



8/13/2025 | 12pm | Hybrid Meeting

<u>Type of Meeting</u>	Monthly eHealth Commission Meeting
<u>Facilitator</u>	Kevin Stanbury
<u>Commission</u>	Toni Baruti, Mona Baset, Ashlie Brown, Amy Bhikha (Katherine Hochevar as delegated representative), Jonathan Cohee, Sophia Gin, Michael Feldmiller, Micah Jones, Krystal Morwood (Kelsey Minor as delegated representative), Ellen Sarcone, Jackie Sievers, Kevin Stansbury, Parrish Steinbrecher (Nathan Culkin as delegated representative)
<u>Attendees</u>	Absent: Patrick Gordon, Alex Reed (Prior Notice), KP Yelapaala (Prior Notice)

### Minutes

#### Call to Order

Kevin Stansbury, Chair

- Quorum Met: Yes

#### **\*\*\*EXECUTIVE SESSION ON SUNSHINE LAWS\*\*\***

- Commissioner Ashlie Brown moved the group into Executive Session for annual training on Colorado Sunshine laws.
  - The motion to enter Executive Session was made by Chair Kevin Stansbury
  - Seconded by Commissioner Ellen Sarcone
- Commissioners unanimously agreed to enter Executive Session
- Voting of Meeting Minutes: Meeting minutes for July were approved.

#### Announcements

Colorado Office of eHealth Innovation and eHealth Commissioners

- Bianca Melancon announced that the date for the [Prime Health Innovation Summit](#) has been changed from August 27th to September 12th. The event's focus has also changed to Medicaid work requirements. A link to register was provided in the chat, and a follow-up email will be sent to the Commission.
- Jackie Sievers announced that registration is open for Contexture's [Healthier Together 2025 Summit](#) in Grand Junction. She noted that Kim Bimestefer will be a keynote speaker and placed the registration link in the chat for everyone.

#### New Business

Remarks from Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera



**Summary:** Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera explained that a new federal law, H.R. 1, has created a significant budgetary shortfall for Colorado, requiring a special legislative session on August 21st. She detailed the administration's plan to address the fiscal impacts, including closing tax loopholes, cutting spending, and implementing a hiring freeze. She stressed that the administration's commitment is to reduce healthcare costs and expand access despite these challenges, keeping the experiences of Coloradans at the center of the work.

- **Detailed Notes:**

- The Polis-Primavera administration is dedicated to ensuring Coloradans have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare. They aim to mitigate the impacts of the recently passed federal bill, H.R. 1, on communities, hospitals, and Coloradans.
- H.R. 1 has put Colorado's balanced budget "out of balance" by cutting state revenue and federal funding.
- The bill led to an immediate \$1.2 billion loss in revenue and a nearly \$800 million budgetary shortfall. The loss is largely due to increased tax deductions for corporations.
- The bill also increases state expenses by shifting costs from the federal government to the states, with impacts on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) match and the Medicaid provider fee reductions. This could grow to nearly \$1 billion in expenses by 2032.
- In response, Governor Polis has called a special legislative session for August 21st to address the budget shortfall as Colorado is constitutionally required to have a balanced budget.
- The session will consider budgetary changes including within the following categories:
  - Fiscal (allowing the State to shift revenues by selling tax credits to certain taxpayers, update State laws around foreign tax havens, etc)
  - Healthcare (ensuring availability of Medicaid services to eligible person by providers banned from federal Medicaid financing as a result of H.R. 1)
  - Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise (facilitate a reduction in premium increases and avoid health insurance coverage loss)
  - Food Security (Adjustments to the referred measure in HB25-1274, Health School Meals for all Programs regarding the uses of its cash fund to include SNAP costs and related statutory provisions.)
  - Artificial Intelligence (AI) (Addressing the fiscal and implementation impact of Senate Bill 24-205)
- Governor Polis also announced a state hiring freeze beginning on August 27th and lasting at least through the end of the year to help stabilize the budget.

**Roundtable Discussion: Response to H.R. 1 and the Special Session**



### eHealth Commissioners

**Summary:** Kevin Stansbury initiated a discussion on how the Commission can best support Coloradans in light of the new federal law. Commissioners expressed concern about the disproportionate impact on rural providers and emphasized the need for information technology (IT) support to manage new reporting requirements and to fix existing system issues. They agreed that the Commission's role is critical in helping to coordinate efforts and prioritize technology solutions that will have the most significant impact.

### Detailed Notes:

- Kevin Stansbury stated that H.R. 1 will disproportionately impact rural hospitals, which are already evaluating what services they can continue to provide and must prepare for cuts that will begin to take effect in 2028.
- He noted that the Rural Health Transformation Fund, which will distribute \$50 billion across the states, is a key offset. He argued that the funds should go directly to rural providers and that communities should decide how to invest the money in three primary areas: infrastructure, workforce, and IT. He specifically requested the Commission focus on assisting rural providers with IT and cyber networks.
- Jonathan Cohee echoed Kevin's concerns and highlighted the need for IT support for the onerous reporting requirements from legislative updates. He expressed concern that the state is still reeling from the mass Medicaid disenrollment in 2023 and now faces more frequent disenrollment requirements in 2027. He stated the Commission has a responsibility to create a mechanism to make it as easy as possible for Coloradans to re-enroll in Medicaid and receive benefits.
- Ellen Sarcone asked if the IT focus would be on expanding remote care.
  - Kevin Stansbury responded that remote care should supplement, not supplant, in-person care. He gave examples of critical care, like trauma and Obstetrician Gynecologists (OB), that cannot be done remotely.
- Ellen Sarcone asked about the likelihood of H.R. 1 being overturned.
  - Kevin Stansbury offered his opinion that while it is possible, it is unlikely, and the state must prepare for the worst-case scenario.
    - Ashlie Brown agreed, noting that the state cannot bank on the law being overturned and must build systems to comply now. She suggested that the need to make big changes to the eligibility and enrollment systems provides a silver lining to fix existing issues at the same time.
- Jackie Sievers asked Jonathan Cohee if his rural group had considered inviting Colorado's philanthropic community to help.
  - Jonathan Cohee said he had not, but he thought it was a great idea and would introduce it to his group.



- Jackie Sievers suggested Michelle Smith from the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation as a good contact.
  - Kevin Stansbury also highlighted the work of the Colorado Rural Health Center and suggested the Colorado Health Foundation as another potential partner.
- Sophia Gin suggested that Kevin and John create a shortlist of IT priorities where help is most needed and will have the most significant impact, noting that a solution may already exist.
  - Kevin Stansbury agreed it was an excellent idea.

### Public Comment Period

- Stephanie Pugliese noted that no public comments were submitted ahead of time.
- Jeffrey Nathanson, an attendee, inquired about the launch date of the CoSHIE network.
  - Melissa Gillespie responded that the project is moving forward as planned with no changes to its progress.
    - Stephanie Pugliese added that the launch is happening in waves and is currently live for a specific use case involving home and community-based service providers. More details on the roadmap will be provided as the year progresses.
- Mike Brewer, CEO of All Your Data, commented on the IT infrastructure. He emphasized the importance of getting it right the first time by clearly defining needs to find solutions. He concluded that turning data into actionable information is key to meeting goals of lowering costs and increasing outcomes.

### Action Items

- *Next meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 [Virtual Meeting](#)*

### Motion to Adjourn

Kevin Stansbury

- A motion to adjourn this meeting was approved by Commissioner Jonathan Cohee.
- Seconded by Commissioner Mona Baset