

# CLASP - COLORADO LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

January 29, 2013

To: Participant-Directed Programs Policy Collaborative (PDPPC), HCPF

Co-Chairs: Chanda Hinton ([ch@iamtheplan.org](mailto:ch@iamtheplan.org))

John Barry ([john.r.barry@state.co.us](mailto:john.r.barry@state.co.us))

From: Ryan Zeiger, Chair, Colorado Long-Term Assistance Providers (CLASP)

Patricia Yeager, Colorado Springs member, CLASP

Re: Proposed changes to IHSS/Home Health regulations

We are writing on behalf of the Colorado Long-Term Assistance Providers (CLASP) association to request that the PDPPC committee review several requests to bring IHSS and Home Health regulations into conformance with CDASS program regulations. CLASP, formally PACCA, is a group of Colorado providers who focus on serving people with disabilities in the community and support independent living principles. As you know, CDASS, IHSS and Home Health *are* three personal assistance service programs that are delivered a bit differently; CDASS is completely controlled by the consumer (hiring, training, firing, back up, payroll); IHSS is an agency based consumer controlled personal assistance program; Lastly, Home Health is a program that provides services to persons with disabilities who have, from time to time, requested services from a spouse. Though IHSS and Home Health are somewhat more structured in the agency model, the CLASP members who deliver services through these programs believe these programs should also support consumer direction and choice to the greatest extent possible. While these three programs have the same goal-assisting people with significant disabilities to live independently in the community, several important activities are allowed in one but not the other programs.

1. CDASS program recipients are allowed to hire their spouses but in the IHSS program, they are not. CLASP providers (working under the agency model)

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have to turn people away, who want to hire their spouses. This denies the consumer the support an agency can provide (benefits for the worker, backup services for example). IHSS providers would like to be allowed to hire spouses if the recipient so chooses. Home Health consumers would also like to be allowed to have services rendered to them by their spouses, if he/she so chooses.

2. CDASS recipients are allowed to receive services anywhere including the community but IHSS recipients are not. This precludes adults from getting out, going to college or other post-secondary training and even preventing individuals from working outside the home. Again the goals are the same for each program but under IHSS, recipients are not allowed to receive home health services outside the home. Home Health consumers would also like to receive services in the community, not just their homes.

On January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Community Living Advisory Group meeting there was vigorous stakeholder discussion about the importance of consumer direction and choice. In the same spirit as that discussion, we want the individuals choosing to receive personal assistance through an agency to have the same rights and benefits as everyone else- hiring their spouses if desired and receiving services outside the home. We ask that the PDPPC consider this request at its earliest convenience. A representative of CLASP would be happy to speak at a meeting if needed. Individuals' ability to receive and make decisions about personal services should not be impacted by the type of program through which services are delivered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: Members of CLASP

Julie Reiskin