



**For Week Ending December 14, 2012**

## **Counselor and Coordinator Announcements:**

**1. Open Enrollment ends:** Thank you! So many of you worked so hard to serve so many, and a number of SHIPs are caught up with their NPR reports so we can see that they exceeded their numbers from last year. For those of you not yet caught up, please get those reports entered so we can see our final tally for the season. We are within 100 client contacts of where we were a year ago, and when all of you finish your data entry, hopefully we will go above last year's numbers – several of the programs have demonstrated marked increases already.

**2. Training season begins anew:** We would like to schedule several Day One SHIP trainings in January, as well as a couple of Day 2/3 SHIP trainings. Remember, it is recommended that counselors start with the Day One, get some experience, and then return for Days 2/3 several months later. Please contact [Sharon.Schaubs@state.co.us](mailto:Sharon.Schaubs@state.co.us) to let her know if you have anyone interested in either training. We will also be setting people up for on-line training while they are waiting for their in-person training dates.

**3. Short cycle dispensing:** Starting in 2013 long term care residents will be dispensed only 14 day (or less) supplies of prescriptions for oral brand name drugs by pharmacies. CMS pharmacist Gary Pulvermacher has been fielding calls on this – if you run into questions or concerns that we can pass along, just let us know.

**4. KFF brief on Medicaid eligibility:** CMS has issued final rules regarding Medicaid eligibility, enrollment simplification and coordination, including coordination with Exchanges. To see the report by Kaiser Family Foundation, go to <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/8391.cfm>

**5. Colorado Medicaid Buy-In:** Adult Buy-in for working adults with disabilities became available starting in March. SSDI determination isn't required although the same criteria is used. It is for adults working, up to age 64, have a disability, and earn less than 450% of FPL. For more information go to [Colorado.gov/hcpf/MedicaidBuyInPrograms](http://Colorado.gov/hcpf/MedicaidBuyInPrograms)

**6. Physician Health Partners – Pioneer Accountable Care**

**Organizations:** Colorado is one of 18 states approved for this model of care coordination. Starting very soon, consumers of the providers in this organization will receive letters notifying them of their enrollment in this medical home based model. This is not an insurer. They expect to engage 28,000 Medicare patients. Consumers can call 1-800-Medicare for more information. We will also share more information once letters consumer will receive have been made public.

**7. Home Delivered Meals keep seniors in homes longer:** The more states spend on home-delivered meals under the Older Americans Act, the fewer number of low-care residents they have in nursing homes, according to a report released by Brown University. Yet another reason to avoid sequestration!

**8. Year of Elder Abuse Prevention:** numerous resources for partners are available  
at [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/Elder\\_Rights/YEAP/index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Elder_Rights/YEAP/index.aspx)

Your generosity and caring set the stage for a miraculous winter and holiday season. Thank you!

Alice