

HIGHLIGHTS

State—HCPF/DHS/Alliance.

- Department of Health Care Policy and Financing—
 - Rural Attrition—Several rural Community-centered Boards met recently with leadership at HCPF to discuss the issues rural organizations are facing as more and more of our enrollments are going to the Denver metro area. Historically, CCB's managed our waiting lists locally, so if a person in Durango passed away or moved out of state, we could pull the next person from our waiting list in this region to fill that resource. In the last few years, the waiting list is now managed at the state level. So if we have someone leave services in Cortez, someone in Boulder may get enrolled in their place. This is really impacting the budgets of many smaller CCB's and some have already experienced devastating effects. Fortunately, our business practices have kept us from being as severely impacted, but it is definitely an issue that is important to pay attention to. HCPF was receptive to the conversation and they are working with our group on some potential stabilization. (If any of this sounds familiar to those of you who have been around a while. Yes, we fixed this a few years ago. Then the faces at HCPF changed and the fixed disappeared in transition. Welcome to your Colorado state bureaucracy.)
 - Response to OSA Audit—HCPF leadership has also reached out to CCB's to determine ways to work together to respond to the problems highlighted in the OSA Audit. One of the issues that was blamed for many of the problems was the 15 minute billing increment for Targeted Case Management. Historically, there has not been the will at HCPF to change that monster, but now they are promising a different rate structure in 2020. HCPF has promised to meet with CCB's on a bimonthly basis to improve the communication and collaboration on these issues.
- Alliance—I am serving on the committee at Alliance to direct our legislative priorities. Some of the major concentration is around ending the waiting list for residential services and maintaining the momentum we built with the rate increases last year. We'd love to see IDD rates keep up with inflation, but that's a pretty heavy lift. I am also in conversation with Colorado Disability Law about improving Colorado guardianship laws to ensure that the rights of people with IDD are protected in the process.
- CMS-The Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services is trying to implement state block grants for Medicaid. This is the same plan that we were able to block in Congress, but now the Executive branch may be trying to push it forward without Congressional mandate. The situation is just beginning to unfold, so we'll keep you updated if it goes further than idle threats.

Local Community

- Accessible Communities Team—We finished out our last ACT projects in December with some improvements at Housing Solutions and Durango Outdoor Exchange. Unfortunately, this project will be ending for now as a result of the city's budget pressures. I am sure that our community committee will want to look for ways to continue the messaging to the business community for the future.
- Presentations—I am scheduled to do a couple of community presentations in the near future, including a presentation at the District 9R teacher's professional development day on January 18th and in March at the Sexual Assault Survivor's Organization (SASO) brown bag community lunch.

Fundraising

- Festival of Trees and Raffle—We're still wrapping up the last details of the event. Ellen is working on some final reporting to bring to the meeting. I would be very interested in getting some feedback from the Board about what you thought was successful and what you think we should tweak for 2019.
- Successful grant applications—
 - We have a confirmation from the Town of Bayfield and La Plata County on our 2019 allocations and a nice check from Montezuma County came through!
 - We've received donations from a couple of family foundations through the Community Foundation that were unexpected and will be used to support community integration activities.
 - First United Methodist Church confirmed their donation of \$22,000 for improvements to the Holly House bathrooms. (See below).
 - There was an issue with our City of Durango application (not on our end) that is being resolved, so we don't have details of our allocation yet.

Internal CCI highlights

- Cortez bus—Our bus in Cortez has been out of commission for a couple of months due to some maintenance needs. This has made community access extremely difficult. We are using some of the raffle proceeds to pay for the repairs and we hope to be back on the road in the next couple of weeks!
- Snow days—Hooray, we've been having to worry about snow days this year! We have a snow day policy that is fairly effective for our facilities (Community Centers and offices) and follows the school district closures. However, there are some individualized issues that we want to iron out. Our intent is to encourage our staff and clients to be safe and not penalized staff when they cannot work. We also wish to ensure that clients receive necessary services and if we are paying staff, they are working when possible. Judy and I are meeting with a manager and Supported Living Services DSP (Direct Support Professional) to see what we can put in place to address some of those special situations in a way that is fair to all.

Facilities

- Fort Lewis College House—Our closing was postponed because there was tax information the lender needed and couldn't access due to the government shutdown.
- Cortez homes—We have a couple of host homes in Cortez who have also expressed interest in purchasing the homes they are currently leasing. I'd like to get some input from the Board on your interest in pursuing this before we do anything significant like pay for appraisals.
- Holly House bathrooms—Cheers to First United Methodist Church in Durango for their donation to upgrade the bathrooms at the Holly House. We are currently in the process of getting bids. Unfortunately, the contractors are discovering some issues (like wiring not up to code, walls bowing because tile wasn't installed properly), so we are anticipating there will be more to the project than expected. As there usually is when you engage in remodeling. We'll see how far we can get with the donation.
- Sawyer office—The Condo Association is on a major fact-finding mission to get to the bottom of the issues with the building on Sawyer (roof leaks, drywall cracking, leaking walls in Axis area) that may require major mitigation. Fortunately, any expenses will come out of the capital assessment we've already paid to the Association and shouldn't have a direct budgetary impact to CCI. But we may have to displace workers at some point. We'll let you know when the engineers have their final diagnosis.

Other

Lots of us took some down time during the holidays—it's really our only somewhat quiet time of the year. It was a great time opportunity to clean out file drawers and work on fun projects like cleaning up the Policy manual for the Board to review!

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
- I/DD (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)