

Policy & Operations Committee Minutes
March 24, 2025
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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

Staff Present: Justin Brandon, Brian Braun, Kelly Davies, Kelly Guthner, Brian Lidiak, Molly McClurg, and Nina Schwartz

I. Welcome & Introductions

Adam Fox called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m., welcoming everyone in attendance. The February meeting minutes were approved.

II. HCPF Update

Staff at the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) provided updates on the ongoing budget discussions and the Cover All Coloradans program, which has now surpassed 16,000 enrollments. They also discussed the potential repeal of the community health worker benefit and the monitoring of federal reconciliation proposals.

III. Legislative Updates

HB 25-1297

The Committee discussed House Bill (HB) 25-1297 and Jill Mullen from the Division of Insurance (DOI), Kevin McFatrige from the Colorado Association of Health Plans (CAHP), and Manat Singh from the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) joined the conversation to discuss the bill's concerns and support from their perspective as community stakeholders. This bill aims to increase funding for the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise (HIAE) to sustain positive effects of existing programs like reinsurance and low-income subsidies. It proposes increasing the insurer fee by up to 1%, allowing the enterprise to accept donations, and using funds for new purposes like covering abortion services.

DOI supports this to address anticipated funding shortfalls and premium increases, however, CAHP has concerns about potential reductions to reinsurance funding, lack of guardrails for program expansion, increased administrative costs, and unclear spending on new initiatives. Consumer advocates support increasing funding but want to ensure protections for programs like OmniSalud and clarity on allocation changes.

IV. Proposed Federal Marketplace Rule Overview

The Proposed Marketplace Rule on integrity and affordability, which covers various topics related to marketplace operations and affordability, was recently released by

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for public comment. The comment period ends April 11th, with some provisions potentially taking effect soon after. Connect for Health Colorado will be reviewing the proposed changes and preparing comments as a regulated entity before the deadline, focusing on providing data to support data-driven decision making, considering their role as an exchange, and assessing the feasibility of implementation within their roadmap. There are concerns about potential litigation, especially regarding nondiscrimination issues like gender-affirming care. The exchange is waiting for the final rule before creating an implementation plan for the upcoming Open Enrollment period, also considering how the rule may impact state-based marketplaces differently than federal marketplaces, particularly regarding enrollment periods and fraud prevention measures.

V. Monthly Operations Update

Staff presented an operations performance recap for February, noting a 94% service level for the MA site and an 89% service level for the Exchange. The contractor unwind has also been completed and they are preparing for the next Open Enrollment.

VI. Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Fox
Committee Chair