

***Board Meeting Minutes***  
**Connect for Health Colorado**  
***October 13, 2025***  
***12:00 PM to 3:00 PM***

**Board Members Present:** Mara Baer, Christy Blakely, Jennifer Brooks, Patrick Gordon, Rob Ruiz-Moss, and Dick Thompson

**Board Members Absent:** Mike Conway, Adam Fox, Annie Lee, and Lorez Meinhold

**Staff Present:** Brian Braun, Cliff Craig, Kelly Davies, Brian Lidiak, Kevin Patterson, Ilana Rivera, Dr. Renata Robinson, Geraldine Ruiz, Alan Schmitz, Nina Schwartz, and Jeff Strom

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

**I. Business Agenda**

- Dick Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.
- Changes to the agenda: None.
- Disclosure of conflicts of interest: None.
- The minutes from the September Board meeting were reviewed and approved.

**II. Board Report**

Annual goals and objectives for CEO, Kevin Patterson, are nearly finalized pending staff recommendations regarding metrics.

**III. CEO Report**

Kevin Patterson provided updates on his recent travels and speaking engagements including:

- Attending the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) Convention along with state leaders to discuss issues facing state health policymakers and highlight innovative solutions shared by the nation's leading experts.
- Completing CoverCo to ensure Stakeholders, Brokers, Assistors, and Certified application centers all understand the upcoming changes before Open Enrollment (OE).
- Visited the Western Slope to meet with CEOs of Hospitals and Health Centers to discuss different perspectives and information sharing.
- Spoke at the CoverCo happy hour at Glenwood Springs.
- Participated in the Leadership Exchange in Dulin, Ireland with the Denver Chamber noting the importance of the collaboration between small family farmers as a key takeaway.
- Traveled to Washington, D.C. with the Century Foundation and other Exchanges to discuss direction and information sharing.
- Participated in 3 different press events to address misinformation regarding individuals with different documentation statuses.

- Partnered with Denver University to host the Black Health Summit with 225 in-person registrants and 50 virtual attendees.

Kevin concluded by noting that plans for using Colorado Connect for off-exchange enrollment have been put on hold due to current challenges, but the team will explore opportunities for individual enrollment after open enrollment.

#### HIAE Update

The Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise (HIAE) had a meeting focused on updates and preparations for the upcoming open enrollment period, with discussions on the Colorado Premium Assistance Program changes voted to 74% actuarial value to spread across premium wraps. This is estimated to also help serve 6,700 individuals with OmniSalud. Connect for Health Colorado will assist in the lottery process for open enrollment.

#### Federal & State Updates

Staff discussed system readiness and contingency plans for handling potential rate changes and subsidy extensions, while emphasizing the importance of clear communication and customer support during open enrollment.

#### DOI Update

Staff at the Department of Insurance (DOI) discussed the levels of planning to be flexible with the decisions made by Congress. DOI received a third set of rates from carriers in the enhanced tax credits.

#### Audit Update

The financial audit is ongoing and the State Auditor's finding will be reported to the Legislative Audit Committee next Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### OE Readiness

Technology - Staff presented a technology update highlighting the challenges, timeline impacts, and key enhancements for Plan Year 2026. Staff outlined that while systems are on track for a November 1st go-live, there are contingency plans in place to handle potential rate changes after that date, including the possibility of holding renewal notices if rates change.

Marketing, Enrollment Assistance and Outreach – Staff outlined outreach efforts and marketing strategies to educate consumers about available options and the importance of seeking broker support during open enrollment. Staff discussed that brokers and assisters are currently completing their certification training for 2026. Staff highlighted objective for marketing communications for this year, is really maximizing customer retention, while ensuring all Coloradans receive available financial assistance and find coverage that meets their needs and budget.

Plan Certification - Staff presented the 2026 plan certification, noting that 143 plans from 2025 will remain available, with 9 new plans added, bringing the total to 152 plans offered on the exchange. All 143 plans from 2025 are auto-renewed for 2026 contingent on DOI approval of rates and plans.

Christy Blakey motioned for the plans to be certified on the exchange for Plan Year 2026. Mara Baer seconded the motion.

Mr. Thompson called for public comment. No public comment was given.

The plan certification passes unanimously, with the abstention of Patrick Gordon.

**IV. Policy & Operations Committee**

Operations Update

The Operational statistics for September were presented with over 95% for Tier 1 and 92% for Tier 2 service levels and combined 92% for Tier 1 and Teir 2. Staff discussed goal zero MA applications and documents and change reports by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**V. Public Comment**

Written comment provided by Brian Kerby.

**VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Thompson  
Board Chair

**Next Board Meeting**

November 10, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.