Colorado Local Public Health Agencies and Health Plan Providers Collaborate on Immunization Coverage

Statewide effort to register LPHAs as immunization providers to large health plans.

**Partners Involved:** Colorado Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs); Colorado Prevention Alliance (Association); Kaiser Foundation; American Cancer Society; Colorado Association of Health Plans; Colorado Foundation for Public Health and Environment; Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**Description of the Integration:** The ACA assures coverage for recommended immunizations under health plans purchased in the insurance exchanges. As such, CDC has determined that immunizations provided by the CDC cannot be delivered to insured individuals. LPHAs in many rural areas have been the only provider of immunization services because of cost and logistical challenges presented to private providers. The public health interest is in assuring that there is not a reduction in immunization rates in their community and that reduced grant support for immunization programs does not erode LPHA capacity. The Colorado Prevention Alliance worked on creating master contract language for each of Colorado’s 54 LPHAs to use with more than a dozen large health plans in the state. Though not every plan and every LPHA has formed contracts, many have. This relationship assures immunization capacity in public health, provides needed services to the members of health plans and supports the goal of reducing vaccine preventable disease. This integration project assisted LPHAs into an unfamiliar domain of billing private plans for certain public health functions delivered to individuals.

- **Resources Required:** State Grant (Immunization Program Project Request); Private Funding from the Kaiser Foundation.
- **Results:** Number of agreements signed between LPHAs and health plans
- **Key Elements for Success:** The Colorado Prevention Alliance is a collaboration of health plans and public health leaders that identifies key prevention activities of common interest to work on. The only other group of it’s kind that we are aware of is in the state of Oregon. This open dialog creates opportunities to forward prevention activities, especially in light of the ACA.
- **Lessons Learned:** It is challenging to create safe and effective dialog among participants who are natural competitors (health plans) and the state (public health and Medicaid) with specific regulatory oversight of plans and providers. Though these challenges are ever present, the ability of the group to overcome these barriers has proven possible in the example of this success.

**Movement on the Integration Scale:** Start: mutual awareness ; Finish: partnership; Desired: partnership

**Website Links:** [http://www.coloradopreventionalliance.org](http://www.coloradopreventionalliance.org)

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