

Stapleton For Colorado **Proposals for Health Care**

Rising health care costs are a major concern for Colorado families and are straining our state's budget. As Colorado's next Governor, Walker will implement reforms to help simplify and streamline health care for Coloradans.

A Stapleton Administration will take a three-pronged approach to fixing Colorado's health care system: improve preventative and primary care by integrating mental, behavioral, and physical health; reform our public systems with a focus on outcomes-based care and greater administrative efficiency; create more choices for families through the types of coverage offered.

Goal 1: Emphasize preventative and primary care, with mental health integration being a key component

We must take proactive steps to promote healthy lifestyles and monitor health conditions before they become a crisis in the emergency room. A key component of this is the integration of mental, behavioral, and physical health as part of primary care. According to a report prepared for the American Psychiatric Association in 2014, it is estimated that patients with comorbid physical and mental health conditions have medical costs twice as high as the general population. The care for this segment accounts for over 30% of total health care spending and the prevalence is probably under reported because of the stigmatization of mental health.

For both our public and private programs, Walker will work to integrate these services through co-location, telehealth, and any feasible route to help reduce barriers to access for Colorado families. By advocating a holistic approach and creating a *one-stop-shop* of primary care for families, we can create a health system that works better for Coloradans. The integration of mental and physical health will also be important to combating the opioid crisis, as we can work to combat underlying conditions and addiction.

- **Integration of Physical and Mental Health**
 - Walker will work with the legislature, patients, the insurance industry, and health care providers to implement a more comprehensive approach to mental health services and advocate incorporating these services in employee-sponsored and exchange plans.
 - **Public Programs:** Walker will build on the success of Colorado's State Innovation Model for Medicaid System. The Hickenlooper administration has taken important first steps in this area and Walker will work to build on this success to ensure Colorado's momentum in this area continues after the Federal support for the program ends in 2019.

- **Employee Sponsored Plans and Private Coverage:** Walker will work with providers and employers to incorporate mental health as a component of primary care. Using the collocation of services where feasible and telehealth where appropriate. Importantly, we must break down the silos to deliver higher quality, more integrated care, and make sure our providers are being incentivized and compensated for these services. To meet this demand we must work to recruit and develop more mental health professionals in Colorado.
- **Across the board initiatives for primary and preventative care to increase access to convenient care outside of the emergency room**
 - Restructure our health system and refocus our culture as patients to prioritize preventative and primary care. To do this, it is important that we facilitate the relationship of doctors and patients, helping people connect with primary care providers. In many instances, people go to the emergency room because they do not have an existing relationship with a primary care provider. Structure incentives to reward long-term health.
 - Work with the legislature and partner with providers to incentivize the creation and implementation of new care delivery models and leveraging technology to enhance how, when, and where patients access the health care system, especially in regards to primary and specialty care. Through advances in telehealth, mobile clinics, and new innovative models, a Stapleton Administration will work to create more convenient and effective ways for people to access care. This will help underserved and harder-to-serve populations.
 - Use Ohio's Comprehensive Primary Care model as an initial blueprint. Coordinate with private payers and public programs to mitigate cost shifting and provide Coloradans with access to primary care.

Goal 2: Emphasize outcomes-based care and improve the administrative efficiency of our public programs

Medicaid covers 1.4 million Coloradans. Getting Medicaid right is critical for both the families on Medicaid as well as all Colorado taxpayers. It is necessary that we defend the social safety net as it protects the most vulnerable in our society. Also, we must reign in costs of these programs as they are crowding out our other responsibilities like educating our children, building roads, and making Colorado the best state to run a business and raise a family.

- For public programs, Walker will work with providers and payers to implement population health, bundled payment systems, and managed care solutions. Ultimately, we need to migrate away from the fee-for-service model and implement more cost-effective systems. Through Colorado's Regional Accountability Entities (RAE) these

initiatives have started, and Walker will continue to build on this success and transition toward improving our systems. This will not be a one-size-fits all exercise. The logistics of delivering care for episodic and chronic conditions are different from primary care and health emergencies. Our reimbursement systems should reflect these differences and make sure that we are promoting the best outcomes for patients and properly paying our physicians. Walker will work with the legislature to design the correct programs and formalize our proposals to the federal government to implement the right systems for Colorado.

- Improve the monitoring and administration of Medicaid programs to reduce waste, abuse, and fraud in the administration of our public programs. Walker will implement a taskforce out of the Governor's office similar to Illinois to improve the operational and administrative aspects of our public programs. Their state's efforts saved taxpayers over \$450 million in the first two years of the program. It is critical that we make these essential public programs more transparent for our policymakers and providers and accountable to Colorado voters and taxpayers.
- Simplify and coordinate our billing systems so that doctors can spend more time being doctors interacting with patients, and less time bogged down in administrative tasks and billing. Walker supports the recent changes made by CMS to simplify our billing codes. Building on this success in our public programs, in Colorado Walker will encourage our private providers to partner with the government and create more unity in the billing logistics to improve efficiency across the board.

Goal 3: Create more variety and more affordable coverage choices

We need more coverage options. By allowing for a greater degree of flexibility in coverage design, we can empower our health system to create new and more affordable plans that work to cover even more Coloradans than today. No one should be forced to make the decision between paying for their mortgage, saving for college, or paying for health insurance.

- Seek a **1332 Waiver** to allow for more diverse types of coverage to include association health plans, Multiple Employer Welfare Agreements, catastrophic plans, and shorter-term plans. New plans must cover pre-existing conditions, young adults still on their parent's coverage, and include options to cover maternity care.
- Convene a taskforce to evaluate Colorado's ACA rating regions, geographic boundaries, and departmental overlaps in the administration and oversight of care in Colorado. Currently, between the exchange regions, our public programs, mental health providers, and various government agencies, we

have a patchwork that represents multiple legacy political decisions and not the realities of health care in Colorado. Building off the 2016 report compiled for the DORA and the DOI for the exchange regions, Walker would not move the state to a single region, but would evaluate how we could implement other policies to reduce premiums and cost of care. In addition, Walker would look to the fragmentation of our public programs to streamline the administration of care. The current system is confusing and in many places actuarially unsustainable.