



COLORADO CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE ACCESS PROGRAM



A Medical Home for Every Child

Mission

CCHAP is a non-profit organization devoted to ensuring that every child enrolled in Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) receives comprehensive health care from a primary care provider – a “medical home” and all pregnant women covered by Medicaid or CHP+ receive comprehensive prenatal services.

Background Information

In 2006, there were approximately 180,000 children in Colorado, either enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid and CHP+, who were unable to find a medical home.

Colorado has a strong public health system, but it does not have the capacity to address this problem. A survey conducted in 2006 by the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program found that only 20% of private pediatricians and family physicians accepted Medicaid or CHP+. The survey identified the following barriers to private pediatricians and physicians participating in these government-funded health programs:

- (1) poor reimbursement
- (2) difficulties with eligibility and enrollment
- (3) problems with business processes associated with accepting Medicaid
- (4) help addressing the many socio-economic issues faced by low-income families
- (5) poor access to, and coordination of, mental health services
- (6) the need for better case management and care coordination
- (7) trouble getting children in for regular preventive care, including immunizations
- (8) transportation problems for low-income families
- (9) the need to learn more about culturally sensitive and responsive care
- (10) difficulty in obtaining and affording interpreters for healthcare visits
- (11) the need for help in identifying all of the resources for which these children are eligible

Collaborating Community Organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter
Behavioral Healthcare Inc.
ClinicNet
Colorado Access (ABC – BHO)
Colorado Access (for CHP+ physical health)
Colorado Community Health Network
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF)
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Medical Home Division
Colorado Foundation for Families & Children
Colorado Health Institute
Colorado Health Outcomes Program
Colorado Immunization Coalition and The Immunization Registry
Colorado Medical Society
County Mental Health Centers
County Public Health Nurses
Denver Samaritan Counseling Center
Department of Child Psychiatry, UCHSC
Department of Pediatrics, UCHSC
EPSDT County Outreach Workers
Family Voices
Foothills Behavioral Health
International Language Services
Logisticare
MetNet
Rocky Mountain Health Plans
Rocky Mountain Youth
The Children's Hospital
The Children's Hospital Emergency Department and Urgent Care Centers
University of Colorado School of Medicine, Dean's Fund
University of Colorado School of Medicine's Cultural Competency Program

Funding Sources

Amer Chair in Community Pediatrics, The Children's Hospital
Caring for Colorado Foundation
Colorado Health Foundation
Colorado Trust
Community Child Health Foundation
Rose Community Foundation
Timothy and Bernadette Marquez Foundation
The Piton Foundation

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Pilot Program

Generously funded by Colorado foundations, a non-profit organization, the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program (CCHAP) was developed to provide 14 support services to address the barriers physicians cited. After a year of planning, an 18-month pilot program was conducted with 7,000 children in seven pediatric practices in metro Denver. There were two keys to the success of the pilot program. First, CCHAP negotiated an enhanced reimbursement rate for the physicians through a Medicaid managed care organization, which recognized that it would save money through reduced emergency room and hospitalization costs for the children.

Second, CCHAP not only provides support services, but also links the private practices to community services for families provided by 30 community-based organizations, for example, mental health counseling, social services, transportation, care coordination, case management, and quality improvement coaching.



Pilot Program Results

The evaluation of the pilot program showed that private pediatric practices in Colorado are able and willing to provide a medical home for Medicaid and CHP+ children resulting in:

- Reduced cost of care per child.
- Improved health outcome measures
 - immunization rates increased.
 - preventive care visits increased.
 - emergency care visits and hospitalization rates decreased.

Ongoing Program

CCHAP works closely with state Medicaid, the Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians and has recruited, trained and now supports over 180 primary care practices and over 600 primary care providers, providing a medical home to an estimated 120,000 Medicaid and CHP+ children. In 2010, 95% of all private pediatric practices in Colorado are affiliated with CCHAP. Colorado Medicaid now provides higher reimbursement to practices that meet certain criteria as a medical home for children. Colorado Medicaid and CCHAP assist practices in meeting these criteria.

Future Plans

CCHAP continues to expand throughout Colorado and also to assess the barriers to care for Medicaid and CHP+ children in rural Colorado. CCHAP now also offers similar support services to private obstetrical and family practices to encourage and enable them to provide comprehensive prenatal services for pregnant women covered by Medicaid and CHP+. And, CCHAP is working with the Colorado Dental Association, several Colorado foundations and many other organizations to develop a program to encourage and enable dentists to serve young children and pregnant women covered by Medicaid.