



# At a Glance

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates

March 29, 2011

This publication contains updates from the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Please feel free to share it with your colleagues.



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## Breaking News

### New Legislative Liaison

Carrie Cortiglio has joined the Department as the Legislative Liaison. Carrie joined the Department in March 2011. Prior to that, she worked as a policy analyst for the Health District of Northern Larimer County. Carrie’s work focused on all aspects of health care policy, including health care reform. She led the Health District’s efforts to create a community-wide strategy to reduce consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages. Before relocating to Colorado six years ago, Carrie worked for the Massachusetts state legislature.



Carrie is a graduate of 2010 Advanced Leadership Training Program Regional Institute of Health and Environmental Leadership. She holds a master’s degree from the Harvard School of Public Health and a bachelor’s degree from Dickinson College.

## **Fond Farewell**

Sue Williamson is leaving the Department effective March 31, 2011. Sue has worked over the last four years to make health care more easily accessible to Coloradans and to improve relationships between the Department and our partners and clients.

Sue has been at the Department since 2007. She immediately jumped into simplifying the eligibility process and was instrumental in the development of PEAK. This took an enormous amount of time, effort and creativity. Sue's efforts and successes to improve CBMS will be part of her legacy.

Sue's success is amplified by the amount of money she has brought in to the state. Sue's leadership resulted in Colorado receiving a \$43 million federal grant, which has allowed us to award funding to community-based organizations for outreach, and education. These efforts help eligible Coloradans apply for Medicaid and CHP+; develop programs engaging businesses and communities to help cover the working uninsured; design benefits for adults without dependent children, and provide coverage for people with disabilities.

There is not enough room to list all of Sue's accomplishments in one newsletter. She will be missed and hard to replace.

## **Sue Birch Wins "Be More" Award**



The Rocky Mountain PBS Be More Award is presented to a civic, community, business or nonprofit leader who has demonstrated outstanding, innovative leadership on one of the following fields: education, health, public affairs, news or the arts. Sue Birch won for showing exceptional vision and judgment that resulted in positive outcomes benefiting an entire community.

Left to right - George Sparks –president and CEO, Denver Museum of Nature and Science; Sue Birch; Gailmarie Kimmel- founder and co-director, Be Local Northern Colorado, 2011 RMPBS Be More Award Finalist; Hari Sreenivasan, PBS Newshour correspondent and head of Newshour digital partnerships

## **Overflow Unit Funding Received**

The Department received \$335,000 from the [Colorado Health Foundation](#) to fund the Overflow Unit. Please click [here](#) for more information.

## **Medicaid Buy-In Program Delayed**

The implementation of the first phase of the [Medicaid Buy-In Programs](#) has been delayed – we do not know an implementation date at this time. The mechanics of collecting monthly premiums and system changes have contributed to the delay.

The program for working adults with disabilities will occur before the children's buy-in program when an implementation date is finalized. Stakeholder input will be sought as we are closer to the implementation date to assure we are on the right track from the client perspective.

*If you would like more information, please contact [Kimberley Smith](#).*

## **Increasing the Number of Insured Coloradans**

### **Federal Poverty Level Guidelines**

Revised Federal Poverty Guidelines were released by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services on January 1, 2011. The revised guidelines were programmed into CBMS in February 2011. Eligibility determination for Medicaid and CHP+ will be made using the new guidelines retroactively to January 1, 2011. The revised guidelines will be effective for CICIP eligibility determination April 1, 2011.

*If you would like more information, please contact [Karen Talley](#), CICIP or [Medicaid.Eligibility@hcpf.state.co.us](mailto:Medicaid.Eligibility@hcpf.state.co.us) for Medicaid questions.*

## **Department Web Site in 17 Languages**

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's [Web site](#) can be viewed in 17 languages. From Spanish to Arabic, by selecting a language at the top of the Web site, you are able to select a language that you or your clients speak. The translation is through Google, so may not be as perfect as we would like.

*If you would like more information, please contact [Joanne Lindsay](#).*

## **Colorado Choice Health Plans Adds Five Counties for CHP+ Enrollees**

Colorado Choice Health Plans has expanded into five additional counties effective March 1, 2011. The additional counties include Baca, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Kit Carson, and Washington. The expansions will increase the services that will be available to our CHP+ participants. Colorado Choice Health Plans will be the primary CHP+ plan in three of the five counties with the State Managed Care Network providing the Pre-HMO and pre-natal benefits.

*If you would like more information, please contact [Teresa Craig](#).*

## **Improving Health Outcomes**

### **Provider Incentive Payments**

Under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009, eligible health care professionals can qualify for Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments of up to \$63,750 when they adopt certified electronic health records (EHR) technology and meaningfully use it to achieve specified objectives.

Requirements for meaningful use incentive payments will be implemented over a multi-year period, phasing in additional requirements that will raise the bar for performance on IT and quality objectives in later years.

The final CMS rule specifies initial criteria that eligible professionals (EPs) and eligible hospitals, including critical access hospitals (CAHs), must meet. The rule also includes the formula for the calculation of the incentive payment amounts; a schedule for payment adjustments under Medicare for covered professional services and inpatient hospital services provided by EPs, eligible hospitals and CAHs that fail to demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology by 2015; and other program participation requirements.

*If you would like more information, visit <http://www.corhio.org/co-rec.aspx>.*

## **Healthy Living Initiatives**



We are committed to improving the health of our clients, staff and community. Our focus on healthy living extends from healthy development during infancy and childhood through healthy aging. Our prevention efforts are based in an understanding of the social determinants of health, and the importance of building healthy communities.

### **Oral Health**

Improve dental outcomes in Medicaid and CHP+ children by promoting evidence-based strategies

### **Behavioral Health**

Advance the diagnosis and treatment of depression for clients on Medicaid and CHP+

### **Nutrition and Fitness**

Reduce overweight and obesity rates among clients on Medicaid/ CHP+

### **Tobacco- Free Living**

Reduce tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure for clients on Medicaid and CHP+

## Goals

- Improve client health outcomes
- Coordinate with other Department programs for an efficient, coordinated approach to client health and wellness
- Collaborate with local community partners in health promotion and disease prevention efforts
- Improve health equity (reduce disparities)
- Establish effective measurement systems
- Promote a payment structure that encourages providers and clients to focus on health and wellness
- Support our employee wellness program (Healthy HCPF)

If you would like more information, please contact [Lisa Waugh](#).



## Discounted DME Supplies for Applicants

For applicants awaiting Medicaid eligibility determination, there are vendors who provide DME supplies at discounted rates. Click [here](#) to find the list of vendors.

## Partner Support

### Regional Conferences

Regional conferences are around the corner. Beginning in May, the Department will hold six regional conferences. Days 1 and 2 of the conferences (so it matches the other below?) will focus on outreach topics. Community-based organizations, external community partners, and advocates interested in learning more about public health insurance and Department updates are invited to register. Days 3 and 4 of the conferences will focus on policy training. Medical assistance eligibility specialists and managers and CBMS users and trainers are invited to register. Please visit our Web site under "What's New" for updates and registration information for the upcoming conferences.

If you would like more information, please contact [Andrea Skubal](#).

## Employment Opportunities

Applying for state jobs has just become easier! Applications are electronic, you will receive updates, and you do not need to answer any written questions until it is determined that you meet the minimum qualifications. Check out the new [Web site](#) and our jobs.

The Department offers a competitive benefits package that includes the Public Employees Retirement Account (PERA), a 401K or 457 retirement plan, health and dental insurance options, 10 holidays, accrual of paid sick and vacation time.

The Department is centrally located and offers affordable ECO passes and has a fitness center on-site. A variety of discounts on services and products are available to state employees through the State of Colorado's Work-Life Employee Discount Program. The Department also offers the ability to take advantage of college tuition through CSU Global for their employees.

The Department is a tobacco-free campus.

## Enrollment

In February 2011, 569,088 clients were on Medicaid and 69,655 clients were in CHP+. Monthly numbers for enrollment and expenditures can be found on the Department's Web site, [Budget](#).