Board Meeting Minutes
Connect for Health Colorado
March 10, 2025
12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Board Members Present: Mara Baer, Kim Bimestefer, Christy Blakely, Jennifer Brooks, Mike Conway, Adam Fox, Patrick Gordon, Annie Lee, Lorez Meinhold, and Rob Ruiz-Moss

Board Members Absent: Dick Thompson

Staff Present: Justin Brandon, Brian Braun, Kelly Davies, Kelly Guthner, Brian Lidiak, Kevin Patterson, Ilana Rivera, Renata Robinson, Alan Schmitz, and Nina Schwartz

Video conference and phone conference lines were available for members of the public to join.

I. Business Agenda

- Annie Lee called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.
- Changes to the agenda: None.
- Disclosure of conflicts of interest: None.
- The minutes from the February Board meeting were reviewed and approved.

II. Board Report

The Board had a retreat on March 6th where they discussed strategic directions for the organization. Key points included the continuous improvement of the user experience, record-breaking enrollment for five years, and potential opportunities such as offering supplemental insurance throughout the exchange. Additionally, the organization aims to protect its success and adapt to changing market conditions, including serving laid-off individuals and small businesses.

III. CEO Report

<u>HCPF Update</u>

Staff at Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) discussed the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) programs for undocumented individuals, which are under threat from the Federal administration. County Budget request R7 was denied, affecting services for people with disabilities, and other potential threats to Medicaid funding, including work requirements and reduction in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) or provider fees, were highlighted. A new tool that provides information on the impact of potential Medicaid funding cuts on Colorado and its elected delegation was introduced and the upcoming forecast by the Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) and the potential effects of federal layoffs and tariffs on Medicaid enrollment were also discussed.

<u>Board Advisory Group Update</u>

The Board Advisory Group (BAG) provided an update, welcoming two new members, Anna Kubel and Tennie Masterson, and congratulating Donna Wehe on her retirement. Key insights on the discussion around supporting transitions in coverage were presented and the next meeting is scheduled for April 30th, 2025.

IV. Policy & Operations Committee

Legislative Update

The Universal Health Care Study Bill has passed the Senate and is now awaiting House Committee. The Preventative Services Bill, which aims to maintain consistent preventive services, and the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise Bill, which proposes a fee increase to respond to federal changes and maintain coverage levels, were discussed.

Operations Update

The Operational statistics for February were presented, noting a change in service level back to 3 minutes from 5 minutes and reporting on 180-second service levels. The process of rolling off contractors and the release is happening this week, and the applications processing was reported to be in a good spot, with same day processing at 99.6% service level.

V. Executive & Finance Committee

State Audit Update

The State Auditor's office continues to be very active in the organization's audit this month, focusing on sponsorships and procurement contracting processes. Discussions around the findings are expected to take place around the end of the month.

2026 Issuer Fee Approval

Staff presented the Issuer Fee recommendation for plan year 2026. The recommendation is to maintain the current structure of 3.5% of premiums of plans issued through the Exchange for plan year 2026. The presentation included a chart graphic on other state-based marketplace (SBM) fee summaries for 2024.

The Executive & Finance Committee motioned to recommend approval of the 3.5% fee structure for plan year 2026. Lorez Meinhold seconded the motion.

Ms. Lee called for public comment. No public comment was given.

The recommendation passes with two abstentions from Rob Ruiz-Moss and Patrick Gordon.

990 Tax Return Review

Staff informed the Board that the 990 Tax Return link was available for review and is expected to be filed early April. It was requested that any questions or comments around the 990 return be provided by the end of March.

Finance Authorization Matrix Update

The Board reviewed the current version of the Finance Authorization Matrix, with the minor updates highlighted in red.

The Executive & Finance Committee motioned to approve the recommended changes to the Authorization Matrix. Christy Blakely seconded the motion.

Ms. Lee called for public comment. No public comment was provided.

The recommendation passes unanimously and is approved.

VI. Public Comment
None.

VII. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Lee
Board Vice-Chair

Next Board Meeting
April 14, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.