

HIGHLIGHTS

State—HCPF/DHS/Alliance.

- Department of Health Care Policy and Financing—I am continuing to have conversations with the HCPF leadership about the future system design. Their vision is that CCB’s will expand our service capacity into the other HCBS Waivers. It’s an interesting idea worth exploring further.
- Alliance—
 - End the Wait--Alliance is moving ahead with proposing an “End the Wait” List bill in the 2020 Session. This bill would seek to eliminate the waiting list for HCB-DD (i.e. Residential) services within the next 6 years by enrolling 500 people a year until the list is gone. Additionally, it would seek to ensure capacity to serve these individuals by removing the IDD rates from common policy (i.e. our rates would no longer be lumped in with all Medicaid providers, from the pharmacy to the hospital) and tying our rates to the Consumer Price Index for the Denver metro to help us keep up with inflation. This bill will have a huge price tag in a year when many other interests are trying to get a piece of that pie. But surprisingly, we already have significant support in the Colorado legislature. It’s still going to be a major undertaking, and it will require participation from all our stakeholders: clients, families, staff, Board, volunteers, people who believe in our mission. We will be collecting stories and encouraging everyone to reach out to lawmakers to “End the Wait!”
 - Rural Sustainability—Alliance is also helping us work with HCPF on a plan to stopper the flow of new enrollments to the Front Range. They are working on a proposal to CMS (i.e. the “Feds”) to allocate new enrollments based on the population. So, for instance the counties served by Community Connections make up 1.7% of the total population of the state of Colorado. If the state gets 200 new enrollments, we would receive 4 of those to serve people off the waiting list in our catchment area.
- CFCM—Movement on the Conflict-Free Case Management project has stalled as we wait for HCPF to publish the new Case Management rates that will go into effect in July.

Local Community

- Ability Summit—We are once again working with local partners (SJ BOCES, the Arc of the SW, Southwest Center for Independence, Adaptive Sports) on the Ability Summit (nee “Family Day). This year we are making a concerted effort to recruit presenters who have disabilities. Pass along the word and mark your calendars for Thursday, March 12, 2020 at the Durango Recreation Center. It is still our hope to make this into a “road show” that goes to Pagosa Springs and

Cortez as well, but since we're changing a few other things about the Summit, we decided not to add this new component at the same time.

Fundraising/Development

- Pumpkin Patch—Thanks to Laura Alsum for all her work getting the Pumpkin Patch arranged and to Brian Russell, Janice Moen and Ellen Stein for serving as leads. We made slightly less this year. We'll be debriefing on the event soon and hopefully have some ideas to sell more beer next year.
 - Festival of Trees—It's happening!! December 6-8 (Friday-Sunday)!!! Sponsors are rolling in, but we'll still take more. Setup is November 7-8th.
 - 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—Ellen and Pat have also submitted an application to Empire Electric Association to provide funding for families in Montezuma County.
 - Onward Foundation—Ellen also submitted an application to Onward Foundation to support inclusion efforts in Montezuma/Dolores Counties. It's been a busy month or two.
 - Kroegers Round Up—We are also on Kroeger's Round Up program for three weeks in November. Need tools, hardware, gifts, home supplies, jelly beans?? Buy at Kroegers and choose to round up for Community Connections!
 - Raffle—Speaking of Kroeger's, we'll have a sign-up sheet for volunteering to sell raffle tickets at Kroeger's, City Market and the Thanksgiving market. It was so effective last year, we're making you do it again. The rewards of effectiveness...
 - 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—Waiting to hear
 - Town of Mancos—Approved for \$1500 (increase of \$300)
 - Town of Pagosa Springs—Waiting to hear
 - Town of Ignacio—Waiting to hear
 - Town of Bayfield—Waiting to hear
 - La Plata County—Budgeted for \$27,000 (decrease of \$3000)
- Applications are in process with:
- Montezuma County—The letter is being sent this week.
 - City of Durango—New and improved? application is due this week. If you read the Herald, you may have already seen that the City Council wants to reinstate funding to nonprofits but they are also looking to expand who can apply. So, the pie may be back to normal, but more people want to eat it.

Internal CCI highlights

- **Class B License**—One of the horror stories going around the IDD community is about Class B License surveys. Prior to 2012, IDD providers were exempt from needing a Class B License to provide in home care. Now, in addition to following the Rules and Regulations for Supported Living Services and Children’s Extensive Support through HCPF, we also have to follow all the rules (and pay for the privilege) to be a Class B Home Care Agency. Some of the rules overlay nicely. Others are certainly best practice. And some are unnecessary administrative burdens. Several CCB’s and PASA’s have reported being surveyed on their Class B Licenses with dismal outcomes. As a result, a few have begun giving up their Class B Licenses. This means they can no longer provide Personal Care, Homemaker or Respite in the home under the SLS and CES Programs. For obvious reasons, we are resistant to going this route. We (as in Julie Ferguson, Matt Payne and I) are learning from the experiences of others and trying to make sure our house is in order before the surveyors arrive. One of the things they like to see is a “separate Board” for the Home Care Agency. The way some organizations have gotten around this requirement (which is actually an interpretation, not a requirement) is by creating a Home Care Agency Committee within their Board. I would like to ask the Board to please consider taking this route. I have no idea what that committee will do. You can review all the work we’ve done to try to be in compliance. I know that will be great fun! Don’t everyone sign up at once.
- **Flu shots**—October was flu shot month. We are required through our Class B License to have an influenza vaccination program where we educate our staff on the importance of flu vaccines, offer the vaccine at an on-site clinic, and require a declination form from anyone who chooses not to participate. So most of us got our shots. Yes, they hurt. But Judy gave us chocolate.

Facilities

- **Holly House**—Holly House completed the upgrades with the money donated by First UMC (Richard’s church). The bathroom and lighting are huge improvements to that building!
- **Lighting**—With the coming of winter, we are trying to make sure all our clients, staff, and other users of our facilities are safe. To assist with this goal, we are adding some outdoor lighting to the Holly House and Pine Street to help people get from the door to their vehicles in the dark.

Other

- Please review our Key Performance Indicators from the quarterly Administrative Review Team. These will be in your Google Drive folder.
- Colorado Nonprofit Association Conference—I had the great fortune to receive a full scholarship to attend the Colorado Nonprofit Conference in Denver last week and it was a wonderful experience. My head is swimming with ideas and opportunities. Overall, I would say we stack up pretty well against other nonprofits in the state as far as our organizational structure, governance, and

sophistication. That said, there's always room to grow and improve, and CNA is a great place to get resources to do so.

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)
- 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) Marcy's department
- 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)