



**Meeting Minutes  
 Children’s Disability Advisory Committee  
 Department of Health Care Policy and Financing**

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, C-1-A Room Located in building C  
 Denver, CO 80246

*Note: Participants need to sign-in at the CDPHE front desk in Building A in order to receive a badge for access to Building C.*

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
**PHONE: 720-279-0026**  
**PIN: 308112**

**Introductions**

<b>In the Room</b>		<b>On the Phone</b>	
<b>Person</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Dennis Roy	HCPF	Gina Robinson	HCPF
Beverly Hirsekorn	HCPF	Nina Schwartz	HCPF
Sheila Peil	HCPF	Shilo Carson	NMCS
Nina Snyder	HCPF	Tiffani Rathbun	Developmental Pathways
Beth Cole	Early Intervention Colorado	Tom Rose	Family Voices
Chris Russell	PPHC	Colette Christen	Children’s Colorado
Christy Blakely	Parent Advocate		
Allison Harris	Tennyson Center		
Stephanie Kimmel	Consultants for Children		
Bethany Pray	CCLP		
Heidi Haines	The Arc of Colorado		
Catherine Strode	Advocacy Denver		

**Agenda Items**

**1. New Business**

Our mission is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources.  
[www.colorado.gov/hcpf](http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf)



**a. CHP+ update: Nina Schwartz, HCPF Eligibility Division**

Nina updated the group about CHP+, and encouraged people to visit the HCPF Future of CHP+ website at [CO.gov/HCPF/FutureCHP](http://CO.gov/HCPF/FutureCHP) for the most up-to-date information. Visitors can also sign up for a listserv on the website.

The federal funding for CHP+ ended at the end of September 2017. The Department has continued to run the program by using our bank account of federal funding. Governor Hickenlooper signed a request for emergency funding to continue the program through the end of February.

Nina said the exact end date of CHP+ is unknown, but CHP+ will continue at least through the end of February. The US Congress passed a continuing resolution that included some funds for CHP+, but the Department's budget analysts are still analyzing how much funding will flow from the continuing resolution.

A letter will go out to members that CHP+ is continuing through the end of February, according to Nina. She also reiterated that CHP+ benefits will not change, and that families should continue to visit the doctor. Nina also said that families should continue to pay enrollment fees under CHP+.

Bethany asked if more CHP+ members had failed to pay enrollment fees due to the confusion, but Nina said there was no data available yet. Beverly interjected that the enrollment fees are paid annually, so most people probably paid the fee as usual. Nina also said the Department is not able to reimburse enrollment fees if CHP+ ends.

Beth requested that the CHP+ letter that goes out to families also be sent to CCBs, so that service coordinators can support families. Nina said that the Department would also send out the letter to the CCBs.

Bethany encouraged the meeting attendees to participate in the CHP+ Day of Action by visiting [Colorado Children's Campaign](#).

Christy asked if children will be allowed to switch insurance to the exchange if CHP+ does end. Nina said the system would automatically check for eligibility, and some children would qualify for Medicaid, while other children would qualify for cost-sharing insurance through Connect for Health Colorado.

Christy also clarified that there would be a special enrollment period if CHP+ ends. Bethany shared that if CHP+ ends, it would trigger a qualifying life event that would allow for open enrollment on the marketplace for up to 60 days.

Beverly also reminded meeting attendees that some CHP+ children could qualify for Social Security disability. For families who make too much money for Medicaid, Dennis said the Children's Buy-In program could assist. The link is at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/medicaid-buy-program-children-disabilities>

*Note: Congress subsequently to this meeting has renewed the funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program. This means that CHP+ will continue in Colorado. For more information, please monitor the Future of CHP+ page that the Department has established: [CO.gov/HCPF/FutureCHP](http://CO.gov/HCPF/FutureCHP).*

## 2. Old Business

### a. Waiver Updates: Dennis, Sheila

Dennis shared that CHCBS waiver has 1,560 children enrolled. Enrollment increased during the fourth quarter, after stabilizing during the summer months.

The CLLI waiver has 196 children. The Department received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to remove the enrollment cap from CLLI. As a result, the CLLI waiver will no longer have the risk of a waiting list.

In November, CMS approved the Department's plan to end the CWA waiver on June 30, 2018. There are 68 children currently on the CWA waiver. The Department stopped program enrollments on Jan. 2, 2018. No children were on the waitlist at that time.

Christy asked if there will be eligibility for one more year for children transitioning off the CWA waiver. Dennis said eligible children will be offered continuous eligibility for up to one year. By the time the waiver ends, 20 children will have aged out of the waiver.

Sheila updated the group that there were around 1,600 clients for the CES waiver, with no waitlist.

Dennis also shared the CHCBS waiver is due to be renewed on July 1, 2018. The Department has decided to hold a public comment for four waiver actions at the same time. There will be three renewals; CHCBS, BI, and EBD, while the SCI waiver will also have an amendment during this comment period. The public commenting period will begin Jan. 26, 2018, or around that time. The public comment period is open for 30 days.

### b. Pediatric Behavioral Therapies Update: Gina, Sheila

Gina offered a progress report on transitioning Pediatric Behavioral Therapies from the waivers to the State Plan. She has been working with pediatricians directly. There was some misinformation coming from one or two providers, but on the whole there haven't been a lot of issues. A report will be available on the progress around April 1, 2018.

Sheila updated the group on the waiver side for behavioral therapies. Some behavioral therapy providers are approved for the State Plan, but were billing under the waiver. Those providers had a December 15, 2017, deadline to switch over billing to the State Plan. Once the concurrent providers make the switch, 82% of children will have transitioned.

For providers not enrolled in the State Plan, they face a deadline of June 30, 2018. Sheila is working with those providers to either enroll in the State Plan, or transition clients to another provider. Sheila is also granting extensions on a case-by-case basis, but does want to offer a blanket extension.

**c. Future Topics: Christy Blakely**

Christy asked the group what current topics should be continued, and what future topics should be placed on the agenda.

The current topics to be continued include:

- Updates on waiver numbers, at least through June 30, 2018, when the CWA waiver ends.
- Updates on Behavioral Therapies.
- Offering case studies without identifying details.
- Legislative updates.

The future topics to be placed on the agenda include:

- ACC Phase II
- Hospital Back-up Program
- Nursing shortage in home care
- Aggressive children being placed out of state

Dennis offered a glimpse into upcoming changes from the Department, pending approval from the Joint Budget Committee. The Department proposed a budget request that will transition the CHRP waiver's administration from DHS to HCPF. A part of this transfer and transition would be to eliminate the foster-care eligibility requirement for the CHRP waiver.

As part of the Medicaid Savings Initiative, there was also a request to implement sliding-scale monthly parental fees for the CHCBS waiver. The fees would be similar to the Children's Buy-In program. The implementation would not be until October 2019.

**d. Legislative Update:**

Bethany Pray gave a quick rundown of legislation that she is monitoring. Bethany shared that with the budget, it looks like some money is available. Larger bills on health systems structuring, such as reinsurance, for example. The stakeholder process over the summer will yield one bill with Rep. Kennedy. Other issues include: hospital

transparency, freestanding ER departments, pharmacy transparency. There is also a bill to help facilitate applications for SSI because people with mental health issues have difficulty getting through process.

### **3. Adjourn**

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for persons with disabilities. Please notify Dennis Roy at 303-866-4828 or [dennis.royjr@state.co.us](mailto:dennis.royjr@state.co.us) or the 504/ADA Coordinator [hcpf504ada@state.co.us](mailto:hcpf504ada@state.co.us) at least one week prior to the meeting to make arrangements.