



COLORADO CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE ACCESS PROGRAM

A Medical Home for Every Child

Mission

The mission of the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program is to ensure that every child enrolled in Medicaid and the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) receives comprehensive healthcare from a primary care provider—a "medical home."

Background Information

There are approximately 140,000 children in Colorado, either enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid and CHP+, who are unable to find a medical home.

Colorado has a strong public health system, but it does not have the capacity to address this problem. A survey conducted by the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program found that only 20% of private pediatricians and family physicians accepted Medicaid or CHP+ in 2005. The survey identified the following barriers to private physicians participating in these government-funded health programs:

- (1) poor reimbursement
- (2) difficulties with eligibility and enrollment
- (3) problems with claims processing
- (4) the need for social service support for the families
- (5) poor access to, and coordination of, mental health services
- (6) problems in providing after-hours telephone care
- (7) need for improved immunization documentation
- (8) transportation problems in low-income families
- (9) need for better case management and care coordination
- (10) difficulty in obtaining and affording interpreters for healthcare visits.



Collaborating Community Organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter

Behavioral Health Organizations:

Colorado Access

Behavioral Healthcare Inc.

Foothills Behavioral Health

ClinicNet

Colorado Access (for CHP+ physical health)

Colorado Community Health Network

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Medicaid)

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Medical Home Division

Colorado Foundation for Families & Children

Colorado Health Institute

Colorado Health Outcomes Program

Colorado Immunization Coalition and The Immunization Registry

County mental health centers

County public health nurses

Denver Samaritan Counseling Center

Department of Child Psychiatry, UCHSC

Department of Pediatrics, UCHSC

EPSDT program, county outreach workers

Family Voices

Logisticare

MetNet

Rocky Mountain Health Plans

Rocky Mountain Youth

The Children's Hospital

The Children's Hospital Emergency Department and Urgent Care Centers

University of Colorado School of Medicine, Dean's Fund

University of Colorado School of Medicine's Cultural Competency Program

Funding Sources

Amer Chair in Community Pediatrics, The Children's Hospital

Caring for Colorado Foundation

Colorado Health Foundation

Colorado Trust

Community Child Health Foundation

Rose Community Foundation

The Piton Foundation

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Healthcare professionals, go to www.cchap.org

Pilot Program

Two physicians at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Steven Poole and James Todd, developed the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program (CCHAP) to address the barriers physicians cited to serving children in the Medicaid and Children's Health Plan programs. After a year of planning, they pilot tested the program with 7,000 children in seven pediatric practices in metro Denver during 2005-06. There were two keys to the success of the pilot program. First, CCHAP negotiated an enhanced reimbursement rate for the physicians through the managed care organization, which recognized that it would save money through



reduced emergency room and hospitalization costs for the children. Second, CCHAP linked the private practices to the services provided by more than 20 community-based organizations, such as mental health counseling, social services, and transportation.

Pilot Program Results

The evaluation of the pilot program has shown that private pediatric practices in Colorado are able and willing to provide a medical home for Medicaid and CHP+ children resulting in

- Reduced cost of care per child;
- Improved health outcome measures
 - immunization rates increased
 - preventive care visits increased
 - emergency care visits and hospitalization rates decreased

Future Plans

In 2007, the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program's goal is to expand to include all pediatric practices in metro Denver, and some family practices too. We hope to further expand the program to all pediatric and family practices in Colorado in 2008 and for the program to be self-sustaining by 2010.