COVID-19 **Public Health Emergency Unwind Planning Community** Partners October 25, 2023

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About this webinar

Will this presentation be shared?

Yes. A recording of this meeting and the slide deck will both be posted on the PHE Planning webpage in a few days.

https://hcpf.colorado.gov/covid-19-phe-planning

Will all of your questions be answered?

We will have time for questions at the end of the data section. We have a team of staff answering questions put into the Q/A throughout the presentation, but we may not get to all of them. Frequently asked questions will be added to the FAQs in the PHE Planning webpage. Question themes from prior meetings are already posted.

https://hcpf.colorado.gov/covid-19-public-health-emergency-faqs



Survey Response

Will the format of this webinar be changing?

- Thank you to those who completed our survey
- We received 9 responses of split opinion on format changes
 - 5 people requested smaller breakout meetings; 4 preferred existing quarterly webinars
- Special populations mentioned in the survey are being discussed in the existing webinars

Thank you again for your feedback!



Today's Agenda

- 1. Helping Get the Word Out: Communication Updates
- 2. PEAK Updates
- 3. Policy Changes & System Updates
- 4. Data Overview
- 5. Transitions In Coverage Connect for Health CO
- 6. Wrap Up & Future Meetings



Helping Get the Word Out

Communication Updates Natalie Coulter, HCPF



NEW: Transcreated Materials

Materials in the following campaigns have been transcreated into the top 11 languages spoken by members: Amharic, Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Dari, Pashto, Russian, Somali, Swahili, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese

- Take Action on Your Renewal
- <u>Keep CO Covered</u>



More Resources

- New sub-categories for Renewals section
- Long Term Services & Supports (LTSS) One-pager
- Many new FAQs, please direct folks here as a first line
- See something missing? Let us know!





New Outreach to Address Procedural Denials-Update Your Address & Take Action Now Reminders

	p push notific o-do list upda	to be sub cations PEAK Cor	can begin mitted on nbo cases		wal Packet on the 5th	LTSS membe extra 60 days renewals if n	to complete	Members may be disenrolled if renewal is not completed	
Days to Renewal	75	60	45	30	15	0	60 Day Extension	90-day Recons deratio	si
Notifications COMING: Update your Address Text Message (90 days out)	Renewal Pe (75 days out Ex-F mai Not Reco	•	Action on Reminder Let Mailed	ter Ds/CHP Renewa	phone membe their re	MCC Outreach w calls begins to ers who missed enewal due date	-	COMING: Reconsideration Text Message (Dec 2023)	



Health First Colorado App Updates

Health First Colorado App

Downloads, September 2023

• 4,555 (Android); 5,933 (Apple)

Improvements:

- Easier to sign in & upload multiple docs
- Add a trusted person to your account
- Check the To-do list (what's needed for each person in your household to stay covered)
 - ~54k unique members saw the To-do list in September
 - ~132k unique members have seen it since March.





How can you help?

- Use the renewal messaging and materials in the toolkits:
 - > Add messaging about renewals in emails, newsletters and on websites
 - \succ Share social media messages and graphics
 - > Post flyers in public areas and hand out to members
- Familiarize yourself with the Partner Education Toolkit to help members who may need assistance and/or direct them to someone who can help.
- Check the regularly updated FAQs https://hcpf.colorado.gov/covid-19-publichealth-emergency-faqs
- Sign up for the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Updates Newsletter to receive important updates and new tools as they are released.



https://hcpf.colorado.gov/covid-19-phe-planning

PEAK Updates

Mike West, HCPF



Code for America 2023 State Benefits Guide Survey





"Our constituents expect their government to be modern, innovative, responsive, and digital." State of Colorado Digital Government 2022 Strategic Plan

76% of all households with income less than \$30,000 have a smartphone and 27% of those same households do not have broadband. PEW 2021 Mobile Technology and Home Broadband Study

Best practice principles used to do our PEAK work





Plain Language

What is "plain language"?

Writing in plain language means writing with your audience in mind, and making sure your message is clear, concise, and easy for them to understand. It can also mean using human-centered design principles when developing something for your audience.

Our goal for plain language on PEAK

One of our biggest goals has been to heal and rebuild trust with PEAK users by using simplified, trauma-informed language and design.

Since October 2020 over 12,000 person hours have been dedicated to reviewing visual designs and almost all content in PEAK

PEAK has a dedicated agile workstream for Plain Language enhancements.















PEAK Google Analytics



	Google Analytics - Visitors to PEAK											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2021	278,703	241,821	233,413	243,196	243,168	210,022	239,713	278,982	300,684	283,258	295,449	284,775
2022	342,733	260,803	325,518	313,269	318,868	309,060	341,003	354,288	335,070	366,575	390,392	393,538
2023	459,537	425,056	415,570	376,873	375,017	374,327						



*PEAK Google Universal Analytics ended June 2023



What outcomes have occurred with PEAK modernization

Initial Modernization project for Log In Home page

Account lock calls decreased 99% Password Reset calls decreased 70% Unable to create a new account calls decreased 70% Annualized call reduction of 8,000 calls







What is happening in CHATBOT - Renewal Data

Sept	Total 400		% of Total Chats 13.1%			
		HealthFirs	t Web Site			
	Re:Apply for Benefits	Renewal Alerts	Renewal FAQ	ΠL		
Business Hours	170	16	141	327		
Non-Business Hours	143	6	111	260		
				587		
	РЕАК					
	Re:Apply for Benefits	Renewal Alerts	Renewal FAQ	ΠL		
Business Hours	981	78	2037	3096		
Non-Business Hours	676	47	1443	2166		
				5262		

• An in application CHAT feature is best practice among States

• 40% of all Chats occur outside business hours







PEAK Abandoned vs Submitted



Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

PEAK Data 5 Top Reasons for Application Abandonment

5 Top Reasons to Abandon AFB						
Instructions Page AFB	4677	17%				
1st page of AFB basic information	3556	13%				
2nd page of AFB address	2757	10%				
citizenship	2391	9%				
6th page of AFB household-members	1790	7%				
July and August						

5 Top Reasons to Abandon RR						
1st Page RR	4570	18%				
jobs-and-income-summary	3618	14%				
address-residency-summary	2769	11%				
household-bills-summary	2576	10%				
medical-summary	2184	9%				
July and August						

 Top three categories most likely reflect end users realizing it will take some time and that they need to have information for the process. Many end users come to PEAK expecting the same experience as other applications like DoorDash etc.

- PEAK users are advised it could take 40 minutes to complete an application.
- Top three categories most likely reflect end users realizing it will take some time and that they need to have information for the process. Many end users come to PEAK expecting the same experience as other applications like DoorDash etc.





What is happening in AFB Post Survey?

*How was your experience applying for benefits?						
Helpful	Ok)	Not helpful			
*How was the application completed? Desktop/PC Cell phone Tablet/iPad *Did you need help understanding or responding to questions?						
Ves No *What is your feedback about? Choose all that apply. Readability Navigation Accessibility						
Instructions Help text or "learn more" Other *Tell us more.						
Add comments here						
Cancel			Submit feedback			

Preliminary AFB Post Survey - All Modes							
Helpful	ОК	Not Helpful					
4068	2289	363					
60.5%	34.1%	5.4%					
Mobile % of Survey Response							
53.0%							

94% of AFB users since 06/25/2023 tell us the new PEAK AFB module is OK or Helpful

Post application survey has a response rate of 10%

AFB abandonment rate 3 months post release vs 3 months prior to release are down 31%



PEAK will have a new user feedback loop

No comprehensive digital in application PEAK user feedback loop has existed.

Feedback on PEAK user experience has been dependent on the following:

- Community-Based organizations
- MEAC and Family Voices
- PEAK complaints through the PEAK Technical Call Center
- Program Area subject matter expert
- County feedback.

Qualtrics will be implemented in a phase approach beginning April 2023.

- 1. First phase will have Web based surveys and Apply for Benefits integrated and post application surveys. Code for American has agreed to work with us in an engagement free of charge to help optimize the project.
- 2. Second phases will be based on other functions in PEAK and the necessary data that will need to be shared between Salesforce and Qualtrics. Most like RMC/RRR will be second phase based on what we learn in phase one.



How do we prioritize enhancements from our backlog?







What is happening in PEAK future







Outcomes from Communications Direct Update Project Released in August?



Post release tracking indicates an average of 4,254 communications preferences changes directly updating into CBMS and not displaying in PEAK Inbox for caseworker review





Poll Question:

• Are you referring members to use PEAK for their renewal? Yes/No



Questions?





Policy Changes & System Updates

Marivel Klueckman, HCPF



Redesigned Renewal Packet

- Based on member and community feedback
- It's shorter- no extra blank spaces and fewer pages
- Less pages to fill in financial information.
- Blank page at the end of the packet to add more information
- Additional emphasis on signing
- Color CO seal added to envelope window to help prevent it from being mistaken for junk mail.





Short-term Ex Parte

- Temporary extension for all members- new CMS guidance on ex parte at individual level
 - \circ $\;$ This is a positive effect to the member $\;$
 - Specific to members in Medicaid or CHP+ who are determined eligible at ex parte
 - Short-term system fix was implemented in October 2023
 - New logic applied to September and October 2023 renewals and will continue until long-term fix implemented
 - Achieves compliance with federal regulations
 - Packets will be sent out at household level but approvals will occur at individual level regardless if renewal packet received or not
 - Long-term system fix down the road
 - Includes sending out renewal packets at individual level
 - RAEs outreaching members



Short-term Ex Parte Example

Ex Parte for January 2024 Renewals





Ex Parte Reinstatement

• Federal guidance to reinstate coverage retroactively

- This will apply to May, June, July, and August 2023 renewals
- Must ensure no gap in coverage regardless if they never reapplied or reapplied and have coverage as of a new date
- Individuals included in reinstatement
 - Includes everyone who was eligible at ex parte but terminated for failure to return renewal packet or failure to sign the packet
 - Primarily children (Medicaid and CHP+) but also includes adults
 - Anticipate approximately 10,000 individuals to be reinstated
- Timeline
 - Reinstatement will occur starting Monday, 10/30 and most be completed by Friday, 11/03 (anticipate a few exceptions that need additional support)
- Noticing
 - Members will receive an approval letter with coverage program and new coverage dates along with reinstatement letter in same envelope



Reinstatement Example

Ex Parte for May 2023 Renewals



was a pass at ex parte on 3/12/2023. **Child will be reopened** as of 6/1/2023 and be on continuous eligibility



COLORADO Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

Eligibility Updates

- Ongoing 60-day extension for LTC members through June 2024
 - CMS strategy that allows delay for a month, we pushed for two months
 - Additional outreach coming from the Member Contact Center
- NEW! Implementation of Appeals Strategy During the COVID Unwind via E14 Authority as of 9/25/2023
 - Members who file a State Fair Hearing within 60 days of their Date of Action with benefits will have continued benefits reinstated back to the closure date.
 - This appeals strategy during the unwind allows members who file their appeal within the 60 day deadline to receive continued benefits regardless of the termination date.
 - Applicable to all appeals, not just eligibility (such as benefit appeals)



Questions?





Data Overview

Rachel Reiter, HCPF Lisa Pera, HCPF


Visit our Data Reporting Page

Public Health Emergency Planning



Continuous Coverage Unwind Data Reporting

The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) will be reporting its progress on "unwinding" the continuous coverage requirement to the federal government. HCPF will post these reports on this page and include links to this information in our <u>monthly COVID-19 newsletter</u> (<u>https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?</u>

v=001 H fxrbpG1WZ01ZnPp6t3PG2s9XP1182vgEdjsKvSnhly8z9JmHyp6DeoLJ3saT6x0SeqRR1ub149uoXxe1ok4jTzfMSQ0B1755vcLiRO7gdY%3D).

<u>Connect for Health Colorado (https://connectforhealthco.com/)</u> will be posting state based marketplace information according to their reporting schedules.

Returning to Regular Eligibility Operations

HCPF resumed the standard eligibility renewal processes beginning May 2023 for Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+), beginning with March member notices. The state opted to take the full 12 months allowed by the federal government to complete renewals for all 1.75 million members, meaning we will be actively monitoring monthly renewal metrics from May 2023 until at least April 2024.

Colorado's focus is to ensure that those who qualify for our programs remain covered and those no longer eligible are connected to affordable, alternative coverage. Thank you for your vital partnership in achieving this shared goal. Visit <u>KeepCOCovered.com</u> (<u>http://KeepCOCovered.com</u>) to keep up with changing initiatives, messages and strategies you and your organization can employ, to the betterment of Coloradans, employers, providers and our economy.

To better understand the results of the unwind data report, we looked at history. As you may know, members losing eligibility for Health First Colorado or CHP+ during the renewal process is part of regular eligibility operations. Members will enroll and be disenrolled from Health First Colorado or CHP+ due to changes in their life circumstances, like losing a job.

- Historical context from prepandemic renewals
- Monthly point in time data reports
- Links to the slides from this webinar with demographic breakouts
- Overview of reporting elements and what they mean
- FAQs and more...



COLORADO Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

colorado.gov/hcpf/ccu

Four Months of Renewals







COLORADO Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

Based on pre-pandemic data, on average about half of those losing coverage become eligible for Medicaid again within two years.

Point in Time Monthly Data Does NOT tell the whole story many complete renewal during 90 Day Reconsideration Period

	Original and 30 days post- renewal* 6/26/2023	60 days post- renewal 7/27/2023	90 days post- renewal 9/4/2023	<u>May national</u> <u>unwind</u> <u>Average</u>	Pre-pandemic CO average
Renewed	*56%	59%	60%	42.1%	57%
No longer					
eligible	42%	40%	39%	37.6%	42%
Ineligible, refer to C4H	16%	17%	17%	8.6%	29%
Procedural					
Denials	26%*	23%	22%	29.0%	12%
Pending	2%	1%	1%	20.3%	1%



September Renewal Data

Colorado implemented two projects that have impacted the September Unwind Data.

- 1) A 60-day extension for Long Term Care members
- 2) Ex parte temporary extension until a short-term fix was implemented mid-October 2023.

These two projects resulted in an **increase in pending renewals** and a **decrease in procedural terminations**.



Data Overview: Overall Enrollment



Overall Enrollment

September 2023 Enrollment

(Reference Lines = May 2023 Baseline)



NOTE: Total enrollment is the net enrollment, includes those rolling off coverage, NEW applications and those who have regained coverage by completing renewals after deadline but during the 90 day reconsideration period.



Enrollment by Age Distributions Remain Consistent

September 2023 Enrollment



(Reference Lines = May 2023 Baseline)



Kids Enrollment: Proportion of coverage on CHP+ up 2%, **Medicaid** down same

September 2023 Enrollment

(Reference Lines = May 2023 Baseline)





September 2023 Enrollment

(Reference Lines = May 2023 Baseline)



Composition Distributions Remain Consistent

COLORADO

Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

Data Overview: Snapshot in Time of May 2023 - August 2023 Cumulative Renewals

Lisa Pera, HCPF



May 2023 - August 2023 Cumulative: Renewed by Race

Race	Remain Covered - Ex Parte	Remain Covered - Not Ex Parte	No Longer Eligible - Non Procedural	No Longer Eligible - Procedural	(Enrollment May 2023)
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%
Asian	2.1%	3.0%	2.6%	2.6%	2.5%
Black/African American	7.8%	6.3%	6.4%	6.7%	6.9%
Hispanic/Latino	30.9%	35.0%	33.6%	31.8%	31.7%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Island	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%
Not Provided	6.5%	4.7%	6.1%	7.6%	7.4%
Other People of Color	5.5%	5.6%	4.7%	4.7%	5.2%
Other/Unknown Race	5.5%	4.5%	5.1%	5.8%	5.0%
White/Caucasian	40.3%	39.7%	40.3%	39.4%	40.0%



Before Renewals

May 2023 - August 2023 Cumulative: Renewals by Age





Data Thus Far - Key Take Aways

- We are not seeing disparities among groups when looking at baseline and post renewal data (thru August) thus far will keep watching this closely
- Colorado's strong economy could mean more have employer sponsored or other coverage
- September and October cohort renewals will be abnormal given recent policy changes & reinstatements, data should normalize in November cohort



Questions?





Supporting Transitions in Coverage

Jessica Smith, Connect for Health CO



Connect for Health Colorado Emails to Potential Customers

Example from last Open Enrollment





Enroll today to avoid a gap in your coverage

You likely recently received a notice from Health First Colorado informing you that you no longer qualify for Medicaid. However, you might be eligible for a <u>low-cost health</u> <u>insurance plan</u> through Connect for Health Colorado.

Connect for Health Colorado is the state's official health insurance marketplace and the only place you can apply for financial help to lower the cost. We're partnering with the State of Colorado to help you transition to a private health insurance plan.

In order to have coverage for the remainder of 2023, you need to enroll in a new health plan. Compare plans now-<u>see what you are eligible for!</u>

Two out of three customers can find a plan for \$25 per month with financial help

Need help enrolling?

We can review all your coverage options and walk you step by step through the application. You can make a <u>free appointment</u> with a Broker or Assister to prepare, or you can find an <u>Enrollment Center</u> where you can simply walk in and enroll.

Get started

ConnectforHealthCO.com 855-752-6749

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Colorful, eyecatching and friendly branding



Links and graphics to learn more and get help



Ongoing activities to support awareness

Direct Outreach

- Notice of Action: Sent by HCPF
- *Joint Letter:* From HCPF and C4 to customers who prefer mail
- *Email marketing*. 1 email sent to everyone with an email address
- *Outbound calls*: Prioritize those without emails
- *Follow-up calls*. Customers who started an application and haven't completed the process

Indirect Outreach

- *Social media:* Utilizing messages from the HCPF toolkit each week
- *Earned media*: Pre-Unwind activities as well as additional press activities in May/ June
- *Stakeholder Newsletters*. Shared with existing lists across the state (ex DHS, with a 10,000 member list)
- *HCPF PSA campaign* Running through End of Year



Medicaid to Marketplace Bridge Update

Month	May	June	July	August
Individuals on Lists from HCPF				
(excluding those repeated on				
future lists)	7,450	12,713	8,700	14,214
Total Emails Sent	3,476	6,063	4,836	7,246
Open Rate	53%	51%	49%	30%
Click Rate	7%	6%	4%	4%
Total Calls Made	1,787	2,724	771	923
Talked to Someone	209	221	91	69
Left Voice Mail	1,149	1,830	458	641
Unable to Leave Voice Mails	429	673	222	213



ConnectforHealthCO.com

Questions?





Contact Info

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Jessica Smith, MSW Community Partnership and Outreach Strategic Lead, Connect for Health Colorado JSmith@c4hco.com



Thank You!



Appendix - More Data



What counties are in each region?

Denver Metro counties include: Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver and Jefferson.

Urban counties include: Boulder, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Garfield, La Plata, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo and Weld

Rural counties include: Alamosa, Chaffee, Clear Creek, Delta, Elbert, Fremont, Gilpin, Lake, Logan, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, Otero, Pitkin, Rio Grande, Routt, Summit, Teller

Frontier counties include: Archuleta, Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Dolores, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Jackson, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Las Animas, Lincoln, Mineral, Moffat, Ouray, Park, Phillips, Prowers, Rio, Blanco, Saguache, San Juan, San Miguel, Sedgwick, Washington, Yuma



Overall Enrollment: Regional Composition

September 2023 Enrollment

Health First Colorado Members by Region **CHP+** Members by Region Denver Metro 46.0% Denver Metro 42.3% (45.9%) (41.1%) 41.9% 43.5% Urban Urban (42.0%) (44.2%) Rural 7.9% Rural 9.2% l(7.8%) (9.6%) 4.3% 5.0% Frontier Frontier (4.3%) (5.1%)

(Reference Lines = May 2023 Baseline)



May 2023 - August 2023 Cumulative: Renewals by Region



