

Policy & Operations Committee Minutes
January 27, 2025
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Board Members Present: Mara Baer, Jennifer Brooks, Adam Fox, and Rob Ruiz-Moss

Staff Present: Justin Brandon, Brian Braun, Kelly Davies, Kelly Guthner, Jessalyn Hampton, Rachel Peters, and Nina Schwartz

I. Welcome & Introductions

Adam Fox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., welcoming everyone in attendance. The November meeting minutes were approved.

II. Division of Insurance

DOI

Staff at the Division of Insurance (DOI) provided updates on the legislative agenda, focusing on homeowner-related bills, and the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise's (HIAE) payment for abortion coverage. The DOI released a draft bulletin in early January regarding abortion coverage and the HIAE Board voted to pay \$1 per member per month to the carriers, they are now just working through implementation concerns to get that bulletin finalized. Staff also discussed rulemaking, including changes to carrier notices and premium rate reductions for Colorado Option plans.

III. HCPF Update

With the expansion of Cover all Coloradans, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) has seen an increase in enrollment hitting around 11,700 people that have now enrolled in the program. Of the enrollees, 7,500 people were passively enrolled based on emergency Medicaid roles, and the remaining 4,000 have signed up proactively. The privacy, security, and safety concerns of the immigration information collected for eligibility determinations was addressed and, as this information has historically only been used to determination purposes and not been accessed by immigration and customs enforcement, staff at HCPF is continuing to monitor any changes and adjusting their messaging for awareness as needed.

IV. OmniSalud Updates

Staff provided a quick update on OmniSalud, highlighting the challenges faced during Open Enrollment for new customers where there was significantly more demand than availability. With the limited 3,500 spots available, about 2,000 people were able to enroll with the remaining 1,500 customers who encountered technical limitations due to the amount of volume. Since then, staff has been working with the affected individuals who encountered errors to offer spots in the program on a first-come first-served basis. Next steps include supporting the children transitioning from OmniSalud to

Health First Colorado/Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) by partnering with the DOI, HCPF, and assisters and brokers and continuing to emphasize the data privacy measures and need for future improvements.

V. Legislative Updates

State Legislative Update

The Legislature is now fully engaged, with a focus on agency hearings. Connect for Health Colorado participated in the Smart Act hearings and presented in front of the Joint Health Committee, which went smoothly as the legislators were impressed with the enrollment numbers. The link to a bill tracker was provided to the Committee and the two bills included in the tracker were discussed – House Bill 1002, a Mental Health Parity Bill, and Senate Bill 45, a bill concept that requires the Colorado School of Public Health to analyze draft model legislation for implementing a single payer nonprofit publicly financed and privately delivered universal healthcare payment system.

Federal Legislative Update

On a federal level, staff continue to meet with members of the Federal delegation to emphasize the impact of the expiration of the Enhanced Premium Tax Credits.

VI. Monthly Operations Update

Staff presented an operations performance recap for January. Tier 1 and Tier 2 both continue to see improvements between 2024 and 2025 for average speed of answer, with Tier 2 also improving in average handle time.

VII. Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Fox
Committee Chair