RAE1 Western Slope PIAC Meeting Notes September 2026

9/8/2026

10:00am – 1:00pm

Virtual

Attendees:

Internal: ReNae Anderson, Kim Herek, Nacole Johnson, Cris Matoush, Angela Nottingham, Kendra Peters, Meg Taylor, Lynda Thompson, Jennifer Walterscheid

External: Kate Anderson, Danielle Angotti*, Paula Belcher, Cristiana Bugay, Lizeth Campos, Maria Cruz, Allison Duran*, Annie Edgecombe, Tom Franchi, Karen Galardo*, Nichole Glacier, Victoria Grasmick, Kelli Higdon, Tracy Klumker*, Kaen Lapides, Nathan Love, Meighen Lovelace*, Liana Majors, Sarah Meade*, Lidia Medrano, Jeannie Mueller*, Lindsay Nelson*, Sloan Piffer, Michelle Robertson, Angela Rodriguez, Jorge Salinas, Rebecca Schickling, Angel Searcy, Herberta Silas*, Tina Strang*, Jerrica Thurston, Andi Tilmann*, Douglas Tooley, Amanda Uehlein*, Lynn Unger, Holly Webster, Lori Williams, Brianna Woodman

Organizations Present: ARC of Western Colorado, Aspen Hospital, Ava Health, Axis Health, Common Spirit, Community Hospital Grand Junction, Contexture, DentaQuest, Family Health West, Grand Junction Housing Authority, Grand River Health, Grand Rural Health Services, Grand Valley Hospital, Gunnison Hospital, HCPF, Invest In Kids, Loving Beyond Understanding, Memorial Regional Hospital, Mental Health Colorado, Montrose Health, Mountain Family Health Centers, NCC Health Partners, NWCCOC, River Valley Health, Slope Cares, St. Mary's Hospital, Summit County, Valley View Hospital, West Mountain Health Alliance, Western Slope Native American Resource Center

*Indicates voting member

Voting Members and Outreach -ReNae Anderson (RMHP)

- Review of voting member positions, emphasizing the need for representation from diverse geographic areas and communities
- Encouraged to refer potential candidates.
- Promoted upcoming listening tours in Buena Vista and Granby

Leadership Report – Kim Herek (RMHP)

Medicaid Renewal Process

- Described ongoing coordination with the state on outreach related to HR1, Medicaid redeterminations, work requirements, and expansion populations.
- Provider roster reports now include redetermination information and expansion-population indicators.
- County eligibility offices may need additional workforce support because of increased workload.
- Tribal members are exempt from work requirements, but outreach and notification processes are being refined with the state to help preserve coverage without creating unnecessary documentation or disclosure barriers.

NEMT – ReNae Anderson (RMHP)

- MediDrive became the statewide broker on July 1, 2026, with full statewide scheduling expected to transition by January 1
- Western Slope services currently rely mainly on mileage reimbursement.
- Budget reductions have caused rural transportation providers to reduce service areas, limit trips to critical care, or close.
- Members reported wheelchair-access barriers and missed medical appointments

Dental Benefit Changes – Heather Schenkel (DentaQuest)

- Adult Health First Colorado dental coverage now has a $3000 annual maximum for the July 1 through June 30 benefit year
- Emergency services and dentures excluded from that limit.
- Adults on the intellectual and developmental disabilities waiver receive additional benefits
- Children retain coverage without an annual maximum

- CHP Plus no longer has an annual maximum but may require income-based copayments
- Cover All Coloradans has a $1100 annual limit for children
- Covered services should not generate unauthorized out-of-pocket charges
- Non-covered services require a signed form

Evaluation and Quality Improvement – Liana Majors (HCPF)

- The Phase 3 evaluation examines Medicaid access, care quality, health equity, disparities, and cost through data analysis, surveys, and interviews with members, providers, and community organizations
- Initial work focuses on behavioral health, primary care, and care coordination
- 30 member interviews and 40 primary-care-practice interviews

Key Performance Indicators – Jennifer Walterscheid (RMHP)

- RAE 1 close to meeting summit thresholds for cervical and colorectal cancer screening
- Needing 12 additional practices for cervical screening and seven for colorectal screening.

Wins and Challenges – ReNae Anderson (RMHP)

- Discussed needed expanded pediatric, speech therapy, in-home behavioral, primary care, behavioral health, and pediatric ophthalmology services across the Western Slope
- Concerns raised about disability discrimination involving a service animal
- Requested stronger collaboration between care management agencies and the RAEs for waiver members
- The meeting closed with requests for broader participation in advisory councils

Closing -ReNae Anderson (RMHP)

Next meeting on December 8, 2026.