

HIGHLIGHTS

State—HCPF/DHS/Alliance.

- Department of Health Care Policy and Financing—
 - Rates—HCPF is working on a new rate methodology for Case Management, CCB functions, State SLS and Family Support. We have reviewed and responded to their initial figures for Case Management and CCB functions (which were insufficient) and have provided input for the process on State SLS and FSSP, which should be published in the next month or so. For context, we have historically been able to set our own rates (though not our total appropriations) for both State Supported Living Services and the Family Support Program. Recently, we adjusted our rates for State SLS to match our expenses (not the Medicaid rates), and for the first time in a very long we've been able to operate State SLS with a balanced budget (rather than a loss). I predict that the new State SLS rates will align back with Medicaid SLS and force providers to operate that program at a loss again.
 - Rural Sustainability—Considering geographic modifiers.
- Alliance—
 - End the Wait campaign—Alliance's big campaign for this general session is the End the Wait bill. This bill would end the waiting list (currently 10-15 years) for residential services and ensure provider capacity by tying the IDD Waiver reimbursement rates to the consumer price index. Essentially, we need the resources to pay for people to enroll and adequate rates to allow providers to actually provide the service. Although most legislators are receptive to the idea, this will be an expensive endeavor. We need you to help us advocate. At the very least, please go to www.coidd.com and sign the petition and endorse the campaign. Even better, join us in emailing legislators to encourage their vote. If it's helpful, I can share my email template for you to adapt for yourself. Then it's as simple as copying and pasting to each legislator.
 - End Regional Center Referrals—We're trying to end a lot this year, apparently. One of the 5-year legislative priorities for Alliance is to end community referrals to the regional centers, and they sweet talked me into chairing that committee. The focus of the committee is actually to develop better crisis response for people with IDD in our communities, and I'm excited to ensure that rural needs are considered as we develop these resources.
- Conflict-Free Case Management—I was able to meet with the leadership of Rocky Mountain Human Services. They are still interested in moving forward on our plan for Case Management. We are going to try to establish some milestones for the next few months to see if a July 1st timeline is still reasonable.

- Early Intervention Colorado—I have been talking to Shannon about our losses in Early Intervention as a result of the Office of Early Childhood’s new budgeting system. I will be working with the OEC to figure out how we can resolve this issue.

Local Community

- Ability Summit—Mark your calendars for this year’s Ability Summit (formerly known as Family Day) on March 12th at the Durango Recreation Center.

Fundraising/Development

- Festival of Trees—We are wrapping up another successful year of Festival of Trees. On a qualitative level, we’ve receive a lot of positive feedback from long-time participants that the event has dramatically improved in the past couple of years. Some quantitative outcomes:
 - 9 Wreath sponsors
 - 11 Regular Tree sponsors
 - 15 Large Tree sponsors
 - 62 total sponsors (cash+in kind)
 - \$15,799.97 gross sponsor donations (including \$4,000 Kroegers)
 - \$9390 raffle sales
 - 926 total participants over the weekend
- Local applications—Applications for public funding have been submitted to the following local governments:
 - City of Cortez—Approved for \$1350 of our \$5000 request
 - Town of Mancos—Awarded \$1500 (increase of \$300)
 - Town of Pagosa Springs—Waiting to hear on \$2000 request
 - Town of Ignacio—Awarded full \$1200 request
 - Town of Bayfield—Approved for full \$2,000 request.
 - La Plata County—Awarded full \$30,000 request
 - Montezuma County—Awarded full \$15,000 request
 - City of Durango—Awarded \$5,000 of \$32,000 request (\$11,000 decrease from last year)
 - Archuleta County--\$1000 written into special project within county budget.

Internal CCI highlights

- Class B License—
 - Organization Chart—Part of the Board’s requirement for the Class B License is to “Organize services furnished, administrative control and lines of authority for the delegation of responsibility down to the consumer care level that are clearly set forth in writing and are readily identifiable.” I.e we need approval of an organizational chart specifically for the home care agency. I have drafted such a chart, which is in your packet of Board materials, for your review and approval.

- Future of Class B services—In working through the requirements for Class B Licensure requirements, our Adult Services Program Directors have shared concerns over sustaining many of our Supported Living Services. Many other CCB's have stopped providing these services because there is a perfect storm of significant additional administrative requirement and services that consistently lose money. I am not recommending us making any drastic changes at this point due to the significant impact this would have on people relying on those services. But I would like to pull together some information for the Board to review and start thinking about this dilemma. If we get to the point of asking you to make difficult decisions, I don't want you to be blindsided. So this is just me planting the seed that we have an impending problem that may need to be addressed.
- Business Planning—The day before our Board meeting have our second of two sessions to work on innovative business solutions intended to keep CCI relevant and sustainable into the future as well as move us toward our Strategic Plan goal and priorities. We have some exciting ideas floating around! Our top proposals will become action/work plans for the next 2-3 years to support our Strategic Goal process. I look forward to sharing these plans with the Board once they are drafted to see if we have support and alignment in our approach.
- Quality Improvement Measures—Our Administrative Review Team held its quarterly meeting in January to review our company Quality Improvement Measures. The minutes from this meeting are included in you board packet for your oversight. If you have thoughts or ideas about other Quality Improvement Measures that you believe would be helpful for our leadership team to monitor, please let us know.
- Personal Outcome Measures—We are scheduled to be trained in our new outcome-oriented evaluation process for adult services at the end of March. This approach will allow us to look at how well we are addressing client outcomes and priorities on an individual level as well as on a program level. You can find a great overview on the Council on Quality and Leadership webpage at <https://c-q-l.org/the-cql-difference/personal-outcome-measures>.
- Procedures—Our leadership team is working hard to review, update and add current and robust procedures to align with the Board's Policies. It's tedious, but important work.

Facilities

- Sawyer Drive—CDPHE did a survey at the Sawyer building to assess radioactivity as a result of tailings from Smelter. Most of the building is clear, but there are slightly higher than normal levels of radioactivity in the very southwest corner of the downstairs conference room. At this time, the surveyors' recommendation is to do nothing other than ensure that future building remodels don't turn that area into an office. However, as a result of the testing, it was suggested that we need to look at radon levels in the building. We have a radon testing team coming out this week. Fortunately, we are a) on the second floor and

- b) the cost will come out of our condo assessment that has already been paid. So the direct impact on CCI should be minimal.
- Harrison—We are getting a couple of bids on some simple security improvements at the Harrison Street office in Cortez.

Other

- We have a very interested potential Board member who has submitted an application, which is attached in your Board packet. Several board members have had the opportunity to meet with and volunteer alongside this person over the FOT season.

Acronym Cheat Sheet

- ART (Administrative Review Team) –The Executive Team and Program Directors oversight of Quality Indicators
- The Arc – advocacy organization for people with intellectual disabilities
- ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources (for DD)
- BHO (Behavioral Health Organization)
- CCB (Community Centered Board) we are 1 of 20 in the state
- CCI (Community Connections, Inc.)
- CDLE (Colorado Department of Labor and Employment)
- CFCM (Conflict-Free Case Management) Federal mandate that the provision case management must be separated from direct program services.
- CES (Children’s Extensive Services)
- CHCBS (Children’s Home and Community Based Services)
- CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) Federal
- CORA (Colorado Open Records Act)
- DHS or CDHS (Colorado Department of Human Services)
- DSP (Direct Support Professional) – field staff working with clients
- DVR (Department of Vocational Rehabilitation)
- EI (Early Intervention) Developmental services for kids Birth to 3
- FOT (Festival of Trees)
- HCPF (Health Care Policy and Financing) State Medicaid office
- I/DD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities)
- JBC (Joint Budget Committee at the Colorado legislature)
- MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)
- PASAs (Program Approved Service Agencies) agencies approved to provide Medicaid Waiver services across the state
- PCA (Personal Care Alternative) residential services not in a host home
- RAE (Regional Accountable Entity) Medicaid Care Management organization
- Residential (a.k.a. Comprehensive – our adult 24/7 support)
- ROI (Return on Investment)
- SJBPB (San Juan Basin Public Health)

- SLS (Supported Living Services) – Services for adults living independently or with family
- TCM (Targeted Case Management)