

Support HB18-1407: "Access to Disability Services and a Stable Workforce"

THE PROBLEM

To ensure support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in our community, Colorado must address these inextricably linked issues:

Aging caregivers and individuals with IDD should not have to wait until they reach a crisis point to get help.

Approximately 2,900 people are on the waiting list for the Developmental Disabilities, or HCBS-DD, waiver. About 300 of these individuals are aged 45 or older and are likely to have an aging caregiver aged 70 or older. These caregivers must continue to provide support until their loved one's name comes to the top of the list, or until an emergency occurs when the caregiver dies or can no longer physically provide supports.

The workforce crisis among IDD Direct Support Professionals is a barrier to ending the waiting list.

Insufficient Medicaid provider rates have resulted in an IDD Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce crisis. A dedicated workforce of DSPs provides supports so that people with IDD can live full lives in the community instead of institutions. Unfortunately, due primarily to low reimbursement rates, these workers often make poverty-level wages that are not commensurate with the responsibilities of their work, leading to high turnover, vacancies, and service disruption for people with IDD.

THE SOLUTION

To address the problem, the proposed bill will:

- **Fund 300 new HCBS-DD waiver resources** for those who have been waiting the longest and are most likely to have aging caregivers.
- **Direct the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing to promulgate rules to add emergency enrollment criteria related to caregiver status.** This will create a mechanism to assist people on the waiting list who are reaching a crisis point due to caregiver concerns such as advanced age, terminal illness, or incapacitation.
- **Provide a 6.5% rate increase for specific services** on the Supported Living Services, Children's Extensive Supports, and Developmental Disabilities waivers, 100% of which must be used to increase DSP compensation. This will begin to address the IDD direct support workforce crisis in Colorado.
- **Establish robust accountability for the 6.5% increase** through provider reporting which includes:
 - An attestation from the Executive level that the funds are spent as directed and that reporting is accurate;
 - A statement not only on who the funds can be spent on, but also on who and what the funds *can't* be spent on (e.g. administrative and executive salaries and costs);
 - A directive for HCPF to track the expenditure of these funds using an agreed-upon tool; and
 - A "claw-back" or recoupment measure so that if the increase is not spent on compensation, those funds can be recouped by HCPF.

THE COST

The Joint Budget Committee has set aside \$12.2M General Fund to cover the costs of this bill for FY 18-19. The waiver enrollments and rate increase will be annualized in future years. The bill also leverages federal Medicaid matching funds, thereby doubling the General Assembly's investment for people with IDD.

Advocacy Groups:

- AdvocacyDenver
- Association of Community Living
- Colorado Cross Disability Coalition
- Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council
- Consulting on Quality
- Disability Law Colorado
- Families at the Forefront of Technology
- Family Voices Colorado
- JFK Partners
- Lehman Disability Planning
- The Arc of Arapahoe and Douglas
- The Arc of Colorado
- The Arc of Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties
- The Arc of Larimer County
- The Arc of Mesa County
- The Arc of Pikes Peak Region
- The Arc of Southwest Colorado
- The Arc of the Central Mountains
- The Arc of Weld County
- The Arc of West Central Colorado
- The Possibility Pool

Community Centered Boards:

- Blue Peaks Developmental Services, Inc.
- Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc.
- Community Connections, Inc.
- Community Options, Inc.
- Developmental Disabilities Resource Center
- Developmental Pathways
- Eastern Colorado Services for the Developmentally Disabled
- Envision
- Foothills Gateway, Inc.
- Horizons Specialized Services
- Imagine!
- Inspiration Field
- Mountain Valley Developmental Services, Inc.
- North Metro Community Services
- Rocky Mountain Human Services
- Southeastern Developmental Services, Inc.
- Southern Colorado Developmental Disabilities
- Starpoint
- STRIVE

Provider Agencies:

- A Better Life Experience, Inc. (ABLE)
- A Real Difference
- Ability Access
- Ability Specialists
- Activity Options
- All Friends, Inc.
- Alliance of Therapy Specialists
- Altra Services

- Ariel Clinical Services
- Ascendigo Autism Services
- Behavior Services of the Rockies
- Belk Model, LLC
- Bethesda Lutheran Communities
- Boone Guest Home
- Bridging Family
- C.A.R.E. Inc
- CHILL LLC
- CommonWorks
- Community Advantage
- Community Link
- Community Living Alternatives
- Community Support Services
- Continuum of Colorado
- Cottonwood Community Alternatives
- DESTINY
- Devereux
- Dirt Coffee
- DRM Home Care
- Dungarvin Colorado, Inc.
- Dynamic Dimensions, Inc.
- Easter Seals Colorado
- Evergreen Service Providers
- FRIENDS of Broomfield
- Garden, Inc.
- Gray Speak Therapy
- Janet Pasterkamp
- Jewish Family Service
- Jordan Residential and Vocational Services
- Karuna Care Services
- Laradon
- Metro Support Services
- Mesa Developmental Services
- Mosaic
- Oliver Behavioral Consultants
- Overture
- Parker Personal Care Homes, Inc.
- Quality Life Services
- Sample Supports
- Schaefer Enterprises
- Shared Touch, Inc.
- Six Points Evaluation and Training, Inc.
- Support, Inc.
- Thrive Community Options
- Triuspa LLC

Other supports:

- Boulder County
- Pueblo County Department of Social Services
- Gem Pharmacy

Email info@alliancecolorado.org to join this list

Alliance is a statewide association of Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Program Approved Service Agencies (PASAs) that provide services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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