



## FELLOW PROFILE

**Fellow's Name:**

Abe Lahr

**Fellow's Partner Organization:**

Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing

**What are your main responsibilities as a PIFP fellow?**

The Department is going through a transition right now that involves implementing new contracts. I'm looking at proposals submitted (by external organizations) to get those contracts and trying to put together a list of recommendations to inform a "Learning Collaborative" in which the contractors will meet and hopefully try to improve Medicaid delivery.

Since the transition occupies so much of people's time, I also try to take stuff off their plate that may not be related to it. Right now I'm working on developing a healthcare utilization metric with a VERY limited scope (and am in way over my head but learning a lot) and am putting together a memo to explain some data about people involved with the justice system (prison, jail, parole for the most part) enrolling in Medicaid and getting healthcare.

**What's the most interesting thing you've learned in your fellowship so far?** Insurance companies (and Medicaid) negotiate rates for services from providers. There is no universal rate.

**Why did you want to become a PIFP Fellow?** I want to serve the public interest, I'm fascinated by our healthcare system, and I want to see what a desk job is like.

**What activities outside of your work do you enjoy?** Reading, watching sports, playing sports, playing sports video games, people watching, sleeping.

**What is something most people would be surprised to know about you?** I can cook four real meals: stir fry, chicken, pasta, and quesadillas.