



COLORADO
Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

January 7, 2015

The Honorable Kent Lambert, Chair
Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Avenue, Third Floor
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Senator Lambert:

Enclosed please find a legislative report to the Joint Budget Committee from the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing on the Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention Program as required by Senate Bill 11-177.

Section C.R.S. 25.5-5-604 requires the Department to annually report on the number of new providers participating in the program, the number of additional program participants, the pregnancy rate for program participants as compared to the pregnancy rate for Medicaid clients of the same age group in the same geographic area, and a summary of the information collected by the department pursuant to section 25.5-5-603 (2.5) concerning participant behaviors that decrease the likelihood of teen pregnancy, on an annual basis.

If you require further information or have additional questions, please contact the Department's Legislative Liaison, Zach Lynkiewicz, at Zach.Lynkiewicz@state.co.us or 720-854-9882.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan E. Birch', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN
Executive Director

SEB/djd

Enclosure(s): 2015 Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention Program Report



Cc: Representative Millie Hamner, Vice-chair, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Bob Rankin, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Dave Young, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Kevin Grantham, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Pat Steadman, Joint Budget Committee
John Ziegler, Staff Director, JBC
Eric Kurtz, JBC Analyst
Henry Sobanet, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Bettina Schneider, Budget Analyst, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Legislative Council Library
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John Bartholomew, Finance Office Director, HCPF
Gretchen Hammer, Health Programs Office Director, HCPF
Dr. Judy Zerzan, Client and Clinical Care Office Director, HCPF
Chris Underwood, Health Information Office Director, HCPF
Jed Ziegenhagen, Community Living Office Director, HCPF
Tom Massey, Policy, Communications, and Administration Office Director, HCPF
Rachel Reiter, External Relations Division Director, HCPF
Zach Lynkiewicz, Legislative Liaison, HCPF

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2014 Legislative Update on the Medicaid Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention Program

In 2011, the Medicaid Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention Program (TPDP Program) was reauthorized under Senate Bill 11-177 (C.R.S. 25.5-5-601 et.seq.). This is a prevention program to reduce the incidence of teen pregnancies and school dropouts among Medicaid eligible teens by providing comprehensive pregnancy prevention counseling. The Program also provides support services to at-risk teenagers and teen parents – services that promote self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and a sense of personal responsibility in making appropriate reproductive health decisions.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention through Science-Based Programs

Revised guidelines and new federal reports have identified effective, evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs that: encourage parental involvement; counsel that abstinence is the most effective way to avoid pregnancy; improve skills for making responsible choices, including the impact of alcohol and drugs on decision-making; are age-appropriate; and provide medically accurate reproductive health and contraception information. Contraception counseling includes information on types of contraception, effectiveness, availability, health benefits (i.e. decreasing transmission of sexually transmitted infections), and medically identified potential side effects of contraceptives. Provision of contraceptives is not part of Medicaid's TPDP Program.

No General Fund Monies Used

Funding for TPDP Program services is directed by statute to be derived from local/community sources and the federal government. State statute also directs that the TPDP Program be considered a family planning service. Medicaid-covered family planning services are eligible for a 90 percent federal match rate, meaning that for every dollar spent providing services, 10¢ comes from local funding and 90¢ is federal.

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) currently contracts with one program provider operating programs in three Colorado counties: Mesa, Delta, and Montrose. The provider reported 195 teen participants for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014-2015.

A statewide TPDP Program expansion has been placed temporarily on hold pending further guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Any program expansion is dependent upon CMS support, family planning service classification, and formal CMS recognition and guidance on how a Medicaid TPDP Program can be funded and implemented. By replicating and implementing science-based programs in totality, the likelihood of program effectiveness and positive results increase.

In spring 2014, The Department submitted a family planning State Plan Amendment (SPA) to CMS specifically requesting that pregnancy prevention counseling services be categorized as a family planning service.

In May 2014, CMS issued a Request for Additional Information (RAI) regarding: 1) the funding methodology for the TPDP Program and 2) whether services would be available on a statewide basis as required for all Medicaid services.

- The Department's response to the RAI was followed by additional question and answer exchanges focused on the TPDP Program's funding methodology.
- The Department is currently awaiting a formal response from CMS regarding the family planning SPA.

2015 Legislative Agenda Item

- The Department has requested that the Colorado General Assembly allow use of General Fund monies to support the 10% matching dollars for the TPDP Program as part of 2015 legislative agenda. Statute currently directs that local/community sources provide the matching dollars normally required from state funds.
- The bill will be sponsored by Representatives Coram and Danielson and Senator Roberts.
- The request for this funding change is based primarily on two factors:
 - The TPDP Program funding methodology continues to be a concern for CMS. If disapproved by CMS, the current statutory funding requirement would likely prevent continuation of the TPDP Program.
 - Past program providers reported that the lack of available local/community funds was a primary reason their TPDP Programs were discontinued.

Based on discussions with CMS, The Office of Adolescent Health, and other federal agencies, Colorado is the first state working directly with CMS to implement a statewide Medicaid Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention Program focused on assisting all Medicaid eligible at-risk youth in preventing unintended pregnancies.

C.R.S. 25.5-5-601-605 (SB 11-177) Improved Program Accountability

The programs reauthorization improved the Department's ability to monitor the effectiveness of the TPDP Program by requiring all newly contracted providers track, record, and report relevant outcome data and statistics. The bill additionally required greater collaboration among state agencies and community partners to promote awareness of the program. The bill increased awareness of the program and additional communities have stepped forward with interest in participating. The Department remains in contact with these communities and will work to finalize guidelines for future program implementation and expansion. A provider communication plan about the TPDP Program's availability has been developed for use once CMS guidance is finalized and the Department's statutory request have been decided.

With the proposed program expansion, improved outcome data will provide metrics on both provider and program effectiveness. The Department anticipates that with federal approval and passage of the proposed statute changes, the TPDP Program will expand significantly, maximizing its ability to prevent unintended pregnancies among Colorado Medicaid youth.