



# Week's Worth

December 17, 2010

Yesterday the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) held a public forum to provide information about their draft application to be submitted in early January to CMS for a "Money Follows the Person" (MFTP) grant. The forum was taped and is expected to be posted on HCPF's web site in the next few days. HCPF has named their grant application "Colorado Access to Community-Based Transitions & Services" (CO-ACTS) and you can read the grant application and provide input at the following link on their website: <http://tinyurl.com/372ggha>.

HCPF is seeking this grant opportunity to build and improve on the infrastructure supporting home- and community-based services (HCBS) for people of all ages with long-term care needs.

It was announced yesterday that all materials relating to the grant application as well as information related to its implementation (if awarded to Colorado) will be posted on this site.

There are three project teams tasked with developing the grant application and CAHSA members are participating as follows: Camille Thompson (Christian Living Communities) and Linda Johnston (Seniors' Resource Center) serve on the Benefits and Services team; Maureen Hewitt (Total Longterm Care) and Donna Zwierzynski (Good Samaritan Bonell Community) serve on the Participant and Recruitment team. The grant award announcement from CMS is expected on February 28, 2011. CAHSA supports this grant application and we will continue to monitor progress and keep you posted. Also, Tim Cortez from HCPF will present at our January 5<sup>th</sup> legislative workshop and will provide additional information at that time as well as answer your questions.

Last Thursday the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) held their briefing on the HCPF proposed budget for FY 11-12. With respect to provider reimbursement and specifically Medicaid payment delays, staff explained that delaying payments is not the most effective or efficient way to balance the budget. In 2010, the state delayed payment which was anticipated to save \$38M, but actually only saved \$28M. Staff recommends not making a decision until after the Long Bill package is introduced in late March and not use this as a balancing item unless absolutely necessary. Staff also recommends the JBC look at amending Section 25-5-4-401(c) which gives the Executive branch discretion as to when it is appropriate to shut down MMIS (Medicaid Management Information System). Staff explained that she is not aware of other states using Medicaid delayed payment to balance budgets and recommends the committee ask the department questions about rationalizing the payment delay. The staff recommends not cutting provider rates but instead recommends the state use accounting maneuvers, cash funds, program reductions to CICP, and Medicaid program reductions when possible.

Questions posed by JBC members of interest to CAHSA included: What is the status of the waiver request to CMS to implement presumptive eligibility? What is the status of the ACF tiered rate study for which HCPF received donations earlier this year to implement? What is the status of the nursing home provider fee and how is it impacted by cuts in reimbursement?

Next week HCPF staff will have their hearing before the JBC. At this hearing they are to address the questions posed re' their FY 11-12 budget proposal. We will have all of the answers at our January 5<sup>th</sup> legislative workshop.

CAHSA's holiday schedule is as follows: we close at 1pm on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and all day December 24<sup>th</sup> and we will be closed on December 30<sup>th</sup>. *Capitol Focus* will begin publication in January. Happy Holidays to all!