

Strategic Discussion: November 17, 2017
Medicaid Reform Project Plan: **Approved**

Medicaid Reform: Medicaid is now the state's largest health plan with over 20% of the market and 1.3 million Coloradans served by the program. At a time of significant change and uncertainty CMS remains committed to the goal of transitioning Medicaid into a high performing delivery system. The program faces change from continued growth in enrollment, the looming launch of the second version of the Accountable Care Collaborative in summer 2018, potential federal reforms to restructure or limit funding, a new governor's administration in 2019 and continued state pressure to increase quality and reduce costs within the program. Add to that the potentially adverse impacts on physician participation due to significant payment processing problems caused by the new state system and it is clear that Medicaid reform is at a crossroads.

Goal: Transform Medicaid into a high performing delivery system that meets the needs of patients and the physicians who care for them.

Objective: Drive changes to Colorado Medicaid by keeping physician priorities and concerns at the center of reform discussions.

Strategies:

1. Protect existing rates and advocate for value-based payments that ensure quality and preserve the viability of physician practices.
2. Identify problems that existing Medicaid physicians are encountering and take steps to address them.
3. Inform members about program changes to help maximize physician participation in the program.
4. Actively monitor federal reform initiatives and aggressively champion CMS Medicaid reform policies and priorities should administrative or legislative changes advance.
5. Ask COMPAC to engage and educate 2018 Colorado gubernatorial candidates about physician priorities and concerns with Medicaid.

Background

Why the board had this discussion:

1. Over the past two meetings the board has discussed the importance of Medicaid reform, including a professionally facilitated meeting in September to prioritize key issues and actions.

2. During that meeting the board agreed that physicians bring a unique, practical perspective to Medicaid reform discussions that must be shared and heard. Physician engagement in general, and CMS leadership specifically, are important in light of Colorado Medicaid's tremendous growth and change over the last 10 years and the prospect for more change in the near future due in part to potential federal changes, the launch of the second version of the Accountable Care Collaborative in summer 2018 and a looming new governor's administration starting in 2019.
3. The following priorities were identified during the September meeting. The top three issues/actions include:
 - a. Advocate for and protect Medicaid reimbursement that keeps physician practices viable.
 - b. Evaluate the number of CMS members that take Medicaid, catalogue top concerns and devise strategies to address those issues.
 - c. Work to prevent provider flight and help recruit new providers to participate in Medicaid.
4. As directed, the CEO, senior staff and leadership used these priorities to draft a Medicaid project plan for inclusion in the 2017-2018 board operational plan.