

# Hospital Discounted Care

Shannon Huska, Special Financing Deputy Division Director  
Chandra Vital, State Programs Manager  
Taryn Graf, State Programs Work Lead

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Sarah Irons, Meeting Chair and Taryn Graf, HCPF 1:00 to 1:15 P.M.
- Committee Purpose and Bylaws, Vice Chair Nominations and Vote
  - Taryn Graf, HCPF 1:15 to 1:20 P.M.
  - Committee Discussion 1:20 to 1:25 P.M.
- Overview of Hospital Discounted Care law
  - Taryn Graf, HCPF 1:25 to 1:45 P.M.
  - Committee Discussion 1:45 to 2:00 P.M.

# Agenda (cont.)

- Patient Demographics Information for Professionals
  - Taryn Graf, HCPF 2:00 to 2:05 P.M.
  - Committee Discussion 2:05 to 2:15 P.M.
- Decline Screening form Updates
  - Taryn Graf, HCPF 2:15 to 2:20 P.M.
  - Committee Discussion 2:20 to 2:40 P.M.
- Future Agenda Items
  - Committee Discussion 2:40 to 2:50 P.M.
- Open Forum for Public Comment
  - Public Comment 2:50 to 3:00 P.M.



# Welcome and Introductions

# Members

- Milena Tayah, Colorado Center on Law and Policy - Consumer Advocate
- Sophia Hennessy, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative - Consumer Advocate
- Talonnie Granger - Consumer
- Kelly Erb Zager, Colorado Rural Health Center - Non-Community Health Center Safety Net Provider/Organization
- Erin Varnum, Colorado Community Health Network - Community Health Centers Organization
- Christopher Alvarez, Keefe Memorial Health Service District - Rural Hospital
- Bernadette O'Keefe, Denver Health - Safety Net Hospital with a high Medicaid Inpatient Utilization Rate
- Diane Lawson, CU Medicine - Licensed Health Care Professional
- Megan Axelrod, Colorado Hospital Association - Hospital Organization
- Sarah Irons, Children's Hospital Colorado - Urban Hospital
- Enrique Lujan - Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

# Committee Purpose and Bylaws

# Committee Purpose

- 25.5-3-507 (4) The [advisory committee](#) shall advise the state department on the operations and policies of [Hospital Discounted Care] and make recommendations to the state board regarding promulgating rules pursuant to [the Hospital Discounted Care statute].

# Committee Makeup

- Eleven seats, appointed by HCPF's executive director
- Chairperson, also appointed by the executive director
- Vice Chairperson, nominated and voted by the Committee
- Secretary, fulfilled by HCPF



# Members

- Members shall meet the qualifications for membership at the time of their appointment and at all times while serving on the Committee
- Terms are three years
  - First appointments were three years for five seats and two years for the other six
- Terms commence on July 1
  - Vacancy appointments will serve out remainder of original term

# Attendance

- Members are expected to attend all regular Advisory Committee meetings
- Members who will be unable to attend shall notify the Chair or HCPF prior to the meeting so efforts can be made to ensure a quorum

# Quorum

- A majority of the entire membership of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for conducting business
  - Currently all 11 seats are filled, so a quorum would be no less than six Committee members
- Committee may adjourn any meeting to a later time and date without a quorum

# Meetings

- Meetings must be at least twice a year, current schedule is once a quarter
- Meetings will be virtual unless otherwise stated
- Special meetings can be called by the Chair or majority vote of the Committee members
- Meetings can be canceled by the Chair or majority vote of the Committee members
- Advisory Committee meetings are subject to the [Colorado Open Meeting Law](#)



# Workgroups

- Workgroups or subcommittees can be established by vote of the Committee
- Members shall be appointed by the Chairperson and shall serve at the pleasure of the Committee

# Bylaw changes

- Committee may amend bylaws by vote of
  - majority of entire membership, or
  - if amendment was submitted in writing at the previous meeting, by a two-thirds vote with a quorum being present

# Voting

- With a quorum in attendance, a majority vote of members present is required to approve or deny a motion
- All members must vote unless a member is prohibited or excused from voting due to conflict of interest

# Meeting Procedures

- Meetings shall be recorded and live streamed
- Follow Robert's Rules of Order, as informal as circumstances permit
- Chairperson or Vice Chair shall chair all meetings
- Chairperson may participate in discussions and vote as any other member
- Agenda shall be established by the Chairperson prior to the meeting
  - Agenda may be changed by Chairperson or majority vote of Committee members present
- Meeting minutes shall be considered unofficial until approved by the Committee





# Vice Chair Nominations and Vote

# Overview of Hospital Discounted Care Law

- History of law
- Patient protections
- Hospital requirements
- Professional requirements

# Timeline 1983-2022

- 1983 - Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP)
- July 6, 2021 - [HB 21-1198](#) signed into law
- March 12, 2022 - Hospital Discounted Care rules passed by Medical Services Board
- May 3, 2022 - CICP Advisory Council recommends the program be sunset
- September 1, 2022 - Hospital Discounted Care goes into effect



# Timeline 2024-2025

- April 18, 2024 - [HB 24-1399](#) signed into law
  - Sunsets the CICP
- May 31, 2024 - [SB 24-116](#) signed into law
  - Requires professionals to submit data separately
  - Presumptive Eligibility (PE) for Health First Colorado
- May 9, 2025 - CICP Sunset rules obtain final adoption at Medical Services Board
- July 1, 2025 - CICP officially sunset
- September 12, 2025 - expected initial rules for PE change at Medical Services Board

# Hospital Discounted Care

- Law that hospitals must follow
  - Applies to all general acute and critical access hospitals - 85 hospitals across CO
- Sets minimum standards for hospital charity care programs
- Applies to all medically necessary services
- Professionals working in hospital must also follow, even if they are independently owned

# Patient Eligibility

- At or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG)
  - Income only, no assets
- Colorado resident
  - Hospitals can extend to non-residents
  - Lawful presence is not considered
- Uninsured or underinsured

# Patient Protections

- Uninsured patients required to be screened
- Screening checks potential eligibility for public health coverage and Hospital Discounted Care simultaneously
- Bills must follow HCPF set rates
- Payment plan restrictions
- Restrictions on collection actions
- Legal action allowed if collection rights not met

# Payment Plans

- Cannot be more than 36 months of payments
- Limited in monthly amount
  - 4% for hospital services
  - 2% for each professional that bills separately
  - 6% for bills from the hospital where the hospital is also billing for the professional
- Remainder of amount written off once 36 months' worth of payments made



# Collections

- Cannot begin prior to 182 days past date of service or date of discharge, whichever is later
  - Screening, decline screening, or screening best efforts must be completed
- Patients must be informed of potential collections at least 30 days prior to account being sent to collections
- Eligible patients cannot be sent to collections for more than HCPF set amount less any payments collected

# Hospital Requirements

- Inform all patients of their rights under the law
- Screen all uninsured patients and any insured patients who request financial assistance
- Complete applications for all patients who want to apply
- Coordinate with all non-employed professionals to ensure information for patients determined eligible is communicated properly, appropriately, and timely
  - Inform HCPF of any issues

# Hospital Requirements (cont.)

- Ensure bills, payment plans, and collections meet Hospital Discounted Care policies
- Submit annual data as outlined by the statute and HCPF
- Respond to all complaints and address all appeals
- Keep all documentation for seven state fiscal years past the patient's date of service or date of discharge
- Cooperate with audits and corrective action plans

# Professional Requirements

- Coordinate with hospitals to ensure information for patients determined eligible is communicated properly, appropriately, and timely
  - Inform HCPF of any issues
- Ensure bills, payment plans, and collections meet Hospital Discounted Care policies
- Submit annual data as outlined by the statute and HCPF
- Cooperate with audits and corrective action plans



# Questions?



# Patient Demographics Information for Professionals



**COLORADO**

Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

# Demographic Requirements

- 25.5-3-505 (1) Beginning September 1, 2023 and each September 1 thereafter, each health-care facility and licensed health-care professional shall report to the state department data that the state department determines is necessary to evaluate compliance across **race, ethnicity, age, and primary-language-spoken** patient groups with the **screening, discounted care, payment plan, and collections practices** required pursuant to this part 5.

# Communicated Information

- Hospitals are required to screen and complete applications for patients
- Hospitals are required to inform Professionals of patients who are screening, applying, or have been determined eligible



# Recent issues

- Professionals do not always get patient demographic information from hospitals
- Professionals' systems cannot always ingest demographic information

# Discussion on Solutions

- Professional data template allows for hospital's MRN to be entered, allowing HCPF to match patients to hospitals' submitted data and tie demographics
- What other options can be explored to assist Professionals in their reporting of patient demographics?

# Decline Screening Form Updates

# Updates

- Allows for easier use in online check-ins/registration
- Will not be required for all patients, will continue to be required for any patient that does not want to be screened

# Future Agenda Items

# Open Forum for Public Comment

# Next meeting

October 27, 2025  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

# Contact Info

**Hospital Discounted Care inbox**  
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