

Board Advisory Group Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2025
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Advisory Group Members Present: Rosie Duran, John Barela, Julia Wiswell, Allison Mangiaracino, Bethany Pray, Erin Varnum, Jane Barnes, Eddie Sandoval, Chandler Budlong-Springer, Michelle Nay, and James Douglas.

Advisory Members Absent: Rachel Dauer, Hunter Nelson, Melanie Herman, Karen Seater, Kevin McFatrige, Donna Wehe, Krystin Beadling, and Dr. Kavita Nair.

I. Welcome & Introductions

Rosie Duran called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m., welcoming everyone in attendance. The October meeting minutes were approved.

II. Fireside Chat: CEO Kevin Patterson

- Kevin Patterson outlined ongoing efforts to educate the congressional delegation about the impact of premium tax credits.
- Kevin emphasized that despite the uncertainty, the Affordable Care Act remains in effect and the team will continue to monitor federal, state, and local developments.

III. Legislative Forum

a. Lobbyist Presentation from Sewald Hanfling Public Affairs

Mariah Cook provided an overview of the 120-day legislative session, which is expected to end on May 7th. She noted that the session has been fast-paced, with 466 bills being introduced (noting a significant number of healthcare-related bills), and none yet signed by the Governor. Mariah also discussed the significant budget deficit, estimated at around a billion dollars, and the Joint Budget Committee's (JBC) efforts to address it. She mentioned that the JBC has asked the legislature not to run bills with fiscal notes, but many such bills have been introduced. Mariah also noted that several legislators have left their seats, signaling a need for potential reform.

b. Health Care Policy and Financing Legislative and Budget Update

Mariah discussed SB25-045 a healthcare payment system analysis bill, aimed at directing the Colorado School of Public Health in the University of Colorado to draft model legislation for implementing a single payer universal health care payment system for Colorado. The report is due by December 31, 2026. The bill has support from both sides of the aisle, with opposition mainly focused on the high cost and the lack of a desire to implement a universal healthcare payment system in Colorado.

c. Division of Insurance Legislative Update

Jill Mullen discussed two health-related bills they are working on. The first bill HB25-1297, aims to increase the enterprise fee assessed on health insurers to maintain current programs. It will also change statutes to allow the Health Insurance Exchange (HIE) to accept gifts, grants, and donations, and use funding to support initiatives to keep Coloradans covered. The second bill, SB25-196, proposes to add language to statute to protect preventative services at no cost sharing.

IV. Supporting Transitions in Coverage

Rosie Duran discussed a survey conducted by Connect for Health Colorado to understand what barriers people had when transitioning from Medicaid to marketplace coverage during the Medicaid unwinding process. The survey found that the most common reason for not enrolling was that coverage was perceived as too expensive. The results suggest opportunities to better educate people about affordable coverage options and available financial assistance.

a. Discussion

The discussion focused on the challenges and solutions related to transitions and coverage in healthcare. The team discussed the importance of assistance in navigating the healthcare system, particularly for newcomers. They highlighted the role of brokers and assisters in guiding people through the process. The team also discussed the issue of people choosing non-silver plans despite qualifying for cost reductions, and the potential for people to adjust their tax credits based on income changes. The conversation ended with a discussion on the need for more resources to help people understand insurance, especially in light of potential changes to Medicaid.

V. User Research Presentation

Dylan Atkins discussed his user experience research, where he asked for suggestions on tools or features that could make it easier for customers to select the right plan. Kevin suggested that the tools should look the same to avoid confusion. Chandler Budlong-Springer and James Douglas discussed the difficulty of finding hospitals and doctors within the quick cost plan finder tool, suggesting that this feature should be added to the shopping portal. Dylan agreed to bring these suggestions to his team for consideration.

VI. Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.