

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

Advisory Group Members Present: John Barela, Chandler Budlong-Springer, Anna Cubel, Rachel Dauer, Rosie Duran, Melanie Herrman, Allison Mangiaracino, Tennie Masterson, Kevin McFatrige, Hunter Nelson, Bethany Pray, Karen Seater, Erin Varnum

Advisory Members Absent: Jane Barnes, Krystin Beading, James Douglas, Dr. Kavita Nair, Michelle Nay, Eddie Sandoval, Donna Wehe, and Julia Wiswell

I. Welcome & Introductions

Rosie Duran called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., welcoming everyone in attendance. The April meeting minutes were approved and the new Senior External Affairs Manager, Anneliese Steel, was introduced.

II. Fireside Chat: CEO Kevin Patterson

Kevin Patterson discussed the challenging outlook for the upcoming Open Enrollment period, highlighting projected increases of 17.4% for tax-assisted customers and 10.4% for all customers, with concerns that over 50,000 Coloradans could lose coverage if enhanced premium tax credits are not extended. He emphasized the importance of shopping for plans and utilizing free expert support from brokers and assisters to navigate these changes. The team is exploring options to support various subpopulations, including discussions with the insurance commissioner about a verification model for catastrophic exemptions and potential expansion of plan offerings on Colorado Connect.

III. Legislative Forum

Anneliese Steel and Rachel Peters presented on federal and state policy shifts affecting Colorado's healthcare market, focusing on the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits at year-end. They explained that while these credits helped 80% of Connect for Health Colorado customers, their disappearance would result in a \$420 million annual assistance reduction, leading to significant premium increases for those earning above 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). To address this, Colorado will implement a new premium assistance program providing up to \$50 monthly per household member for those under 200% FPL, while also noting that DACA recipients and immigrants within their first 5 years of lawful residence will lose eligibility for subsidies. They also touched on additional changes for 2026 and changes for 2027 and beyond, highlighting what staff is working on and how to support customers with all of the changes.

IV. User Research Presentation and Discussion

Alex Bieling presented an update on a new decision tool replacing the Quick Cost Plan Finder. He demonstrated a prototype of the Estimate & Explore tool, which will allow users to find plans,

compare options, and receive anonymous estimates by the end of August. The tool will feature a user-friendly interface, improved navigation, and functionality to add household members, with plans to update the tool's visibility on the website.

V. Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.