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Breaking News

Colorado Receives \$58.5 Million Performance Bonus

Colorado has received a \$58.5 million Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Performance Bonus from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This marks the fourth consecutive year Colorado has earned CMS recognition for its ongoing efforts to identify and enroll eligible children in Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), and the second consecutive year that Colorado’s award has been the highest in the nation.

For more information, click here.

CHP+ 12 Month Update

Children enrolled in the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) program are guaranteed 12 months of coverage unless they have other insurance or become Medicaid eligible. It was identified that children were being discontinued incorrectly from CHP+ if the household income increased.

At a Glance

A fix was made within CBMS this week to guarantee 12 months of coverage for children enrolled in CHP+. Children that had been disenrolled incorrectly will be identified and reenrolled until their next renewal month. This will be done automatically this week and no eligibility worker interaction is necessary.

For more information, contact [Medicaid.Eligibility@hcpf.state.co.us](mailto:Medicaid.Eligibility@hcpf.state.co.us).

## **PEAK Enhancements**

Over the past three months enhancements have been made to the PEAK application. Improvements have been made to the application process and case management features, with more upgrades to come. [Recent improvements](#) to the application include making the questions more dynamic, thereby reducing the length of the application for most applicants. Additionally, current Medical Assistance clients have more options to manage their case online.

Medicaid clients are now able to [print their Medicaid cards](#) from PEAK (hard copy cards will continued to be mailed). [Medicaid buy-in](#) and [CHP+](#) clients can now make premium and enrollment fee payments online. Additionally, Medicaid and CHP+ clients can complete the [redetermination process](#) online through PEAK.

## **ACA Resources**

### **HCPF and Division of Insurance Collaborate on ACA Webinar**

HCPF Executive Director Susan Birch and Division of Insurance Commissioner Marguerite Salazar recently recorded a joint webinar. The presentation provides an overview of implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Colorado, addressing both changes to the public and private health insurance markets. This recording is less than 20 minutes and can help give viewers key information about the health care law. You can view the webinar on [Colorado.gov/Health](http://Colorado.gov/Health) or by [clicking here](#).

### **ACA Resources For Health Care Providers**

The Department's [ACA Resources for Health Care Providers](#) page is designed to provide health care providers key information about health care reform, the Medicaid expansion and the [Connect for Health Colorado](#) marketplace. You can view the resources at [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ProviderACAInfo](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ProviderACAInfo).

### **Stay Informed**

For the latest information on Colorado's efforts to implement the Affordable Care Act, check out the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's ACA Implementation News. Click [here](#) to view past issues. To sign up for our Affordable Care Act related newsletters click [here](#). You can also find us on [Facebook](#), Twitter [@COGovHealth](#) and [YouTube](#).

## Increase Enrollment

### Connect for Health Colorado RV Tour

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing would like to thank our Family Health Coordinators, Certified Application Assistance Sites and other partner organizations who volunteered during the [Connect for Health Colorado RV Tour](#). Connect for Health Colorado toured the state to raise awareness about the marketplace and help inform residents of their coverage options. While touring, Department volunteers and partners helped to answer Medicaid, Child Health Plan *Plus* and application questions.

### Accountable Care Collaborative Reaches Enrollment Milestone

Last week the Department announced it has enrolled its 400,000th member into the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) program. This is the third year of the ACC program, which is designed to improve client health while [lowering costs](#). The ACC is not only achieving its financial goals, but has created a client-centered approach to health care that is delivering efficient, coordinated care to improve the overall health of its clients.

Under the ACC, providers are paid a 'per member per month' fee, but can receive incentive payments for achieving healthy patient outcomes. Through the first three quarters of [FY2012-13](#), ACC providers received more than \$823,000 in incentive payments for improving outcomes on three key performance indicators:

- Hospital Readmissions: 15-20 percent reduction
- High Cost Imaging: 25 percent reduction
- Emergency Room Utilization: 1.9 percent increase compared to a 2.8 percent increase for those not enrolled in the ACC program

To view the Department's press release click [here](#) and for more information about the ACC click [here](#).

### PEAK Training Opportunities

The PEAK Outreach team will be hosting additional training opportunities via webinar. For a complete list of training webinars visit the PEAK Outreach Training Calendar [here](#).

Introduction to PEAK

January 8, 2014, 9:00 AM

Register in advance by clicking [here](#).

New Application Walk-Through

January 13, 2014, 1:00 PM

Register in advance by clicking [here](#).

Pre-recorded webinars can be viewed on [Colorado.gov/PEAK](#) under the Resources for Community Partners or by clicking [here](#).

REMINDER: The next regular PEAK Support Call will take place on Wednesday, January 8 at 12 noon. County and community-based staff can connect with PEAK subject matter experts and hear updates on known issues and resolutions.

For more information, please contact: [PeakOutreach@bouldercounty.org](mailto:PeakOutreach@bouldercounty.org).

## **Improve Health Outcomes**

### **Medicaid Preventive & Wellness Services effective January 1, 2014**

Important information has been released about Medicaid benefits for 2014. This [fact sheet](#) provides an overview of the benefits for current and newly eligible Medicaid clients beginning January 2014. You can also find this information on [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources).

Beginning January 1, 2014, Colorado Medicaid will cover all recommended preventive and wellness services defined by the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force \(USPSTF\) with a rating of A or B](#) and the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) without patient cost sharing (co-payments).

More information for providers will be available in February on the [Provider Services web page](#).

### **New Adult Depression Screening Benefit**

The Fee For Service (FFS) depression screening benefit for Medicaid clients 11 to 20 years of age was effective August 2011. Since that time 5,894 unique clients have received a depression screening. The Department encourages all FFS primary care providers to continue using this benefit to identify, refer and treat Medicaid clients for depression.

Effective January 1, 2014 the depression screening benefit will be expanded to include Medicaid adults ages 19 and above using the same billing criteria noted in the Addressing Depression in Primary Care Tool Kit. This new benefit will align the Department with federal prevention efforts. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends screening adults for depression when staff-assisted depression care supports are in place to assure accurate diagnosis, effective treatment, and follow-up.

*For more information about the Depression Toolkit, contact [Jerry Ware](#).  
For more information about the Developmental, Depression, and Autism Screening Policy, contact [Alex Stephens](#).*

### **Dental Benefits Collaborative**

The Department has opened a 45 day public comment period for input on the adult dental benefit for ages 21 and older. The public comment period runs from December 6, 2013 through January 19, 2014. During this time, the public is welcome to read the draft Adult Dental Benefit Coverage Standard and to submit comments.

To view the Adult Dental Benefit Coverage Standard, click here. Comments may be emailed to [Kimberley Smith](#) or addressed to:

Kimberley Smith  
Department of Health Care Policy and Financing  
1570 Grant Street, Denver, CO, 80203

## **Colorado Medicaid Dental Program's Administrative Service Organization Solicitation – Coming Soon!**

The Department will soon publish a Request for Proposals in order to solicit bids from vendors interested in being selected as the new Medicaid Dental Program's Administrative Service Organization. This solicitation will be open for approximately 45 days that will include an inquiries and response phase for Offerors before proposals are due to the Department. The current goal is to have this Request for Proposals published on [www.bidscolorado.com](http://www.bidscolorado.com) by mid-January 2014.

Offerors must be registered at the Colorado BIDS Web site in order to download solicitation documents and information. Please visit [www.bidscolorado.com](http://www.bidscolorado.com) in order to register. During this solicitation process official communication with Offerors will be via notices on the Colorado BIDS Web site. Notices may include modifications, addenda, responses to inquiries and the announcement of the apparent winning Offeror. It is the Offeror's responsibility to periodically check the Colorado BIDS Web site for notices, changes, additional documents or amendments that pertain to this solicitation.

*For questions contact: [RFPQuestions@hcpf.state.co.us](mailto:RFPQuestions@hcpf.state.co.us).*

## **Long-term Services and Supports and Community Living Engagement Meeting**

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) and the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division for Developmental Disabilities (DDD) are hosting four meetings across the state as part of a Community Engagement process regarding the merger of DDD into the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. The purpose of these meetings is to gather feedback from stakeholders on the merger and what values and positive aspects of work need to be focused on and improved.

The first meeting in this Community Engagement Process will be held on January 24, 2014, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, at the Old Colorado Supreme Court Chambers in the State Capitol Building, Room 220, 200 E. Colfax, Denver, Colorado 80203. Information about the next three meetings will be announced as soon as details are solidified.

*For more information, contact [John Barry](#).*

## **Contain Costs**

### **State Innovation Model (SIM) Grant**

Over the past six months, as part of the CMS State Innovation Model (SIM) Pre-testing Initiative, the Colorado SIM team has been working on refining the state's Health Care Innovation Plan. With the help and guidance of a wide variety of stakeholders from across the state, the SIM team worked to develop a plan which lays the groundwork for how the state will integrate physical and behavioral health, and in doing so, how we will transform the delivery and payment of behavioral health and primary care.

At the end of November the work in this phase of the project came to a close, with our State Healthcare Innovation Plan being submitted to CMS for review. We anticipate that the next round of SIM Testing funding will be available in early 2014. Even though this first stage of work has ended, we will continue to work toward the goal of bringing integrated behavioral and

physical health care to all Coloradans. As we progress, we will communicate updates through the [SIM website](#).

For more information, contact [Sara Richey](#) or [Alex Gerace](#).

## **Medical Services Board**

### **Public Rule Review Opportunities**

Partners who are interested in a one-on-one discussion with Department staff about upcoming rules are invited to attend the Department's Public Rule Review Meeting. Information is available on the [Public Rule Review Meetings](#) web page. Reasonable accommodations for the meetings are provided upon request for persons with disabilities.

*If you would like more information, or to be added to the Board email distribution list, please contact [Judi Carey](#).*

### **Employment Opportunities**

Applying for state government jobs is easy. 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 [website](#) for State of Colorado jobs including the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing 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, and accrual of paid sick and vacation time.

The Department is a tobacco-free campus.

### **Enrollment**

In November 2013, there were 753,807 Coloradans enrolled in Medicaid and 59,114 Coloradans enrolled in CHP+.
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