

Attachment 6
Question 44
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING

HB 06-1270 – SCHOOL-BASED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SITES UPDATE

All deadlines associated with HB 06-1270 (School-Based Medical Assistance Sites) have been met as set forth in the legislation. An Advisory Committee was created prior to September 1, 2006 to assist in the implementation of the pilot program and performed the following activities:

- Develop a model application
- Establish criteria for the proposal solicitation
- Solicit proposals from Colorado school districts
- Review proposals received from the school districts
- Recommend school districts to participate to the Executive Director on or before March 1, 2007
- Review or recommend rules to be promulgated by the State Board
- Establish a model Free and Reduced Lunch Application with necessary components outlined in the bill

A letter was sent to all Colorado school districts dated November 30, 2006 to inform them of the release of the proposal solicitation for this project. A follow-up letter was sent to the school districts to inform them that the proposal solicitation was available online January 17, 2007. Interested school districts were required to submit their proposal by February 20, 2007. Three school districts submitted proposals to the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee reviewed the proposals and recommended all three school districts to participate in the demonstration project. This recommendation was given to the Department's Executive Director prior to the March 1, 2007 deadline. On March 16, 2007, awards were given to Pueblo City Schools, Jefferson County Schools and Adams Arapahoe 28-J Schools.

Each school district will have the capacity and capability to process all medical assistance applications submitted to their Medical Assistance (MA) site, utilizing the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) and conducting all eligibility activities as indicated in state and federal rules, regulations, agency letters, etc. As a School-Based Medical Assistance site, the scope of work within each contract requires that each school district:

- Screen applicants for Medicaid and/or Child Health Plan, Plus (CHP+) by using the "2007-2008 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals"
- Write a procedure for application processing for the site and ensure Department approval
- Process applications timely, as set forth in the contract
- Conduct case updates in CBMS, as necessary
- Resolve applicant disputes over eligibility determinations through a formal dispute resolution process, developed by the school district and approved by the Department

- Attend administrative hearings for appeals of their determinations and defending their determination
- Work with the CHP+ Administrative Vendor on CHP+ grievances
- Ensure all school district eligibility workers who make eligibility determinations receive proper training, as outlined in the contract
- Develop a quality improvement plan
- Respond to performance issues with a corrective action plan, as outlined in the contract
- Provide the Department with monthly, quarterly, annual, ad hoc and immediate reporting, as outlined in the contract
- Maintain specific system and network security requirements as well as operational security and client privacy, as outlined in the contract
- Maintain a toll-free number for customer service
- Attend various meetings, as outlined in the contract
- Abide by Department expectations related to communication, record keeping, submitting deliverables timely, and adding additional sites

The Department began contract negotiations with the three school districts in April 2007. The execution of the contracts for these three school districts took longer than expected. While waiting for the contracts to be signed, the school district workers attended CBMS, Medicaid eligibility, operations and policy training and began preparing for the project. Staff managing the Free and Reduced Lunch Programs at each of the school districts began their standard process of determining eligibility for these programs and sorting through the approved applications for families interested in learning more about Medicaid/CHP+. This process will also screen families who indicated interest in the Medicaid/CHP+ programs, but that are already enrolled in one of the programs. The status of the three projects is as follows:

Adams/Arapahoe 28J School District (Aurora Public Schools)

This school district chose to pilot the project in five schools within the school district. They also chose to sub-contract some of the project out to the Arapahoe Department of Human Services. The school district will have an Outreach Coordinator to contact interested families based on information on the Free and Reduced Lunch form, to assist the family in completing the Medical Assistance Application. The Outreach Coordinator at Aurora Public Schools has been assisting families for many years in completing the application. Their experience should be a valuable asset to this project. Once the application has been completed, a sub-contracted employee from Arapahoe County will enter the application into CBMS to determine eligibility.

The contract between the State of Colorado and Adams/Arapahoe 28J School District was executed on October 29 2007. The sub-contract between the school district and the county is still being finalized, but the Department expects work on eligibility determinations to begin in December 2007.

Jefferson County School District

This school district chose to pilot the project in all Jefferson County Schools. Jefferson County school district already had a School Medicaid Program in place in which they aided families in completing the Medical Assistance Applications as part of that program. Previously, the workers from the School Medicaid Program would then forward those completed applications onto the Jefferson County Department of Human Services for entry into CBMS. This experience in working with families should be valuable for the success of this project. Jefferson County has four staff that works with families on Medicaid/CHP+ eligibility processing. This school district has had some difficult delays in successfully starting this project as two of the four eligibility staff left employment with the school district immediately prior to the implementation of the project. The leader of this project has successfully hired replacements, but they were delayed in receiving the necessary training needed to enter applications into CBMS, due to CBMS class scheduling issues.

The contract between the State of Colorado and Jefferson County School District was executed on November 2, 2007. The school district Medicaid workers have attended CBMS training, received over-the-shoulder training from CBMS staff and Jefferson County staff and have begun entering applications into CBMS. The Department has also worked on coordinating communications and training between Jefferson County and the school district to ensure this project is starting appropriately.

Pueblo School District 60 (Pueblo City Schools)

This school district chose to pilot the project in all Pueblo City Schools. They also chose to sub-contract some of the project out to Pueblo Step-Up, Inc. Pueblo Step-Up currently serves as a Presumptive Eligibility site for the State of Colorado. Therefore, the eligibility workers at Pueblo Step-Up are very familiar with the Medical Assistance Application and the requirements for Medicaid/CHP+ eligibility. The State ran into several delays with Pueblo School District signing the contract, however, the Department is moving forward at this point.

The contract between the State of Colorado and Pueblo School District 60 was executed on November 19, 2007. The sub-contract between the school district and Pueblo Step-Up was finalized on November 27, 2007. Pueblo Step-Up workers have been scheduled to receive CBMS over-the-shoulder training within the next two weeks and will begin entering applications into CBMS in December 2007.

Effect of Program on Medicaid/CHP+ Enrollment

At this point in time, it is too early to determine the effect the program has had on Medicaid/CHP+ enrollment. The operational issues are nearly resolved and efforts can now be focused on outreach efforts to enroll children into Medicaid/CHP+

