

***Policy Committee Minutes***  
***February 28, 2021***  
***1:00 PM – 3:00 PM***

**Board Members Present:** Christy Blakely, Claire Brockbank, Adela Flores-Brennan, Patrick Gordon, and Marc Reece

**Staff Present:** Brian Braun, Jessalyn Hampton, Danny O’Neil, Emma Oppenheim, Carolyn Pickton, Ilana Rivera, Alan Schmitz, Nina Schwartz, Monica VanBuskirk, and Ezra Watland

**I. Welcome and Introduction**

Adela Flores-Brennan chaired the Policy Committee Meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., welcoming those in attendance.

The January Committee minutes were reviewed and approved.

**II. HCPF Update**

Staff from the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) provided an update to the Committee:

- The public health emergency (PHE) is expected to extend through July 2022
- The PHE can be extended for up to 90 days at a time
- HCPF continues to work through planning and strategies regarding the end of the PHE
- HCPF continues community partner engagement to prepare members for the end of the PHE
- On February 12, HCPF implemented their renewal revamp project which will be critical during the end of the PHE
- HCPF awaits official guidance from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the end of the PHE

**III. DOI and Colorado Option Update**

Staff from the Division of Insurance (DOI) provided an update to the Committee:

- Due to the implementation of the Colorado Option standardized plan
  - DOI will create a standardized plan which will allow consumers and business to easily compare plans and choose the plan that is right for them
  - Carriers are required to reduce premium plans for individuals, families, and small business by 15% by 2025

- DOI will submit an application to the federal government to allow funding saved to be utilized for state subsidy programs, expanding coverage to Coloradans
- Standardized plan will be offered through Connect for Health Colorado and Colorado Connect starting plan year 2023
- On November 30, 2021, DOI submitted [its Section 1332 Innovation Waiver Amendment](#) to the federal government. The federal government has until July 1, 2022, to approve the 1332 Waiver
- Additional information on Colorado Option can be found [here](#).
- DOI will hold a virtual permanent rulemaking hearing on March 22, 2022, for 7 regulations. Registration for the hearing can be found [here](#). Notice of rulemaking hearings and proposed regulations can be found [here](#)
- The next Colorado Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) meeting will be held March 11, 2022. Information on the PDAB can be found [here](#)

#### IV. **2022 Legislative Session**

Staff at Connect for Health Colorado presented [state legislative updates](#). The presentation highlighted general session updates, frequently asked Policy questions, an overview of [Senate Bill 22-081](#) (SB22-081), the bill's newest iterations, and Marketing and Outreach possibilities with additional funding.

##### SB22-081

- The Board has taken an amending position on SB22-081 February 14, 2022
- Kevin Patterson testified February 17, 2022, at Senate State Affairs to communicate the Board's amending position
- Senator Smallwood's amendments brought the Board into a support position
- The bill passed both Senate State Affairs and Senate Finance unanimously
- The bill will be sent to Senate Appropriations

As a reminder, Connect for Health Colorado only takes position on Legislation that directly impacts the operation of the Exchange and its customers.

#### V. **Public Comment**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adela Flores-Brennan  
Policy Committee Chair