online application, once launched, will be available at this web address as well.



Colorado Covering Kids and Families

September 22, 2009

State Seeking Bids for New CHP+ Vendor: The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) has solicited bids for a CHP+ vendor that will conduct eligibility and enrollment services for Colorado's medical assistance programs. The new contractor's scope of work will be an expansion of the responsibilities of the current CHP+ vendor. The contractor will partner with HCPF to streamline the current eligibility and enrollment service model. The responsibilities of the contractor will include:

- Processing new enrollment applications and renewals of enrollment for medical assistance programs;
- Conducting routine case maintenance;
- Increasing client retention rates by expanding clients' renewal options and simplifying the renewal process;
- Operating a comprehensive customer service center; and
- Developing efficiencies in the current service delivery model by leveraging technologies such as electronic document management and other industry technologies

The bidding period for this contract will end on November 5, 2009. To view a summary of the request for proposals, please click [here](#) (you must be registered as a vendor through BIDS to review the entire RFP). Stay tuned for updates from CKF on this topic.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) H1N1 Home Care Guides: CDPHE has issued H1N1 home care guides in English and Spanish. The guides include information on how to prepare your home, how to provide care for people with the flu, and other pandemic flu resources. CDPHE would like to distribute these guides to as many Colorado families as possible. If you would like to be mailed copies of the guide to put in your lobby or to hand out to clients, please contact Ann Nedrow at 303-692-2709 or by email at ann.nedrow@state.co.us.

Health Policy Update

Rule Adopted to Help Individuals Obtain Colorado Identification

On September 11, the Medical Services Board permanently adopted a rule that will allow Medicaid applicants and clients who do not possess a Colorado identification card be provided with the opportunity to have the fee for issuing the card waived by getting a referral from the county department. CKF will share more information, including Department communication and implementation of this rule, as soon as it becomes available.

Federal Health Care Reform Update

Congress is back in session and focused on health care reform. As a reminder, the three house committees with jurisdiction over health (House Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor) all passed a version of America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 out of their committees prior to the August recess. The next steps for the House are to look back at the original bill and amendments passed by all three committees to create a blended bill to bring to the



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floor.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee also passed a bill, "Affordable Health Choices Act" prior to the August recess. The final committee, Senate Finance, released a health reform plan on September 16, 2009. Next steps, scheduled for September 22, are for Senate Finance are to vote on provisions and amendments of their proposed bill.

Common components – although differing in details – across all bills include expansion of Medicaid to include kids, parents, and childless adults, individual and employer mandates, national or state exchange or cooperatives, and various types of subsidies, and most provisions would be effective in 2013. For more information, including summaries and side-by-side comparisons of the bills, please visit the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) and the [Georgetown Center for Children and Families](#).

Events

Eighth Annual Culture of Data Conference to be held on Friday, October 23rd, 2009 at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities. Register at:

www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/resourceevents/events.aspx

Registration for the conference is \$15 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Please mail checks or money orders to JSI Research and Training, attn: Culture of Data Conference , 1725 Blake Street, Suite 400 Denver, Colorado 80202. You may also bring cash, a check or money order to the conference. Make checks payable to JSI Research and Training.

Jobs

Clayton Educare is expanding its Early Learning Program. A **Job Fair** will be held on **Monday, September 28, 2009 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm** at Clayton Administration Building - 3801 Martin Luther King Blvd., Denver, CO 80205. For more information, please go to: [Clayton Early Learning Job Fair Information](#)