

STATE OFFICIAL TO SPEAK IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON COLORADO MEDICAL HOME SUCCESSES

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DENVER – June 4, 2009 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that Joan Henneberry, executive director, will be speaking at the National Health Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. on June 5, 2009, about the progress Colorado is making on enrolling children in Medical Homes.

The forum will educate congressional and federal agency policy staff about the value of Medical Homes in providing quality and cost-effective care. Health care reform is a central part of Governor Ritter's Colorado Promise and the state is seen as a leader in reform efforts. Henneberry participates on the national level as a health policy expert and serves as the governor's health policy advisor.

A Medical Home is not a building, house or hospital, but a team approach to providing quality and cost-effective health care. It is a family-centered approach that provides comprehensive, continuous, coordinated, family-centered, accessible, compassionate, and culturally-competent care.

In Colorado, 88,000 Medicaid and 62,000 Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) children are enrolled in a Medical Home. Ninety-seven practices representing 310 physicians are designated as Medical Homes.

Studies show that children in Medical Homes use the emergency rooms less often for primary care, access community services more, and medical costs are less compared to children who are not in a Medical Home.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The Department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for Colorado's low-income, elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the Department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, please visit colorado.gov/hcpf.

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