

Board Meeting Minutes
Connect for Health Colorado
July 13, 2020
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Board Members Present: Kim Bimestefer, Claire Brockbank, Mike Conway, Adela Flores-Brennan, Patrick Gordon, Annie Lee, Lorez Meinhold, Marc Reece, Sharon O’Hara, Mike Stahl, Dick Thompson

Board Members Absent: Elisabeth Arenales

Staff Present: Brian Braun, Kelly Davies, Saphia Elfituri, Kelly Guthner, Ian McMahon, Kevin Patterson, Ilana Rivera, Alan Schmitz, Lisa Sevier, Monica VanBuskirk, Ezra Watland

Teleconference and phone conference lines were available for people to join.

I. Business Agenda

- Adela Flores-Brennan called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance by teleconference or on the phone.
- The minutes from the June Board meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Changes to the agenda: None.
- Disclosure of conflicts of interest: None.

II. Board Report

Election of Board Officers

The election of Board Officers has been moved to a short business meeting during the September Board Retreat.

The CEO’s annual review and compensation were finalized during the June Executive Committee Meeting.

Medicaid CHP+ Membership Forecast

Kim Bimestefer, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), reviewed the Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) enrollment impact due to the Public Health Emergency (PHE). The increased enrollment includes new members as well as continuing members who would have been disenrolled if not for the PHE.

Per a tweet from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) the PHE end date has been changed from a July 25th expiration date to October 23rd. This has not been confirmed in writing from the HHS. (Written confirmation of the PHE extension was received on July 23, 2020.)

Connect for Health Colorado and HCPF are collaborating to help inform the disenrolled on health insurance coverage after the PHE.

2020 Medicaid Scenario Analysis

Staff reviewed a scenario analysis for creating a bridge for eligible Coloradans moving from Medicaid to the Marketplace once the PHE declaration expires.

- The organization plans to conduct outreach to terminated Medicaid beneficiaries that may be eligible for exchange coverage.
- The volume, timing and specificity of outreach will be dependent upon data received from HCPF.
- Enrollment estimates are dependent on the level of detail in the data from HCPF.
- Connect for Health Colorado leadership is communicating regularly with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Action Item

Staff to provide communication plans for reaching Coloradans who have been terminated from Medicaid and may be eligible for financial assistance on the Marketplace.

III. CEO Report

Action Items

The Board reviewed the updated list of action items.

Vision Statement

The status of the vision statement was shared with the Board, along with four draft statements.

Board members suggested using the third option and including health equity in the statement; as well as, verbiage from the mission statement.

New Board Updates

Staff is working to fill the open positions on a couple of Boards including the Public Benefit Corporation (PBC) and the Easy Enrollment Committee. Applicants will be vetted, and finalists will be reviewed with the Executive Committee for a decision.

IV. Finance & Operations

Cloud Hosting Procurement

Staff is seeking Board Approval to enter into a 12-month agreement with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to provide cloud hosting and infrastructure services for the new enrollment and eligibility technology platform. Expected start date for the hosting agreement is September 2020. This hosting service will replace the current CGI based hosting contract.

The Finance and Operations Committee recommended approval to proceed in contracting for hosting services provided by AWS for 12 months (September 2020 thru August 2021). The total estimated cost for these services for the 12 months is not to exceed \$970,000.

Ms. Flores-Brennan called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Ms. Flores-Brennan called the recommendation to a vote. The recommendation was approved as follows:

Yes: Claire Brockbank, Adela Flores-Brennan, Patrick Gordon, Annie Lee, Lorez Meinhold, Sharon O’Hara, Marc Reece, Mike Stahl and Dick Thompson

No: None

Abstain: None

V. Policy

2021 Policy Agenda

Staff updated the Board on the progress made on the policy agenda to date. Current progress includes the passage of HB 1236, the Easy Enrollment bill. A list of policy priorities to focus on in the coming year includes:

- Preserve automatic re-enrollment in state law.
- Process hardship exemption applications through Connect for Health Colorado to improve access to Catastrophic plans.
- Codify a QHP issuer certification requirement to offer plans at the Bronze level.
- Create multiagency health care navigation, benefit literacy, and integrated support services.
- Construct an “easy eligibility” path to automatically determine eligibility for the uninsured.

Staff asked the Board to consider policy actions that can be taken to realize comprehensive improvements. This includes strategically aligning program requirements and reducing administrative burden on consumers, carriers, support channels, and agencies governing programs.

Action Item

Staff to add data sharing between Connect for Health Colorado and the state to the list of policy priorities.

The Board stated that discussions about healthcare need to be explicit in that it includes health equity, and the full spectrum of physical, mental and behavioral needs.

Legislative Update

House Bill 1236, the Easy Enrollment bill and SB 215, the Health Care Affordability Enterprise Fund bill, have both been signed into law.

VI. Public Comment

Public comment given by Bethany Pray, Colorado Center on Law & Policy.

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Brockbank
Secretary

Next Meeting

August 10, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.