



All Kids Covered Initiative Meeting Notes - February 3, 2017

All Kids Covered Updates – Erin Miller, Colorado Children's Campaign

- **Funding:** AKC's primary national funder pulled out of Colorado this year, and funding for AKC ended January 31. The initiative has been advanced to "alumni status" which will keep us connected to technical assistance from Georgetown University. The leadership team (Colorado Children's Campaign, Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved, and Colorado Covering Kids and Families) are committed to the work of AKC and have decided to use a portion of our own organizational resources in the short term to support a reduced amount of AKC activities/priorities until this summer when we will engage in a community strategic planning/funding session. The funding shortfall will result in the following:
 - **Reduced meeting schedule:** we plan to hold coalition meetings in April and June, and will also continue to connect via email.
 - **Narrowed policy priorities:** see the handout, [updated AKC 2017 Priorities](#). (We've removed the priority of working toward coverage for pregnant women without proper documentation. This is still an interest of AKC, but that won't be a focus in the next six months.)
- **Draft fact sheet: [Impact of the ACA on Colorado Kids](#)**—One of the priorities that AKC will focus on in the short term is a kids' focus on defense of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Because much of the conversation about the impact of an ACA repeal is focused on adults, this fact sheet aims to provide a kids' focus to the conversation. Meeting participants provided feedback that the fact sheet could be less wordy, and can build on some resources from other states. The factsheet will be distributed via email to the AKC coalition when finalized.

Protect Our Care Colorado – Adela Flores-Brennan, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

- Protect Our Care Colorado is a coalition of consumer-oriented advocacy groups who are working to protect the coverage gains, and consumer protections, the state has made since implementation of the ACA.
- The website is up at: <http://www.protectourcareco.org/>. The website has links to a petition, and opportunities for organizations and individuals to sign on to the campaign. There are also talking points, phone numbers and scripts for calling state Representatives and Senators, email scripts, sample tweets, fact sheets, etc.
- The coalition is working on several efforts:
 - Coordinating among a group of organizations to plan rallies, street theater, and community organizing.
 - Developing a strategy for the campaign with a deep dive on policy. So far the four objectives identified include:
 1. Prevent or delay a repeal of the ACA
 2. Fight for a quality ACA replacement
 3. Protect and defend the Medicaid program (e.g. Medicaid expansion, proposals to restructure Medicaid as a block grant or to have a per capita cap).
 4. Build power of the coalition and capacity among grass roots
- Best way to get involved: go to www.protectourcareco.org. People who have signed up will get some regular communications, information on opportunities for engagement, etc.
- If you have people interested in sharing a story about the impact of the ACA, they can also submit the story on the website. So far, story collection has been going well.

Q: What is the Protect Our Care coalition thinking about in terms of a repeal of the ACA potentially gutting Medicaid?

A: First, while we're thinking through messaging, but don't want to give up the fight and concede that those changes are coming. Many governors see block grants or per capita caps as huge cost-shift to the states. Second, Medicaid is not the only potential thing on the chopping block; as Congress picks up the reconciliation process, the subsidies that help people pay for private insurance, and the employer and individual mandates are also up for debate. This coalition is trying to be strategic to understand what proposals are emerging, which ones have legs, which ones to spend time on, and what our response should be.

State Legislative Overview – Jennifer Miles, Frontline Public Affairs

- Not a lot of big exciting news in the state legislature yet. The approach is more wait-and-see what happens in Congress, and then determine what and when the state legislature will need to act.
- Bills of potential interest:
 - SB 3, to repeal Connect for Health Colorado is a priority bill of Senate Republicans, but it is unlikely to pass the House.
 - SB 4, would allow non-Medicaid enrolled providers to bill clients on a cash basis. According to current law providers can't accept cash payments outside of Medicaid. Although this would require a signed agreement, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and a lot of other groups are concerned that it could harm clients, or reduce the number of providers who will participate in Medicaid. There are some attempts to work on amendments.
 - HB 1137 would give HCPF more tools to deal with providers who are balance billing. Although balance billing is prohibited in Medicaid, HCPF can now only either send a warning letter or remove the provider entirely. The bill is proposing that they have other tools.
 - HB 1126, 1129, 1146, and SB 121 are aimed at improving client correspondence. These bills came out of the interim committee.
 - SB 64, out of Sen. Kefalas' office with stakeholders, address free standing emergency rooms. The bill would implement a complete moratorium on free-standing emergency rooms until HCPF could create new license criteria for them. This bill will likely die in its first committee, but there could be another bill introduced on this same topic later on.
- Keeping a close eye on the budget, through the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). As a reminder, the membership of the JBC changed this year, and the addition of Kevin Lundberg means that conversations delve into more conservative perspectives and questions. It is difficult to tell how he will drive votes; with a split committee then they can have things introduced to the budget at \$0.
- Figure setting for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) will be on Feb. 14.
- Remember all motions are preliminary and can be revisited until they introduce the long bill.
- HCPF asked for funding in the HCPF supplemental to pay Connect for Health Colorado, using general funds, to get a federal match. State statute prevents the exchange from getting general funds, so the JBC staff recommended not funding this request. The JBC delayed the vote, and HCPF came back as asking for certified public expenditures to draw down federal matching funds. That was eventually approved 4-2.

General Partner Updates:

- **Colorado Consumer Health Initiative:** 9th Annual Health Care Day of Action will be on February 23 with a rally at noon. Donna Lynne will keynote, and panelists will talk about costs and

affordability, then attendees will go to the capitol to talk to legislators. Register here:

https://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50423/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=93819

- **Save My Care Bus** will be in Pueblo on February 6, and in Denver (at the capitol) on February 7. More here: <https://www.savemycare.org/about/>
- **Together Colorado:** Working on problems that Medicaid clients are having with non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) benefit. Let Rich McLean know of any problems or issues.
- **Aurora Health Access:** Many families in Aurora are living in hotels, and AHA is trying to work with the managers to address unhealthy conditions.
- **Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved:** After 20 years, on March 29, they will be changing their name.
- **Colorado Children's Campaign:** Speak Up for Kids day at the capitol will be March 22. See more information here: <http://www.coloradokids.org/join-us/our-events/speak-up-for-kids-day-at-the-capitol/2016-speak-up-for-kids/>

NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 7, 2017