



All Kids Covered Initiative Meeting Notes June 3, 2016

2016 Legislative Wrap-up – Jennifer Miles, Frontline Public Affairs

- During the 2016 legislative session there were 685 bills introduced, and 387 passed (56%). As a result of the make-up of the legislature, all the bills had to have bipartisan support.
- Budget:
 - Balanced budget happened without major cuts. A small increase in of \$112 per pupil per year was included, and higher education avoided the cuts that the governor presented.
 - The proposed 1% across the board cuts to primary care providers was not included in the final budget due to a coalition of primary care providers that came together that were able to *mitigate* the cuts this year (reimbursement is at about 87.3% of the former reimbursement level for a set of codes). A coalition is continuing to meet over the summer because it was a one-time fix.
 - \$22.4M in the budget for Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS) base and to fund some specific proposals including funding for the “integrated support model.” This will implement a new level-one call center which can answer some of the more general questions that people have, and can then transfer to the appropriate level two or three tiers for more in-depth questions and support. The funding is available July 1, 2016, but implementation is not planned until July 2017. (As more information is available, this topic will be discussed at future [Covering Kids and Families meetings](#).)
- Bills:
 - HB 16-1097: Regulations for Medicaid non-emergency transportation (NEMT) providers to reduce the regulations around drivers getting into the system with the hope that more drivers may apply. Although this is a good first step, reimbursement is still an issue. The effective date is July 1, 2016, but rules and regulations may follow that date.
 - SB 16-120: Requires HCPF to provide Explanation of Benefits (EOB) via mail if requested beginning July 1, 2017, however the new patient portal with new Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) beginning in November will already have an EOB portal. Federal guidelines say that EOBs are not allowed for a selection of codes on family planning, women’s health, mental health, etc., but there are still privacy concerns that particular providers (who only provide a certain type of care) will not be blocked.
 - SB 16-190: The bill provides incentives for counties to increase the number of people enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and a workload study for counties on all public assistance programs (including SNAP and Medicaid). The workload studies may help counties, and may highlight need for reforms.
- Other themes:
 - Legislators have a strong difference of opinion on Medicaid (e.g. 1.3 million Coloradans now covered by Medicaid, 24% of Colorado’s population). Some legislators think this is too much, and that Medicaid is “blowing up” the state budget. (That argument disregards that the federal government is paying for a lot of it.)
- What’s next:
 - Big election coming up in November.
 - Many ballot issues are still pending:

- Colorado Care is on the ballot, and the proposed tobacco tax, and TABOR reform initiatives are gathering signatures.
 - Whether TABOR reform passes or not, or whether the election changes the Senate, it is anticipated that the Hospital Provider Fee will come up early again next year.
- There is also a proposed ballot initiative to increase the minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2020 and then adjust for inflation every year thereafter.

Future AKC Policy Priorities – Aubrey Hill, Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved

- AKC leadership gathered feedback, and held a strategic planning session about what AKC is thinking about for the next year:
 - The eligibility and enrollment system is critical to ensure that the successes that we've had in the last years to ensure that people can enroll and stay enrolled, and address unintentional churn.
 - Future funding and operations for the Child Health Insurance Program.
 - Started talking about what it would mean to get the remainder of all kids covered, so will start thinking about coverage options for undocumented. Will participate in conversation that CCMU is leading about health coverage options for immigrants to bring the needs of kids and families. (Please contact Aubrey if you are interested in joining that coalition at aubrey.hill@ccmu.org).
 - The need for culturally and linguistically appropriate assistance, systems, health care, etc.

Tobacco Tax Ballot Measure – Erin Miller, Colorado Children's Campaign

- Erin provided an overview of the proposed tobacco tax measure, reasons for increasing the tax, where the tax money will go, and answered other questions.
 - For more see, [Tobacco Tax Increase for a Healthy Colorado One-Pager](#), and [Tobacco Tax Increase for a Healthy Colorado Health Impacts](#)
- The AKC leadership team recommended that the coalition endorse the tobacco tax ballot measure because the money raised from the tax will help support health initiatives important to children in Colorado, specifically by funding prevention, early intervention, and treatment programs to help children access mental health services in their communities.
Those present agreed that AKC can support the tobacco tax through the Campaign for a Healthy Colorado.
- Other organizations that wish to support the ballot measure can do so on the Campaign for a Healthy Colorado website here: <http://www.healthyco2016.com/about>

General Partner Updates

- **The Colorado Health Foundation** – a new special projects funding opportunity is now available. If you have an idea that does not fit into an existing Foundation funding opportunity, submit a letter of intent by July 15 deadline, and then program staff will review and solicit a full application. <http://www.coloradohealth.org/SpecialProjects/>
- **Children's Hospital Colorado** has two events on June 29, 2016:
 - **Forum on Family** - a keynote and panel discussions about how family-friendly organizational policies impact employee engagement and productivity from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Mt. Princeton Conference Room.

- **Housing is a Vaccine** – a discussion with Dr. Megan Sandel from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., followed by a reception until 6:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Center.
- Both events request **RSVP to events@childrenscolorado.org**, and will be held at the Children’s Hospital Colorado at 13123 E. 16th Ave., Aurora, CO
- **Together Colorado and Aurora Health Access** will be working with the Metro Community Provider Network’s Potomac Clinic on a model to increase utilization of transportation options for Medicaid clients.
- **Covering Kids and Families (CKF)** coalition meetings are on the third Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Learn more about the meetings and sign up to get email updates on the CKF website: <http://ckf.cchn.org/ckf-coalition/>
- **LAUNCH Together** is a privately funded initiative inspired by federal Project LAUNCH. LAUNCH Together is working with seven communities across the state in an intensive planning process. In August, four of the seven will be chosen to implement their strategic plans. The projects focus on kids ages 0-8, and social-emotional health of young children.

Next meeting: Friday August 5, 2016
(July meeting is cancelled)