



ACCOUNTABLE CARE COLLABORATIVE REACHES ENROLLMENT MILESTONE

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DENVER – December 19, 2013 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) announced today that it has enrolled its 400,000th member into the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) program. This is the third year of the ACC program, which is designed to improve client health while [lowering costs](#). The ACC is not only achieving its financial goals, but has created a client-centered approach to health care that is delivering efficient, coordinated care to improve the overall health of its clients.

The ACC is comprised of seven [Regional Care Collaborative Organizations](#) (RCCOs) across the state that connect Medicaid clients to Medicaid providers and help Medicaid clients find community and social services in their area. The RCCOs help providers communicate with Medicaid clients and with each other, so Medicaid clients receive coordinated care.

<u>RCCO Region</u>	<u>Enrolled Clients *</u>
RCCO 1	49,000
RCCO 2	36,000
RCCO 3	121,000
RCCO 4	52,000
RCCO 5	30,000
RCCO 6	54,000
RCCO 7	69,000

* Note: Rounded enrollment numbers as of December 4, 2013

“If a client visits an ER many times or is readmitted to a hospital over and over again, that’s usually a sign that that person’s health is not stable and he or she may have other unmet needs,” said Suzanne Brennan, Colorado Medicaid Director. “The ACC, through our RCCOs, provides clients with a care coordinator and a ‘medical home’ that work together to ensure our clients get the right care, at the right time, and in the right setting.”

Prior to the ACC, 85 percent of Medicaid clients received care in an uncoordinated ‘Fee for Service’ model where providers were paid based on the number of services they provided each client. Under the ACC, providers are paid a ‘per member per month’ fee, but can receive incentive payments for achieving healthy patient outcomes. Through the first three quarters of [FY2012-13](#), ACC providers received more than \$823,000 in incentive payments for improving outcomes on three key performance indicators:

- **Hospital Readmissions:** 15-20 percent reduction
- **High Cost Imaging:** 25 percent reduction
- **Emergency Room Utilization:** 1.9 percent increase compared to a 2.8 percent increase for those not enrolled in the ACC program

“We are very excited that these 400,000 Medicaid clients are now in our new Medicaid framework of care,” said Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN, executive director. “The ACC has grown from a concept we felt strongly would work, into program that has made substantial and tangible improvements in our clients’ lives, all while achieving significant savings.”

Personal stories abound from clients throughout Colorado, speaking to the improvements the ACC has had on their quality of life. One such story comes from Carole in Greeley:

For years, Carole suffered from unmanaged mental illness and various preventable physical ailments that regularly caused uncontrollable pain. Instability at home often left Carole homeless or in unsafe living conditions that exacerbated her health issues, resulting in frequent trips to the emergency room. Due to her very fragile condition, she was often taken advantage of, her pain medication was frequently stolen and she was regularly physically abused.

Carole’s high number of emergency room visits, hospital stays and high costs caught the attention of case managers. She became one of the first clients enrolled in the ACC, and Carole was provided with a Care Coordinator named Cindy.

Cindy began by getting Carole’s mental health under control and properly managed. She now sees a therapist once a month to manage her medications and receives regular counseling from her primary care doctor and Cindy. Through the help of both her doctor and a home health nurse, they have successfully managed her high blood pressure and thyroid conditions.

About a year ago she was the victim of a brutal assault that left her with a severe head injury and several bone fractures requiring specialized shoulder surgery. After attending to her medical needs, Carole’s care team found affordable housing for her in a safer part town that was also close to her rehabilitation clinic. She still lives in this location and her quality of life has greatly improved.

Carole says, “Before I met Cindy, I was in a very dark, bad place. I’m happy now. Cindy is my best friend and I don’t know where I would be without her. I don’t know if I would still be alive.”

To be connected with an ACC client and localize the program’s impact in your community, please contact [Rachel Reiter](#) at 303-866-3921 who will connect you with the RCCO in your area.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans who qualify. The mission of the department is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources. For more information about the department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.

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