



COLORADO MEDICAL HOME INITIATIVE

Colorado is going beyond traditional definitions of a medical home by identifying it as an approach to health care. Colorado is building a Medical Home System, which is the infrastructure to support a Medical Home Approach for all families.

The Colorado Medical Home Initiative is a statewide effort to build systems of quality health care for all children in Colorado while increasing the capacity of providers to deliver care to kids in our state.

The medical home model is an approach to health care that ensures that all providers of a child's care operate as a team; that families are critical members of that team; and that all team members understand the importance of quality, coordinated medical, mental and oral health care.

In 2007, the Colorado Generally Assembly recognized a state goal of increasing the number of children who receive care consistent with the Medical Home approach. The Colorado Medical Home Initiative (CMHI), is housed in Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Children with Special Health Care Needs Unit of the Prevention Services Division. The Initiative, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, community stakeholders and advocates, is currently working to promote and implement the medical home approach in local communities across Colorado. The CMHI is dedicated to establishing Colorado as a Medical Home state, one community at a time!

In an effort to model the team approach, the CMHI maintains strong partnerships with key stakeholders who share the vision for quality health care for all children. Sharing the responsibility for positive health outcomes, the CMHI serves as a centralized yet objective entity to support and guide the implementation of the medical home approach across the state.

Key areas of focus for the CMHI include:

- **Families** understand the components of a Medical Home and will advocate for them;
- **Providers** and practice administrators will have the information, technical assistance and resources needed to provide quality health care utilizing the medical home approach;
- **Outcomes** are evaluated and systems are monitored to assure quality;
- **Materials** are developed and disseminated to providers, families and communities to support the implementation of the medical home approach. These materials include research and outcomes, trainings, toolkits and best practice models; and
- **Local Public Health** agencies will take a lead role in developing the medical home system to assure the medical home approach at the local community level.

For general information about the Colorado Medical Home Initiative, please visit our website at www.hpcolorado.org. You may also contact Eileen Forlenza, Director, Medical Home Initiative, Eileen.Forlenza@state.co.us, 303.692.2794; or Kathy Watters, Director, Children with Special Health Care Needs Unit, Kathy.Watters@state.co.us, 303-692-2418.

The Colorado Medical Home Initiative has organized its work to achieve the goals stated above through the ongoing work of four taskforces:

Provider and Practice Management Task Force

This task force is currently surveying providers and actively soliciting feedback that will be useful to continue to develop this medical home approach in Colorado. Providers include family physicians, pediatricians, dentists, mental health providers and other specialty providers.

*Contact Barbara Deloian, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment,
barbara.deloian@state.co.us or 303.692.2303*

Family Leadership Task Force

This task force has engaged the experience and insight of a diverse group of families to include the patient/family perspective at all levels of medical home implementation. In addition, the Family Leadership Task Force is committed to the development of strong family leaders who can fully participate in efforts of policy and systems change to assure quality health care for children. This task force is currently working on the implementation of a Family Leadership registry as well as offering a leadership curriculum that promotes strong civic engagement.

*Contact Megan Marx, Family Leader
Mamarx4@msn.com or 720.348.0672*

Evaluation Task Force

This task force is focused on ongoing and systematic evaluation of the Medical Home approach in Colorado. The Evaluation task force is currently developing an evaluation plan for medical home indicators, identifying data sources for measurement, performing data analysis and compilation and disseminating information.

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Messaging Task Force

This task force is developing a comprehensive website to serve as a centralized repository of information and resources related to the medical home approach. The website development is a joint effort of CDPHE and HCPF.

*Contact Charla Low, CDPHE
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