

HIGHLIGHTS

State—HCPF/DHS/Alliance.

- Department of Health Care Policy and Financing—Other than spending a lot of time on phone calls with HCPF to try to work through some of the major impending system changes, I don't have any concrete updates.
- Alliance—We have several staff from Community Connections working on committees to help further legislative priorities with Alliance over the next five years. We will be shaping the future of IDD services in the state of Colorado. I am also leading a group of CCB directors who are
- CFCM—I will be meeting with Rocky Mountain Human Services when I am in Denver next week. So far, no further news. I submitted feedback to HCPF's Request for Information about their proposed rates and rate structure for Case Management and CCB activities. Activities that used to be grouped together in a contract rate (or not reimbursed at all) are now split into categories.

Local Community

- Transition Program in Cortez—San Juan BOCES is planning to start a transition program for high school students in Cortez and we are looking at ways we can partner with them in this venture.
- Caregiver Forum—In November, I attended the Cortez area Caregiver Forum to get input about respite care needs in the area. It wasn't terribly well attended, but we received some survey back and made some good connections.

Fundraising/Development

- Festival of Trees—December 6-8th. We're in the final countdown. We ended up with 24 sponsored trees, 8 wreaths, plus sponsors for the live remote and the Welcome Center trees in Durango and Cortez.
- LPEA Round Up—We were awarded \$3000 from the LPEA Round Up fund to improve internet connections at the Holly House. If you live in the LPEA service area and aren't already "rounding up" your bill, please consider doing so. We need to recruit 5 new round up members, so let us know if you are willing to start rounding up.
- Empire Electric Association—Empire Electric in Cortez granted us \$2000 for the Family Support program.
- Onward Foundation—Onward granted CCI \$3000 for inclusion activities through Pine Street in Cortez.
- Kroegers Round Up—Kroeger's gave us a check for \$4000 from their November round-up. \$500 of that was from one donor.

- Raffle—THANK YOU!! To all our Board members for helping with raffle ticket sales over the last few weekends. It has been a huge success. We are at around \$3300 in total raffle sales thus far.
- Local applications—Applications for public funding have been submitted or are in the process of being submitted to the following local governments:
 - City of Cortez—Approved for \$1350 of our \$5000 request
 - Town of Mancos—Approved for \$1500 (increase of \$300)
 - Town of Pagosa Springs—Waiting to hear on \$2000 request
 - Town of Ignacio—Tentative approval of full \$1200 request (at the strangest town board meeting I’ve ever witnessed)
 - Town of Bayfield—Approved for full \$2,000 request.
 - La Plata County—Budgeted for \$27,000 (decrease of \$3000)
 - Montezuma County—Thanks to Cynthia and Kaki for helping us make our presentation to Montezuma County. The commissioners were very receptive to our ask (\$15,000).
 - City of Durango—Our application has been submitted and we will be presenting on December 4th.
 - Archuleta County--\$1000 being written into special project within county budget.

Internal CCI highlights

- Class B License—Oh, where to begin. We’ve been blissfully unaware of all our license entailed. I completed my 8 hour Home Care Agency administrator training (I think Julie Ferguson completed or is close to completing hers as well). Now we just have another 12 hours of training to be in compliance. We’ve made a ton of progress, but for each task we complete, we scratch the surface to reveal four more to add. I could regale you with many fun tales if you were ever interested in getting into the weeds. However, we are on a trajectory to come into compliance (or at least as close as humanly possible) by the end of the year.
- Open enrollment—Tis the season for open enrollment for our employee benefits. We were able to keep benefits relatively similar to last year with minimal increases (\$10/month for HSA plan and a \$30/month reduction for low deductible plan) to employees while staying relatively within our budget for the year. We’re also helping people sign up for AFLAC, Legal Shield and their Flexible Spending Plan for 2020.
- Business Planning—As we look at the impending system changes as well as strategies needed to accomplish our strategic plan, we need to make decisions about how our business model supports our mission and goals in a way that will keep us sustainable in the future. Some of our agency leadership will be brainstorming ideas in December and January to hopefully have some potential options to share with the Board. If you feel like you have a radical “Blue Ocean” idea for Community Connections, let me know! I am including one of the articles we all read in case you are interested in learning more about the blue ocean concept.

Facilities

- Office/Server upgrade—Community Connections was overdue for a server upgrade and almost due to upgrade our Office suite, so we spent a few days in November getting upgraded to Office 365. We are so reliant on technology, but it can be such a hassle.

Other

- New Board members—We have a couple of potential prospects for Board members, and I imagine we'll want to start recruiting more. It would be helpful if we could dial in our recruitment and onboarding process for new Board members after the chaos of Festival of Trees season and the holidays are over.

Speaking of Festival of Trees, we are all up to our eyeballs, so that's about all the reporting I have for you right now. As always, email or call me with any questions, concerns or ideas you have for our organization or my leadership thereof.

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)
- SJBPH (San Juan Basin Public Health)
- SLS (Supported Living Services) – Services for adults living independently or with family
- TCM (Targeted Case Management)