



MEMORANDUM

TO: ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: JOSHUA RAE, JD, MPA
SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR-END REPORT
DATE: JULY 1, 2016

June 1, 2016, marked my second year as Executive Director of Alliance. Together we were tested, we grew, and we became a stronger and more respected association. I couldn't have done it without my stellar staff, our President, the support from our executive team, and so many of our members that helped advise me along the way. I am so proud to advocate for your organizations, staff, and the people you serve.

Last year we made a lot of important changes to the organization. This year we have spent time streamlining and strengthening those changes as well as building relationships in the greater IDD community. Here is a list of just some of the things we accomplished this year and some of the important issues we will be working on next year.

2016 Legislative Successes

- ✓ Avoided cuts to provider rates (The Governor proposed a 1% provider rate reduction.)
- ✓ Continued to draw down the IDD Comp wait list
- ✓ Fully funded SLS & CES waiver services to avoid wait lists
- ✓ Fully funded Early Intervention growth
- ✓ Received a proclamation from the Governor for DSP Awareness Week
- ✓ Continued work on helping legislators understand funding deficiencies in the IDD system including creating [Alliance's first infographic](#) based on ongoing data collection
- ✓ Hosted one of the most successful, and well attended, IDD Awareness Days with nearly half of all Colorado legislators in attendance
- ✓ Worked with all 20 CCBs to come up with an FSSP Best Practices model and a state-wide most-in-need assessment tool
- ✓ Alliance closely tracked and took a position on 38 bills. Out of all the bills Alliance tracked, 21 passed the General Assembly and will become law. Here are some of the bills Alliance supported that passed:
 - [Medicaid Appeals Bill \(HB 1277\)](#): this bill decreases service disruption for people accepting Medicaid benefits by extending the timeframe for notice and appeal when their benefits are changed.
 - [Medicaid Buy-In Bill \(HB 1321\)](#): this bill allows people on the SLS Waiver to buy-in to Medicaid so they can work without losing benefits.
 - [Implement Respite Care Task Force Recommendations \(HB 1398\)](#): this bill requires the Colorado Department of Human Services to use a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process to select an entity to contract with to implement recommendations of the Respite Care Task Force.
 - [Transparency of Community-Centered Boards \(SB 38\)](#): this bill was a collaborative effort with IDD stakeholders to offer more transparency in the IDD system.

- [Employment First For people with Disabilities \(SB 77\)](#): this bill creates a task force to allow state departments to work together to implement Employment First in Colorado.
- [Inclusive Higher Ed Pilot Program \(SB 196\)](#): this bill seeks to create opportunities for young people with IDD to access higher education like their peers without disabilities.

Alliance's Person-Centered Thinking Initiative

- ✓ Alliance's PCT Committee was active in making the CO PCT Initiative become a reality
- ✓ Partnered with SDA and CQL to apply for HCPF's state-wide PCT initiative RFP
- ✓ Created a PCT Website for the CO PCT Initiative (www.COPCT.org)
- ✓ Subcontracted with SDA and CQL to coordinate PCT trainings in five regions throughout Colorado
- ✓ Organized and scheduled over 100 Free PCT Trainings in Colorado
- ✓ Continued to work with the Daniel's Fund to ensure the Alliance Grant will train more trainers throughout Colorado and train additional families and people in services
- ✓ Created pre and post surveys for PCT trainings and the Daniel's Fund Grant
- ✓ Helped train over 4,000 people in Colorado in the PCT philosophy in 4 months
- ✓ Worked on bringing Wiki technology to the United States
- ✓ Helped Colorado become a national leader in PCT and has been asked to present the Alliance PCT initiative at the national ANCOR State Executive Retreat.

Alliance's Work on Federal Issues

- ✓ Actively participated in the national IDD association (ANCOR)
- ✓ Presented at and helped organize the US Region 8 Six State Summit in South Dakota
- ✓ Created an issue brief on new Division of Labor Overtime Rule for members
- ✓ Attended several national conferences to better inform our members of national issues and public policy initiatives in other states
- ✓ Secured national experts to speak at the Alliance Summit
- ✓ Studied and offered feedback on the HCBS Final Settings Rule
- ✓ Promoted the Alliance Guiding Principles of System Change related to CFCM
- ✓ Worked with the state on waiver redesign efforts

Alliance's Work on Member Benefits

- ✓ [Alliance Webinar Series](#)
 - IDD Housing Webinar
 - WaiverMarket Webinar
 - Alzheimer's & Down Syndrome Webinar
 - TEFT Grant Webinar
 - Remote Support Technologies Webinar
 - 2015 Election Guide Webinar
 - JBC Staff Budget Overview Webinar
- ✓ [Alliance Public Newsletter \(reaching over 700 people\)](#)

- ✓ Alliance's Data Collection Efforts to better understand IDD community capacity, rates, and drawing down waitlists
- ✓ [Alliance Member Benefits and Discounts:](#)
 - Denver Center of the Performing Arts
 - GapGrow Partners
 - Eon Office Supplies
 - Ease-E Medical Supplies
 - Relias Learning
 - NES Benefits- Tax credits for DSPs
 - Discounts through Alliance's ANCOR membership (Just some examples are: Dell, Office Depot, Sears, Sprint, and Quantum Solutions)
- ✓ Alliance has welcomed four new PASA members this year
 - [Thrive](#)
 - [Jordan Residential Services](#)
 - [Sample Supports](#)
 - [Garden Inc](#)
- ✓ Alliance has streamlined the committee process and board meetings, allowing for efficient and effective meetings
- ✓ Alliance has grown Summit sponsorship and member benefits
- ✓ Alliance on the Road community meetings in 6 locations around the state (Burlington, Windsor, Grand Junction, Denver, Englewood, and Alamosa)
- ✓ [Alliance uploads new pages and information to the Alliance Member Portal & website nearly every day](#)
- ✓ [Alliance has advanced its technology allowing any member to participate in committee meetings and boards meeting remotely through audio and video technology](#)
- ✓ [Alliance increased our social media presence](#)
 - [Facebook: 369+ followers, thousands of shares and hundreds of shares.](#)
 - [Twitter: @Alliance_CO has 175+ followers and 493 tweets](#)
 - [NEW: Alliance YouTube Page](#)
- ✓ Last year Alliance's our overall budget was reduced as staff saved money by renegotiating health insurance, building the Alliance website in-house, and moving to a free conference call line. This year, the Alliance budget will only have a modest increase and pursuant to the new [Alliance Dues Policy](#) dues will be adjusted in January according to your latest financials
- ✓ Alliance continues to track all SLS onboarding data throughout the state and is an ongoing resource to the legislature and HCPF
- ✓ Alliance partnered with the Colorado Rockies for the First Annual [IDD Awareness Day at the Rockies](#) and welcomed over 100 people reserving services, staff, and members to Coors Field

2016-17 WILL BE A BUSY YEAR!

As the IDD system evolves for the next generation, Alliance and our members are honored to be active partners in helping to shape an environment where everyone can achieve their potential in the community. Here are just some of the issues we anticipate working on in 2016-17:

- Building community capacity to end the IDD wait list
- Coordinating statewide person-centered training
- Avoiding state budget cuts to IDD services

- Informing Colorado's transition to comply with the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) settings rule
- Implementing policy solutions to state and federal wage and hour issues, including independent contractor issues
- Participating in the waiver redesign and consolidation process
- Monitoring the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) Phase II
- Supporting service expansion for children with autism
- Examining policy solutions to host home migration
- Ensuring appropriate funding for early intervention caseload growth
- Participating in discussions about the future of the Colorado Regional Centers
- Increasing access to employment services
- Working with partners to ensure appropriate behavioral health crisis response throughout the state
- Increasing access to technology for people with IDD
- Monitoring and supporting the State Innovation Model (SIM) project
- Helping to evaluate the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)
- Increasing access to housing for people with IDD
- Helping members prepare for OSHA's IDD investigations
- Increasing access to respite care
- Monitoring and supporting the No Wrong Door pilots
- Helping to coordinate surveys and supporting implementation for the Testing Experience and Functional Tools (TEFT) grant
- Implementing CCB best practices for the Family Support Services Program
- Strengthening relationships with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) state staff as DVR transitions to a new Department
- Supporting the implementation of SB15-109 Taskforce recommendations regarding investigations of abuse or mistreatment of individuals with IDD
- Tracking wait list and related IDD data
- Monitoring and participating in numerous task forces, work groups, and IDD stakeholder meetings.
- Monitoring a variety of bills during the 120-day legislative session.

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

Josh Rael, JD, MPA, Alliance Executive Director

