

HIGHLIGHTS

State—HCPF/DHS/Alliance.

- Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF)—
 - CCB Designation—We received our designation as a Community Centered Board for 2020-21, so we're official for one more year!
 - CCB Contract—We also received and signed our CCB Contract for the next year. The Contract has added some new reporting requirements, particularly for Family Support, and at the same time the rates we will be receiving for these programs is reduced, even before budget cuts.
- Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood—In response to the pending budget cuts, the Office of Early Childhood has been seeking input from CCB's on how to operate more efficiently. It's a tough question, considering we've already been operating as lean as Jack Sprat's dinner. We did submit a letter as requested and offered recommendations around use of telehealth, collecting caseload best practices from across the state and removing some of the administrative burdens and billing inefficiencies that we experience. I will include a copy of the letter in the Board packet in case you are interested. Since we already operate at a deficit in Early Intervention, any cuts we experience will necessitate operational changes on our part. Because of the uncertainty around the potential cuts, the Office of Early Childhood is giving all CCB's a 2-month extension on our current contract rather than sending the new contract now as they usually do.
- Alliance—
 - Joint Budget Committee (JBC)—You may have already heard in the news that Colorado is facing a \$3.4 billion deficit for the 2020-21 fiscal year starting July 1st. The Colorado Constitution requires that the state budget be balanced every year. Therefore, the legislative Joint Budget Committee needed to trim \$3.4 billion from the budget. They have spent the last two weeks making terribly difficult decisions and very painful cuts. As I write this, they are still working on the budget figures. We've heard that Medicaid provider rates may be cut between 1 and 5%. Obviously, we'd prefer closer to 1 than 5, but we understand that no one will get out of this unscathed. We'll know more by the board meeting. The fact that we aren't facing even more catastrophic cuts is thanks mostly to the advocacy done by Alliance staff and members for the End the Wait and other recent campaigns. The JBC is painfully aware of the plight of the IDD community and providers.
 - Behavioral Health—On Tuesday the 26th, the Behavioral Mental Health Task Force at the state is hosting a session to receive testimony regarding behavioral health services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Lieutenant Governor and the Executive Director of the

Department of Human Services will be receiving the testimony. I will be testifying on behalf of Alliance and CCI Board member Cathy Sykes will be testifying representing the experience of people with IDD.

Local Community

No updates.

Fundraising/Development

Starting this month, you'll be getting a separate development report from Ellen, but a couple of highlights:

- COVID impacts—We're getting messages from United Way that we should anticipate budgeting \$0 for UW funds and city and county contributions for 2021. We'll know more details as the summer progresses, but things look pretty grim on the many fundraising fronts. We imagine Festival of Trees will have a very different approach this year, and if Pumpkin Patch happens, we suspect the ridership will be low.
- Annual Report—Somehow amidst all the COVID weirdness, Ellen still managed to put together an excellent Annual Report. Just one more way to show our stakeholders our important work and results.

Internal CCI highlights

- Single Entry Point—We have received the interim (one-year) contract for Single Entry Point Case Management for Archuleta, La Plata and San Juan Counties. So far, it looks like it will be a budget neutral venture and might help shared some overhead across the two case management programs. This is a pretty major undertaking, managing the transfer of 450+ clients, 9 employees, and equipment and data systems. One up side is that we will need to find a small office space in Pagosa Springs. It will be nice to have a physical presence there again. So many details to work out, but HCPF is being very helpful and we've got a great team working on it. Our initial Meet and Greet with the SEP staff at San Juan Basin Public Health was very encouraging, too. We'll be bringing on an excellent new team!
- Budget—Our Executive Team, Directors and Managers have all been working with Shannon to create our CCI budget for 2020-21. Of course, this is made more challenging even than usual with brand new rate methodologies in a couple of departments, a brand new department, and the lack of final word on the state budget. It's a fun exercise.
- COVID-19 Operations—Not much has changed with our COVID operations. We are still under orders from HCPF and CDHS to provide all case management and early intervention services remotely. Other services are still subject to the Governor's Safer at Home Order. Most of the people we work with aren't interested in face-to-face services right now, for obvious reasons. Our adult services team has started provided Day Program activities virtually with museum tours, games, discussions and other activities. I'm leading a Town Hall with adult services participants this week as well as a Town Hall dedicated for host homes.

Our administration is meeting weekly, participating in updates from state and local partners and monitoring the situation constantly. We are trying to take a conservative approach to when and how we reinstate services.

- Class B Plan of Correction—As of this morning, our Class B Plan of Correction review documents have been submitted to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). You may recall that last month I already reported that we submitted our Plan of Correction (POC). That POC detailed “how we are going to fix the problems you found.” This submission includes the proof that we did those things. The next step will be the CDPHE surveyor reviewing those documents and determining if they meet their requirements or not. If not, they will ask for corrections. If they do meet requirements, we get a gold star. No, not really. But they’ll probably leave us alone (mostly) for a couple of years.
- Colorado Department of Labor and Employment—Hooray, we got pulled for a CDLE audit, due mid-June. Those of you who have been around may recall that this is how we got embroiled in a mess around host homes as independent contractors. Since that time, HCPF has done a significant amount of communication and training with CDLE about host homes, but that doesn’t always trickle down to field agents. We’ll keep you posted.
- New HR/Payroll system—Because we didn’t have enough going on, we’re also planning to change to a new human resources and payroll system. Actually, we’d started the process in January, but we’ve moved ahead. Our new system is much more user friendly than the ADP Workplace system we’d been using and will better allow us to track training and performance feedback. The cost will be approximately the same as the payroll and recruitment systems it will be replacing. The new system will begin July 1st.

Facilities

No updates.

Other

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)