

HIGHLIGHTS

State—HCPF/DHS/Alliance.

- **Early Intervention Contract**—We have received our contract for Early Intervention for FYE 2018-19 which uses a completely different funding structure than they have in previous years. Shannon attended a training on the new budgeting process last spring and can explain the process much better than I can. Some of the CCB's are concerned that the state will not have sufficient money to fund the entire year of services, particularly for Independent Contractors who are not captured well in the new budget. Since almost all of our Early Intervention providers are employees, we are likely better positioned to weather this transition than the many CCB's who mostly use independent contractors.
- **Surveys**—We submitted our Corrective Action Plan from the Case Management Program Review and it was approved by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing on the first try. We will be working on that Corrective Action Plan over the next nine months and submitting updates to HCPF as components of the plan are completed.

Local Community

- **Accessibility**—Representatives from the City of Durango invited us to submit a revised Scope of Work to add a public education campaign to promote the Accessible Communities Team program. We will be seeking bids to develop a website and other promotional materials that will be a resource for businesses and will hopefully dispel some of the myths we are encountering over accessibility improvements.
- **Collaborations**—With Rural Philanthropy Days (see below) and myriad community meetings/gatherings (see my calendar!), we are finding more and more ways to be active partners with other organizations and businesses in our communities. For instance, I have a training session scheduled with the docents at Durango Arts Center for the Creative Minds Program (our collaborative art program), we are working with Adaptive Sports Association to create better access for clients in host homes to the winter sports activities, and I am talking to Lynn Howard at Medicine Horse Therapeutic Riding in Montezuma County about getting our clients better involved with their program. I do find it easier to discover these opportunities in La Plata County since this is where I spend most of my time, so I am interested in looking at ways to build those collaborative opportunities in Montezuma and Archuleta Counties.

Fundraising

- Rural Philanthropy Days—Much of this past month I spent preparing for and attending the Rural Philanthropy Days conference in Cortez. This is a rotating conference led by the Community Resource Center and several Front Range foundations and funders, and it only comes to SW Colorado once every four years, so this was a somewhat rare opportunity for us. The purpose of the event is to provide professional development opportunities to rural nonprofits and give a chance for funders from the front range to meet and hopefully fund rural nonprofits. The climax of the event is a “speed dating” opportunity where nonprofits get two minutes to pitch their program to a variety of funders and get a green (please apply), yellow (let’s talk) or red (not a good match) light to apply to that funder. Ellen and I found six potential matches and received green lights from all but one, who gave us a yellow light due to the size of our budget. The application deadlines are spread across the year, so we will be working on letters of interest and applications for those funders over the next few months.
- Enterprise Zone—Ellen is collecting the letters of support needed from the local counties for our Enterprise Zone application to be reviewed by the Region 9 Board by the end of the month. This will allow donors to receive a tax credit (not deduction) for certain donations on their Colorado tax return and can be an incentive for donations that has little cost on our end.
- Festival of Trees—We have sent out the “Save the Date” and are actively recruiting sponsors for the event. This is something we really need the Board’s help on. We will be reaching out to you to suggest new sponsors and/or contact potential sponsors with whom you have a personal relationship. The tree sponsorships are where we make the vast majority of our revenue for the event, so the more we can get, the better the fundraiser!
- Local government applications—We are nearing the end of our local city, county and tribal application process, though we will still have presentations to these entities required throughout September and October. Regardless of the outcome, this is an opportunity for us to communicate to local policy-makers the critical nature of our services.

Internal CCI highlights

- Training—A group of our managers and executive team have been working on a project to revamp our new hire training, including classroom training, online training, and internally-produced videos. I have developed and piloted an Introduction to IDD and CCI training that I think would be very helpful for the Board, maybe at a retreat once we get that scheduled?
- Compensation—Judy continues to pull together a compensation plan based on the market data from Payscale. This new compensation plan will allow us better flexibility to compensate employees based on their education, experience, and longevity with our organization. We intend to implement this revised compensation plan in conjunction with the rate increases we will see in March 2019. There are still details of that DSP wage increase that HCPF needs to develop before we can complete plans on our end, though.

- Direct Support Professional Week—National DSP week was September 9-15th, and each of our DSP's received a gas card and thank you from their management team and our two communities held celebrations for our
- Vocational—At the end of August, representatives from Health Care Policy and Financing and the Division for Vocational Rehabilitation visited Durango for a day-long roundtable on supported employment. Community Connections packed the room—I was extremely proud of our participation. The roundtable reviewed some revised processes the state is implementing to improve people's ease of access to employment services. Our Cortez team has returned to being a vendor for DVR as of last spring (let me know if you need me to explain what this means), and Durango is in the midst of re-developing the vocational program as well, with a target of being fully operational by the end of the calendar year. We are also working with a local business in Durango who has the opportunity for a grant to help support them in hiring people with disabilities to work in their organization.

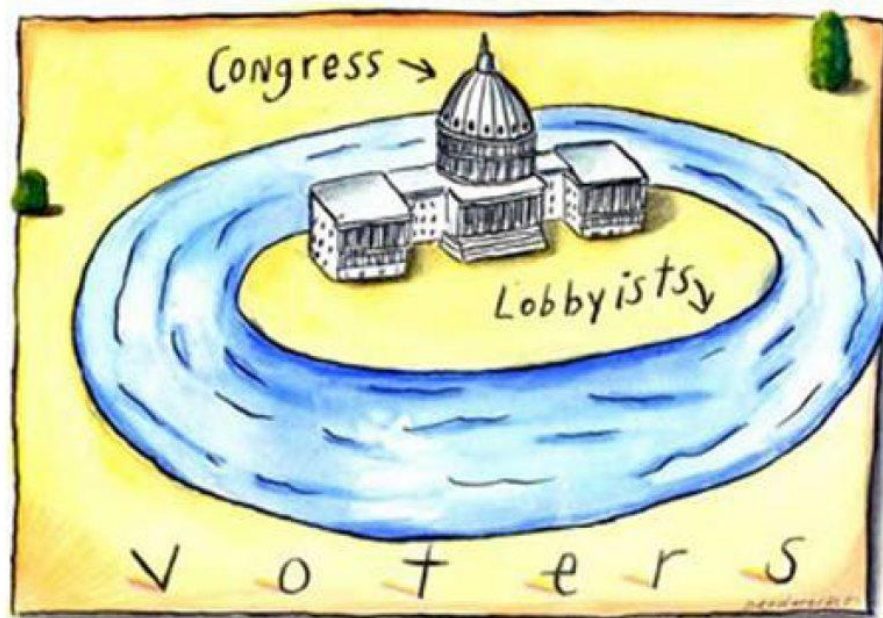
Facilities

- Fort Lewis College House—In your Board packet, I will provide the appraisal for the FLC House for the potential purchase by an HHP. We will need to discuss this in an executive session.
- Columbine Building—In case you hadn't noticed, the crack across the eastern half of our building has returned. This is the newer addition to the building, and we've had to do major stabilization efforts over the years. We recently had an engineer assess the building and it appears that the stabilization efforts have worked. The problem is that the western half of the building is sinking. This is leading to the cracking on our end of the building and major drainage problems and leaking on the western end. There is a plan to do some coring around the foundation to determine the best course of action to save the building. The good news is that since we condominiumized the building, this project is the responsibility of the Condo Association and will come out of that budget. We have been saving for major capital improvements over the past couple of years, so the Condo Association will likely have the funds to cover the project without having to assess further contributions from the owners (who are CCI, San Juan Basin Public Health and Axis Health Systems).

Other

A quick reminder about nonprofit lobbying prior to the November elections. More in depth information is also available in your Board packet.

2-Minute Guide: Can Nonprofit Organizations Lobby?



(Illustration: James T. Pendergrast)

As we get closer to the November elections, nonprofit folks start asking the question, “Just how politically active can we be?”

While programs are very important, advocacy is one of the most effective ways nonprofits can bring about positive, systemic change.

But is it legal for a nonprofit organization to engage in advocacy and lobbying? The short answer is yes, you can.

You cannot support or oppose a specific candidate. But you are allowed to take a stand on issues. If you feel a significant amount of your resources are spent doing this, fill out [Form 5768](#), also known as filing for a 501(h) election. This will help protect your exempt status. For information on the 501(h) election, click [here](#).

And don't forget – individuals can say whatever they want. Take the initiative as a nonprofit professional to get informed about the issues, vote for the measures that will advance your cause, and encourage others to vote as well...just make sure to do it through your own personal channels.

Want to know more? Check out:

- [Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest FAQ](#)

- Alliance for Justice’s Comparison of 501(c)(3)s, 501(c)(4)s, and Political Organizations
- Blue Avocado’s How to Take a Public Policy Stand, with Sample Criteria

From the Center for Nonprofit Management

<https://cnmsocal.org/featured/2-minute-guide-can-nonprofit-organizations-lobby/>

Acronym Cheat Sheet

- ACT (Accessible Communities Team) – Supporting businesses to become more accessible
- ART (Administrative Review Team) –The Executive Team and Program Directors oversight of Quality Indicators
- The Arc – advocacy 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)
- 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
- IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities)
- IMA (Insurance Management Administrators)
- JBC (Joint Budget Committee at the Colorado legislature)
- LPC (La Plata County)
- MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)
- PASAs (Program Approved Service Agencies) Marcy’s department
- PCA (Personal Care Alternative) residential services not in a host home
- RCCO (Regional Care Coordination Organization)
- Residential (a.k.a. Comprehensive – our adult 24/7 support)
- ROI (Return on Investment)
- SJBHD (San Juan Basin Health Department)
- SLS (Supported Living Services) – Services for adults living independently or with family
- TCM (Targeted Case Management)
- UW (United Way)