

Policy & Operations Committee Minutes
September 23, 2024
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Board Members Present: Mara Baer, Adam Fox, and Robert Ruiz-Moss

Staff Present: Justin Brandon, Brian Braun, Jeff Miller, Evan Novak, Danny O’Neil, Rachel Peters, Nina Schwartz, and Blake Simony

I. Welcome & Introductions

Adam Fox called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., welcoming everyone in attendance. The August meeting minutes were approved.

II. Division of Insurance

DOI

Staff at the Division of Insurance (DOI) provided the Committee with a general DOI update. A notice was sent out September 9th requesting comments on proposed changes to Colorado’s Benchmark Plan for the 2027 plan year to add coverage for abortion services. Before any changes are made, they must be approved by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) so the deadline to submit comments before passed on to CMS is September 24th.

The Federal Government awarded the DOI \$361 million in pass-through funding for the Division’s health insurance programs like Colorado Reinsurance Program and the Colorado Option Program. These funds will go back into both of these programs, and the Division is still evaluating what this will look like going forward and will have more updates to come on the pass-through funding.

The 2025 rate release is still anticipated to be released in mid-October.

III. Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Staff at the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) provided an update on the presentation that was given to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and the Interim Committee, highlighting the challenges faced by providers and consumers in transitioning from Medicaid to private insurance or the exchange. The need to maintain the safety net at pre-pandemic levels was emphasized and staff encouraged visiting the website for all updated information. HCPF will also be presenting an update on the CBMS system to the Joint Technology Committee on September 24th at 11:30 a.m.

IV. Monthly Operations Update

Staff presented an operations performance recap for August.

V. Immigrant Health Coverage Update

Staff provided an update on health coverage options available in 2025 for Undocumented Coloradans, including Health First Colorado or Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), Connect for Health Colorado, and the OmniSalud program. Undocumented people in Colorado can also enroll in certain emergency medical programs at any time. Additional resources for Health Coverage Options for Undocumented Coloradans can be found here.

Staff also presented a mock-up of the new immigrant health coverage website and discussed its potential impact on stakeholders. The website aims to provide information on available options for immigrant families, including emergency medical programs, and direct them to the correct page for more information. It also highlights the importance of using certified brokers and assisters who speak their language for help in enrolling. Staff emphasized that this is more of a stakeholder communication and not a customer-targeted communication.

VI. Board Role on Enhanced Subsidy Extension

The Committee discussed the Board’s stance on the enhanced subsidy extension with the understanding that the purpose of the discussion was to determine how the Board might want to engage in the issue, rather than making a specific request. They considered a multi-pronged approach, including a sign-on letter to members of Congress, a joint op-ed from the Board, and editorial board meetings with different media outlets. They also discussed the potential for collaboration with other state-based marketplaces.

VII. Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Fox
Committee Chair