

Board Meeting Minutes
Connect for Health Colorado
April 14, 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, David Hague, 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 March Board meeting were reviewed and approved.

II. CEO Report

HCPF Update

Staff at Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) provided an update on the Federal partners' directives and communications, and the impact on benefits, reimbursements, and funding. They also will be updating their materials that are used to outline Federal threats to Medicaid funding, adding a new administrative threat enhanced dollars for certain types of administration to Medicaid as well as provider fees.

HIAE Board Update

The Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise (HIAE) held a meeting where they discussed the challenges they face at a Federal and State level, particularly Medicaid and Medicare, which led to increased reinsurance spend for 2024. There is a projected 15% rate increase for 2026, with potential shortfalls in HIAE. The potential impact of the Federal subsidies falling off could lead to premium increases and a significant drop in enrollment.

DC Trip Update

Kevin Patterson updated the Board on the DC trip, emphasizing the difficulty of the current environment and the need to continue pushing for solutions. He also mentioned the new rule proposed by the Federal Government and the potential impact on the risk pool.

PBC Update

The Public Benefit Corporation (PBC) is looking at potential changes in operations regarding term limits and will be discussing with the Board for feedback on potentially extending the term limits within the parameters set by the bylaws. They also have an upcoming meeting set to discuss budget and finance issues.

2025 By the Numbers Report

Staff presented the 2025 By the Numbers report, highlighting a 19% increase in enrollments compared to the previous year, with 80% of current customers receiving financial assistance. The report also showed that 83% of customers were returning, indicating a high level of customer retention. The marketing team's email marketing campaign was successful, with 55 emails sent to 7 targeted groups, and the outreach team organized 92 events in urban areas and 35 events in rural areas.

III. Policy & Operations Committee

Legislative Update

The Board discussed two bills – House Bill (HB) 25-1297 and HB25-1309.

HB25-1297 allows for an increase of the issuer fee by up to 1% to maintain the current HIAE programs and for the HIAE to accept gifts, grants, and donations. Staff recommends that the Board take a support position on this bill.

Ms. Lee called for public comment. Melanie Herman provided public comment.

Adam Fox motioned to approve moving into a support position for HB25-1297. Christy Blakely seconded the motion.

The Board support position of HB25-1297 passes, with two abstentions from Rob Ruiz-Moss and Patrick Gordon.

HB25-1309 codifies gender-affirming health care in statute and requires coverage of medically necessary gender-affirming health care services, as determined by a provider. Staff recommends that the Board take a support position on this bill as well.

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

Adam Fox motioned to approve moving into a support position for HB25-1309. Lorez Meinhold seconded the motion.

The Board support position of HB25-1309 passes unanimously.

Operations Update

The Operational statistics for March were presented.

IV. Executive & Finance Committee

FY 25 Financial Auditor Recommendation

Staff presented a recommendation for the fiscal year (FY) 2025 audit firm to remain Plante Moran. Plante Moran and Connect for Health Colorado's audit partner, Lisa Meachum, will be continuity on the audit team, however the audit manager and audit senior turned over for the

2024 audit and with that provided a fresh review of the organization's processes and numbers. For FY25, Plante Moran has indicated a fee increase of 11%, however the total fees are in line with the quotes received from competing audit firms.

The Executive & Finance Committee motioned to recommend Plante Moran as the FY 2025 audit firm. Lorez Meinhold seconded the motion.

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

The recommendation passes unanimously.

FY 26 Budget

An overview of the budget process and timeline for FY 2026 was presented to the Board. A draft budget is expected to be presented at the next Executive and Finance Committee meeting, and a final recommendation is expected for Board approval in June. Key budget considerations include uncertainties around enrollment numbers due to the potential expiration of enhanced subsidies and new federal regulations.

V. Public Comment

None.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Lee
Board Vice-Chair

Next Board Meeting

May 12, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.