

Timeline for Improving Healthcare for All Colorado's Children

(Presented initially to the Colorado Forum, November 2006)

Phase 1: Ensure that Medicaid and the Child Health Plan provides high quality care [SB-130, SB-211]

Step 1: Ensure that all children have a “Medical Home” that provides measurable, patient-centered, physician-guided, cost-efficient, longitudinal care

- Encourage rather than discourage family physicians and pediatricians (private small businesses) to accept new Medicaid and Child Health Plan patients while maintaining a strong community health center system
- Increase payments to cover the overhead cost of the visit in private offices and facilitate enrollment and billing
- Support programs that help physicians care for low income populations: i.e. translating services, social worker consults, and mental health services

Step 2: Establish a medical director position to provide direction and oversight for the Medicaid and Child Health Plan.

Step 3: Focus on transparency in quality as well as cost. Measure and report child health outcome measures (a child health care “CSAP”, Clinical Advisory Committee) and hold health plans and providers accountable for both quality and maximizing the use of healthcare dollars for direct clinical care.

Step 4: Establish “pay for performance” programs that encourage quality improvement and investment in health information systems that improve efficiency and outcomes.

Phase 2: Enroll more uninsured children who are eligible for Medicaid and the Child Health Plan

Step 5: Streamline enrollment so that eligible children are more efficiently enrolled

- Implement an expedited enrollment process for school aged children who already qualify for a free or reduced lunch program in school

Phase 3: Expand eligibility for the Colorado Child Health Plan to reduce the number of uninsured children

Step 6: Expand eligibility for the Colorado Child Health Plan to 250% or 300% of poverty since the federal government pays 65% of the costs and low income families have great difficulty affording family health insurance coverage



Endorsed by the Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

SENATE BILL 07-130 (Abstract)
CONCERNING MEDICAL HOMES FOR CHILDREN

"MEDICAL HOME" MEANS AN APPROPRIATELY QUALIFIED MEDICAL SPECIALTY, DEVELOPMENTAL, THERAPEUTIC, OR MENTAL HEALTH CARE PRACTICE THAT VERIFIABLY ENSURES CONTINUOUS, ACCESSIBLE, AND COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO AND COORDINATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED MEDICAL CARE, MENTAL HEALTH CARE, ORAL HEALTH CARE, AND RELATED SERVICES FOR A CHILD. ... ALL MEDICAL HOMES SHALL ENSURE, AT A MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING:

- (a) HEALTH MAINTENANCE AND PREVENTATIVE CARE;
- (b) ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE AND HEALTH EDUCATION;
- (c) ACUTE AND CHRONIC ILLNESS CARE;
- (d) COORDINATION OF MEDICATIONS, SPECIALISTS, AND THERAPIES;
- (e) PROVIDER PARTICIPATION IN HOSPITAL CARE; AND
- (f) TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR TELEPHONE CARE.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD STRIVE TO FIND A MEDICAL HOME FOR EACH CHILD ... SHALL DEVELOP SYSTEMS AND STANDARDS TO MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE STATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OR THE CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH PLAN WHO HAVE A MEDICAL HOME. THE SYSTEMS AND STANDARDS DEVELOPED SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, WAYS TO ENSURE THAT A MEDICAL HOME SHALL OFFER FAMILY-CENTERED, COMPASSIONATE, CULTURALLY EFFECTIVE CARE AND SENSITIVE, RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION TO A CHILD AND HIS OR HER FAMILY.

SENATE BILL 07-211 (Abstract)
CONCERNING IMPROVEMENTS TO HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN

PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR ALL CHILDREN IN COLORADO, REGARDLESS OF ECONOMIC STATUS OR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE STATE... ALL LOW-INCOME CHILDREN IN COLORADO SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH COVERAGE BY THE END OF 2010.... THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO BOTH INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING HEALTH COVERAGE AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE HEALTH CARE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN, INCLUDING:

- (A) AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING;
- (B) STREAMLINING APPLICATION METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAID AND THE CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH PLAN;
- (C) REVIEWING MEASURES OF ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN; AND
- (D) DEVELOPING CLINICAL STANDARDS AND METHODS OF COLLECTING, ANALYZING, AND DISCLOSING INFORMATION CONCERNING CLINICAL PERFORMANCE.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

- (I) DEVELOP AND OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PLAN TO ENSURE THAT ALL LOW-INCOME CHILDREN IN COLORADO HAVE HEALTH COVERAGE BY THE END OF 2010; AND
- (II) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN LEGISLATION AND RULES TO INCREASE ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN IN MEDICAID AND THE CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH PLAN.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY APPOINT A CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2008, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH JANUARY 1 THEREAFTER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, ON MEASURES OF ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR PROGRAMS

IT IS IMPORTANT TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE OBJECTIVE CLINICAL STANDARDS TO MAXIMIZE THE SCARCE DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR MEDICAL CARE; ANDTHE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONGOING, TRANSPARENT MEASUREMENT OF HEALTH OUTCOMES IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR COLORADANS.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL CLINICAL ADVISORS, SHALL DEVELOP CLINICAL STANDARDS AND METHODS FOR COLLECTING, ANALYZING, AND DISCLOSING INFORMATION REGARDING CLINICAL PERFORMANCE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMMUNIZATION RATES, MEDICAL HOME STANDARDS, CLINICAL CARE GUIDELINES, CARE COORDINATION, CASE MANAGEMENT, DISEASE MANAGEMENT, AND COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. ...

ON OR BEFORE EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, BASED ON THE REVIEW OF THIS DATA, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES.