



ISSUE 11 :: DECEMBER 2006

CHP+ HIGHLIGHTS

A Resource for CHP+ Community Partners

CHP+ A LOOK BACK

Thanks to our community partners, it has been a successful and memorable year for the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) program. It is hard to believe that another year has already passed. We would like to take this opportunity to look back at the CHP+ program and appreciate how far we have come together.

CHP+ officially began in 1998 with the expansion of the Colorado Children's Health Plan. The Colorado Children's Health Program, operated by the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, began in 1992 and offered outpatient only coverage for children.

The Children's Basic Health Plan (CBHP) Policy Board – comprised of legislators, business leaders and providers – set the framework and approved the initial rules governing the CHP+ program. Remember the debate over the definition of a family? It's amazing how the definition of a word can affect eligibility for a program. And anyone remember monthly premiums? Yes, families used to have to pay monthly premiums based on incomes to remain in the program. The CBHP Policy Board and department listened to clients and advocates and abolished premiums in 2000. Whew!

In 2001 the CBHP Policy Board was dissolved and the CHP+ program rules became the responsibility of the Medicaid Services Board. CHP+ also went through some exciting changes in 2002. Dental benefits were added in February, based on valuable research provided by advocates. During the legislative session, the department received approval to expand the CHP+ program to serve pregnant women.

And there are some memories we would all like to forget, such as the enrollment freeze. Program partners, the department, community and advocates banded together during this difficult period. Fortunately existing enrollees remained in the program and new siblings could also be added to the plan. The freeze came at a time when other states were lowering eligibility income levels and increasing family monthly premiums. We are all thankful that the freeze came to an end.

Today, CHP+ is a thriving program that is able to serve even more children due to the increase of income eligibility to at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. The program also continues to serve pregnant women. As a result of tobacco tax dollars (HBO6-1262) CHP+ has been able to increase marketing and outreach activities. The program now has six regional outreach coordinators throughout the state, as extensions of the program, bringing information to clients and organizations and back to the department. CHP+ also has updated materials that better explain the program. As a result of the outreach, advertising and marketing efforts more and more families are applying for CHP+.

Thanks for being a part of our journey – it has been amazing. We appreciate our community partners for continuing to make CHP+ a better program.

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RESOURCE CONTACT INFORMATION

Your feedback is important to us. If you have any suggestions for upcoming newsletters, please contact [Tammy Stratton](#).

If you are interested in learning more about CHP+, please contact one of our Regional Outreach Coordinators (ROC) to set up a presentation or training session or if you would like to add a community event to our calendar.

Denver Metro

Region:

Ileana Perez

720-940-6969

[Email](#)

Happy New Year.

Joanne Lindsay

Marketing Manager

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

CHP+ News

Reminder

When families enroll or renew their annual membership with CHP+, they receive an enrollment fee letter in the mail. It is important that families remove the bottom portion of the letter and mail it in with their check. This makes it easier for the team to process each family's information, efficiently and smoothly.

Pueblo StepUp

Pueblo StepUp, an organization that provides services to the underserved populations of Pueblo County, has a new home. Pueblo StepUp's new address is 1925 East Orman Avenue, Suite G-52 – the offices are located in the St. Mary Corwin Medical Arts Annex.

Below is a list of the new phone numbers to reach the Pueblo StepUp team.

Main Number – 719-560-5886

Brenda LaCombe – 719-557-3878

EPSDT/Medicaid Staff:

Kathy Chavez – 719-557-3884

Sharon Medina – 719-557-3879

Pamela Doyle – 719-557-3885

Test Your CHP+ Knowledge

Are you a CHP+ expert? Here are a few questions to put your CHP+ knowledge to the test. The answers can be found near the bottom of the newsletter.

1. Who is the new Regional Outreach Coordinator for the Denver Metro Region?
2. When families receive an enrollment fee letter what do they need to send in with their check?
3. Do counties determine CHP+ eligibility?
4. How do families apply for CHP+?
5. How often do families have to fill out a renewal application?

Health Tip

Why Are Childhood Vaccines So Important?

By Dr. David Brody – Medical Director

Denver Health Medical Plan, Inc.

Parents are always looking for ways to protect their children. Childhood vaccinations are the first step in keeping kids healthy. Vaccines prevent disease not only in the people who receive them but also those whom they come in contact with.

Vaccines are responsible for the control of many infectious diseases that were once common in this country, including polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib).

Denver Metro

Region:

Christine Dauchot

(temporarily)

303-830-3558

[Email](#)

Southwest Region:

Kari Smith

970-759-0577

[Email](#)

Northwest Region:

Candice Talkington

970-260-3880

[Email](#)

Southeast Region:

Mary Rivera

719-251-1791

[Email](#)

Northeast Region:

Kathy Anderson

970-526-2991

[Email](#)

North Central

Region:

Nikki Smyrl Gross

970-420-9058

[Email](#)

MAXIMUS Contacts:

CHP+ marketing and outreach operated by MAXIMUS

MAXIMUS Manager of Marketing and

Outreach for CHP+

Christine Dauchot

303-830-3558

[Email](#)

MAXIMUS Project

Director

Sally Harmon

303-830-3550

[Email](#)

The Bawmann Group

Newborn babies are immune to many diseases because of the antibodies they receive from their mothers. However, the duration of this immunity may last only a month to about a year. Some diseases, such as whooping cough, can only be prevented by vaccine where a mother's antibodies provide no protection.

If a child is not vaccinated and is exposed to a disease, the child's body may not be strong enough to fight the disease. Before vaccines, many children died from diseases that vaccines now prevent, such as whooping cough, measles and polio. These same diseases still exist today, but babies are now protected by vaccines, so we do not see them as often in the general population.

Immunizing children also helps to protect the health of our community, especially those who cannot be immunized because they are too young, those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons (e.g., children with leukemia); and those who do not respond adequately to vaccination.

Community Events

For more information about community events or to share news of a community event contact the Regional Outreach Coordinator in your area.

Southeast Region:

January 3, 2007, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Health Fair
Pueblo City and County Health Department
Pueblo

January 13, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pueblo Health Expo
Pueblo Convention Center
Pueblo

January 27, 2007

Pueblo Health Expo
Pueblo

January 31, 2007, 9:00 a.m.

Manzanola School District Health Fair
Otero

Statewide

January 8, 2007, 7:30 a.m.

Faith-based Symposium on Children's Health Care Issues
1820 Broadway
Denver

CHP+ Partner Spotlight

Yampah Teen Parent Program – Providing Education and More

Yampah Teen Parent Program is an educational family literacy program that helps teen parents receive a high school education and earn a diploma. Yampah Teen Parent Program also provides parenting education and independent living education to teens while their children are involved in a quality early childhood program. Parents and children also learn together through intergenerational literacy activities.



As a community partner, Yampah Teen

Contact:

Media relations and advertising agency for CHP+

Senior Account Manager

Tammy Stratton
303-320-7790

[Email](#)

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

Contact:

Marketing Contract Manager

Joanne Lindsay
303-866-3144

CHP+ Customer Service

1-800-359-1991

CHP+ HMO

Contacts:

CHP+ State Managed Care Network (Anthem BlueCross BlueShield)

1-877-523-8171

Colorado Access

1-888-214-1101

Denver Health Medical Plan

720-956-2100

Kaiser Permanente

1-800-632-9700

Rocky Mountain Health Plans

1-800-346-4643

Delta Dental

303-741-9300

or

1-800-610-0201



Parent Program has been providing families with information about important community resources such as CHP+ for many years. This is the first year, however, that Yampah Teen Parent Program was able to have a speaker from CHP+ present program information directly to families and to help train staff about this important insurance program. This has been invaluable and the Yampah Teen Parent Program staff feels like they know more about the CHP+ program than ever before. They are happy to have direct access to Candice Talkington — the CHP+ Regional Outreach Coordinator in the area — who they can contact with any CHP+ program questions or to schedule additional staff or client CHP+ trainings.

Working directly with Candice to educate both families and staff illustrates the amazing collaboration Yampah Teen Parent Program has with CHP+. After the first CHP+ presentation, six families sat with the resource manager and Candice to fill out applications. Because of the collaboration between the two organizations these families were able to access affordable health care insurance for their families. The staff training and education will benefit families for years to come.

The greatest challenge for the Yampah Teen Parent Program in promoting CHP+ is working to overcome the fear some families have regarding citizenship and documentation. Working with Candice, in the safe, trusting environment of the school program allowed the families to feel more comfortable asking questions, including questions about documentation issues. Working together with Candice, the Yampah Teen Parent Program has been able to reassure families and make sure they get the help they need.

Test Your CHP+ Knowledge – Check Your Answers:

1. The new Regional Outreach Coordinator for the Denver Metro Region is Ileana Perez. There will also be a second ROC available to assist with CHP+ education in the metro area in the new year.
2. When families receive an enrollment fee letter in the mail, they need to remove the bottom portion of the letter and mail it in with their check.
3. Yes, since the end of 2004 counties have been able to determine Medicaid and CHP+ eligibility.
4. Families may apply for CHP+ by going to the Web site, www.CHPplus.org to download an application. Families can also call 1-800-359-1991 to request an application.
5. Families have to renew enrollment every year.

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