



MEMORANDUM

TO: ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: JOSHUA RAE, JD, MPA
SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR-END REPORT
DATE: JULY 2017

June 1, 2017, marked my third year as Executive Director of Alliance. Although we had another tough year, we worked together to achieve some wins, avoid some pitfalls, fortify our thought leadership in the IDD community, and strengthen community supports and services for people with IDD.

As always, this work could not have been done without the talented Alliance staff, our President, Government Relations Chair, the Alliance Executive Committee, and so many of our members that helped along the way. I am so proud to advocate for your organizations, staff, and the people you serve. This report provides a summary of just some of the activities we worked on for the benefit of our members in the 16-17' fiscal year.

Alliance's Efforts to Increase Provider Rates

- ✓ Alliance helped secure a 1.4% provider rate increase in FY 2017-18
- ✓ Alliance helped secure \$4.7 million in one-time capacity funding for SLS providers to cover
- ✓ Targeted rate increase for non-medical transportation is 7.01% with a projected implementation date of October 1.
- ✓ Targeted rate increase for Personal Care & Homemaker (including CDASS and IHSS) is \$.50 to hourly rate with a projected implementation date of October 1. SLS losses due to low rates. Over \$2.9 million went to Alliance members in FY 2016-17.
 - Click [HERE](#) to view a list of the providers that benefited from the SLS capacity funding
- ✓ [Alliance published and distributed the "IDD Perfect Storm" document](#)
- ✓ [Alliance published and distributed the "Perfect Storm Infographic"](#)
- ✓ [Alliance published and distributed the "Requesting a Lifeboat to Protect SLS Services" document](#)
- ✓ [Alliance created an Alliance Policy Papers Page on the Alliance Website](#)
- ✓ Alliance worked with Developmental Pathways and Imagine! to collect and compile RFP Data from all 20 CCBs
- ✓ Alliance generated quarterly RFP reports that were used to show capacity issues in the Colorado IDD system
- ✓ Alliance worked with a coalition of stakeholders to argue for higher provider rates and intends to grow this coalition in 2018
- ✓ Alliance staff and members testified at the Medicaid Provider Rate Review Advisory Committee (MPRRAC) and was asked to be an on-going resource for the committee
- ✓ Alliance assisted members in educating and touring legislators, JBC members, and staff
- ✓ Alliance created a [two-page RFP data summary](#) and we distributed it to legislators, the MPRRAC, and advocacy groups
- ✓ Alliance orchestrated a grassroots email campaign from members, with upwards of 100 emails from members sent to legislators and JBC staff, among others, to support an

increase in rates. These emails included agency and district-specific data and stories for legislators to better understand the sustainability crisis we're facing

Legislative Overview

- ✓ Alliance worked with legislators to draft and pass the 2017 IDD Awareness Day Resolution
- ✓ Alliance received a proclamation from the Governor for DSP Awareness Week in September
- ✓ Alliance continued work on helping legislators understand funding deficiencies in the IDD system
- ✓ Alliance hosted one of the most successful and well-attended IDD Awareness Days with nearly half of all Colorado legislators in attendance
- ✓ Alliance closely tracked 31 bills in the 2017 session, of which 26 passed and will become law
- ✓ Alliance supported 17 bills in the 2017 legislative session, of which 15 passed and will become law
- ✓ No bills passed that Alliance opposed
 - Recommended reading: bills that passed and have a moderate to high relevance for Alliance members:
 - HB17-1045: Extend Home Care Allowance Grant Program
 - HB17-1087: Office Of Public Guardianship Pilot Program
 - HB17-1229: Workers' Compensation for Mental Impairment
 - HB17-1284: Data System Check for Employees Serving At-risk Adults
 - HB17-1343: Implement Conflict-free Case Management
 - SB17-287: Sustainability of Rural Colorado (it's a long bill, but a two-page summary is available on the Alliance Legislative Updates page)

Conflict-Free Case Management

- ✓ Alliance reengaged in the CFCM discussion and formed a [CFCM Task Force](#) of 4 PASAs and 4 CCBs
- ✓ [Alliance continued to advocate for the Guiding Principles for System Change](#)
- ✓ Alliance analyzed and solicited member feedback on [HCPF's 2016 Implementation CFCM Plan](#)
- ✓ [Alliance responded to HCPF's CFCM Implementation Plan](#)
- ✓ Alliance formed a "CFCM Shock Team" to analyze and review drafts, amendments and offered feedback on multiple bill drafts to implement CFCM
- ✓ Alliance participated in many stakeholder groups related to CFCM and reported back to the full membership
- ✓ Alliance staff reached out to most CCBs and PASAs to have individual conversations about CFCM, the CFCM bill drafts, and issues that caused concerns
- ✓ Alliance hosted calls for our rural members to discuss CFCM and the rural exemption
- ✓ Alliance met with other states to research different CFCM approaches and rural exemptions
- ✓ Alliance's lobby team worked to shepherd the carefully negotiated CFCM bill, [HB 17-1343](#), unanimously through the Colorado General Assembly to avoid amendments that would have a negative impact on members
 - Without the passage of this negotiated bill, HCPF was instructed by CMS to use statutory authority to get Colorado into CFCM compliance or risk losing federal funding.

- ✓ Alliance has already started conversations with HCPF related to the CFCM rulemaking Process

Alliance's Federal and State Public Policy Work

- ✓ Alliance tracked, analyzed, and disseminated information about federal political activity, legislative and regulatory proposals and their actions and consequences
- ✓ Alliance cooperated with multiple national, state, and local disability groups to coordinate grassroots advocacy efforts to protect Medicaid, including the Save Medicaid Rally, a successful social media campaign, action alerts, and meetings with congressional offices
- ✓ [Alliance released a statement on the American Health Care Act](#)
- ✓ Alliance staff attended several national conferences to increase their knowledge of, and better inform our members about, national issues and public policy initiatives in other states
- ✓ Alliance successfully leveraged the Summit to educate members on policy issues and best practices with presentations from both local and nationally recognized IDD experts
- ✓ Alliance attended and tracked committees and workgroups handling Colorado IDD systems changes, including waiver redesign, the SIM grant, Community First Choice Option, HCBS settings, and more.
- ✓ Alliance engaged DVR and CDLE leadership to negotiate changes to how employment settings are evaluated under new WIOA criteria
- ✓ Alliance worked with CDLE and HCPF to identify solutions to independent contractor classification issues
- ✓ Alliance coordinated the association's comments to state and federal public comment opportunities, including HCBS settings, Medicaid Access Provisions, and more.
- ✓ Alliance staff and members attended meetings with CO congressional delegation staff regarding the Overtime Exemption Rule and federal health care legislation
- ✓ Alliance staff helped members organize statewide meetings with CO congressional delegation staff regarding the federal health care legislation

Revalidation and the Colorado interChange

- ✓ [Alliance requested and received an extension for revalidation](#)
- ✓ Alliance maintained constant communication with HCFP during the Revalidation process.
- ✓ Alliance tracked and followed up with revalidation issues for members for over a year
- ✓ Alliance organized and worked with members to host technical assistance work sessions to help members through the revalidation process in:
 - Denver Metro (5 sessions)
 - Grand Junction
 - Ft. Collins
 - La Junta
 - Boulder
 - Colo. Springs
 - Via the Alliance webinar /conference call line
- ✓ Alliance helped almost all members complete the revalidation process by the deadline of March 1, 2017
- ✓ Alliance tracked and followed up with issues related to the Colorado interChange system
- ✓ Alliance assisted members secure emergency payments from the state until the interChange system billing issues were resolved

- ✓ Alliance was available 24-7 to assist with interChange billing issues and emergency payments

Person-Centered Thinking

- ✓ Alliance repurposed the PCT Website to advertise trainings and trainers (www.COPCT.org)
- ✓ Alliance continued to work with Daniels Fund to ensure the Alliance grant will train more trainers throughout Colorado and train additional families and people in services
- ✓ Alliance Awarded PCT certification grants to:
 - Community Connections in Durango
 - Community Options in Montrose
 - Jill Pidcock in Glenwood Springs
 - Rocky Mountain Human Services in Denver
 - C.A.R.E. Inc., in Pueblo
 - The Resource Exchange in Colo. Springs
 - Inspiration Field in La Junta
 - Southern Colorado Developmental Disability Services in Trinidad
- ✓ Alliance continued to work on bringing Wiki technology to the United States by hosting in-person meetings with providers, the state, advocates, self-advocates and representatives from the Rix Center in London

Early Intervention

- ✓ Alliance met with OEC leadership to request growth data and to consider looking at new processes to bill Medicaid that could reduce barriers and costs for EI providers
- ✓ Alliance met with OEC and HCFP leadership to begin working on streamlining the Medicaid billing process
- ✓ Alliance members created a crosswalk of all HCPF, OEC, and federal requirements and how they differ and add additional barriers for EI providers (especially as it relates to billing Medicaid)
- ✓ Alliance worked with the Office of Early Childhood on contract assurances to get paid for Early Intervention services if CCBs need more EI funding
- ✓ Alliance negotiated with OEC to ensure they will request funding for EI caseload growth in 2018 if additional funding is needed
- ✓ Alliance responded to JBC's staff's EI Bill draft that requested additional EI data for children at risk for expulsion in child care facilities and the expansion of the age children could transfer from Part C to Part B

Training Opportunities

- ✓ [Alliance created an IDD Training Page for members and IDD Providers](#)
- ✓ Alliance saved members thousands of dollars by bringing the LRA Critical Incident Investigator Training to Colorado at a discounted price (Normally participants would have to travel to Austin for the training and pay over \$200 per person)
- ✓ Alliance secured funding to pay for half of the cost of the LRA trainings (Trainings were local, and only \$130 per person)
- ✓ Alliance worked with members to host a Critical Incident Investigator training in:
 - Grand Junction (20 investigators trained)
 - Boulder (30 investigators trained)
 - Denver (30 investigators trained)

- La Junta (over 20 investigators trained)
- ✓ [Alliance hosted a free training on Workplace Violence Hazards at Residential IDD Facilities presented by OSHA](#)
- ✓ Alliance Hosted a Mandatory Reporting informational session from APS at an Alliance Board meeting
- ✓ Alliance staff hosted free “Let’s Get Colorful” communication workshops in:
 - Denver
 - Pueblo
 - Steamboat Springs
 - Durango
 - Grand Junction
- ✓ Please visit [Alliance’s Webinar Page](#) for more trainings hosted by Alliance and our IDD partners

For more on how we have been advancing Alliance’s brand and offering additional member benefits:

- ✓ [Alliance created a new Jobs Page](#) (Free job postings for members)
- ✓ [Alliance spent several months creating and analyzing a new 300-question Annual Members Survey](#) (And had a 100%-member completion rate)
- ✓ [Alliance started a new Employment Committee](#)
- ✓ [Alliance added to the Alliance Webinar Series](#)
 - Student Loan Forgiveness for Nonprofits
 - Developmental Disabilities and Sexuality 101
 - Election 2016 Guide
 - Coordinated Networks, No Wrong Door Approach
 - EVV Explained
 - Representative Board and New Meeting Schedule
- ✓ [Alliance continued to publish a Public Newsletter \(Reaching over 700 subscribers\)](#)
- ✓ Alliance welcomed six new PASA members this fiscal year
 - Behavior Services of the Rockies
 - Bridging Family
 - Evergreen Service Providers
 - A Better Life Experience, Inc. (ABLE)
 - Oliver Behavioral Consultants
 - Ascendigo Autism Services
- ✓ Alliance continued to grow Summit sponsorship and member benefits
- ✓ [Alliance increased our social media presence](#)
 - Facebook: 468+ followers, thousands of likes and hundreds of shares.
 - [Twitter: @Alliance_CO has 248+ followers and 786 tweets](#)
 - [NEW: Alliance YouTube Page](#)
- ✓ Alliance maintained and grew our partnership with the Colorado Rockies for [IDD Awareness Day at the Rockies](#)
- ✓ Alliance continued to participate and sponsor national events and conferences: Coleman Institute Conference, ANCOR Tech Summit, ANCOR National Conference, Families of the Forefront of Technology, IDD Nurses Conference, the Six State Summit, The Arc Film Fest, and the US Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program for Independent Living for People with Disabilities.