



Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Hot Topics

Prepared for the Colorado General Assembly

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The Mission of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is to provide cost-effective, quality health care services to Coloradans.

Department welcomes new Medicaid Director

HCPF is proud to announce that Sandeep Wadhwa, M.D., M.B.A., is the new Medicaid director. Dr Wadhwa will oversee public health insurance programs that deliver care to the low-income, elderly, persons with disabilities, and children in Colorado – Medicaid and CHP+. Dr Wadhwa will remain on the faculty at the University of Colorado as a clinical assistant professor in the seniors clinic. He will continue to serve on the Chronic Care Workgroup of the American Health Information Community that is involved in making recommendations for the adoption of health information technology nationwide. Prior to joining the Department, Dr Wadhwa was the vice president of care management services at McKesson Health Solutions, a unit of McKesson Corporation. He was responsible for a full suite of care management services for state Medicaid programs, Medicare and commercial plans.

RFP for Community Mental Health Services Program

The Managed Care Benefits section will soon be releasing its Draft Request for Proposals for the Community Mental Health Services Program. As part of the Governor's Building Blocks to Health Care Reform, the new RFP will incorporate feedback received from a variety of sources, including the HJR 07-1050 Task Force on Mental Health, the SB 07-64 Task Force on Foster Care and Permanence, the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council, and numerous government agencies and consumer advocacy groups. The Draft RFP and related information will be posted to HCPF's website in early Summer 2008 and e-mail notices sent to a large list of identified stakeholders. Following the release of the Draft, public forums will be held around the state to allow stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback to the Department. The final RFP should be published on the Colorado BIDS website in early Fall 2008, with vendor selection anticipated by year end. The new contract will begin on July 1, 2009.

Joan Henneberry to attend Kennedy School of Government

Director Henneberry has been accepted into the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program through the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard Massachusetts. This three-week program is designed specifically to challenge assumptions about how executives can exercise leadership in the public sector. During the course of this program, participants learn strategies for establishing meaningful, attainable organizational objectives. They also investigate the process of developing and evaluating policy alternatives and consider options for organizing and deploying resources to achieve these objectives. Congratulations, Joan.

"My vision remains the same – that high quality, affordable health care is available to every Coloradan."

Governor Bill Ritter

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Trusts and Estate Recovery Legislation

As you may be aware, the Department will not be initiating legislation for 2008 regarding Trusts and Estate Recovery. After many meetings and discussions with concerned citizens and clients, health care advocates, lawyers, providers and state government employees, the Department has gathered information that causes us to reconsider the present course. We will continue meetings with stakeholders so that we can meet Department goals without creating unintended consequences. Here are the Department's goals for 2009 legislation:

- Protect the rights of parents and others to plan for and protect the future of their loved ones with disabilities.
- Create a framework for Medicaid to be focused on the most vulnerable populations.
- Partner with caregivers and service providers to our Clients to create a framework that meet the goals defined above.

SB07-211 and Performance Advisory Group

Senate Bill 07-211, signed by the Governor in May, 2007 focused on improving access to care and the quality of care delivered to children covered by Medicaid or the Children's Basic Health Plan (CHP+). Two committees arose from that legislation: the SB 07-211 Advisory Committee, and the SB 07-211 Performance Measure Advisory Group. The Performance Measure Advisory Group was a group of clinicians, evaluators, and quality improvement professionals tasked with recommending performance measures related to immunizations, disease management, case management, care coordination, and medical home to the Department. The group met for six months and was facilitated by Carolyn Swenson, MSPH, MSN, FNP of the Colorado Clinical Guidelines Collaborative. A final report of recommendations was submitted to the Department on April 1, 2008. The Department is reviewing the recommendations and will submit a report to the Joint Health and Human Services committees as mandated by the bill. The Department will prioritize measures related to health care outcomes, access to care, and care coordination.

For more information on these or other topics, please contact Nicole Storm, Legislative Analyst, at 303-866-3180, Nicole.Storm@state.co.us