



COLORADO
Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Department of Health Care Policy & Financing
1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203

October 1, 2021

The Honorable Dominick Moreno, Chair
Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Avenue, Third Floor
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Senator Moreno:

In accordance with C.R.S. § 25.5-6-409.3 (4), the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (the Department) respectfully submits our quarterly status report on the redesign of a consolidated Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

Following our previous July 2021 update, the Department has continued to make progress on the IDD consolidated waiver and complimentary initiatives. The Department continues working to align service design, policies, and implementation across all HCBS waivers to serve all populations, including those who would access the IDD consolidated waiver. In doing so, the Department will advance the mutual aims of IDD waiver redesign while ensuring needed HCBS services are designed to be flexible and simplified. The Department will make accessing services more straightforward and easier, while helping build provider capacity to streamline and stabilize the future workforce.

Specifically, and as noted below, this quarter the Department was able to make significant strides in various complementary initiatives that not only support a consolidated waiver, but also strengthen and align the HCBS system and the services our members receive.

- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding includes a provision to increase the federal matching rate (FMAP) for spending on Medicaid HCBS by 10%. The Department is pleased to announce that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has provided final conditional approval of Colorado's submission of the proposed ARPA HCBS Enhanced Match Spending Plan. Additionally, the Department is grateful for the approval also received from the JBC on Tuesday, September 21st. The ARPA Plan was informed by interested HCBS stakeholders and includes various projects and initiatives that would benefit and strengthen our alignment work. The letter received from CMS and the Department response letter, in addition to the originally submitted plan which outlines how the state intends to enhance, expand, or strengthen Medicaid HCBS, are publicly available on the [Department's website](#).

- There has been continued work on the [Direct Care Workforce Initiative](#), where in addition to a robust stakeholder collaborative formed to work in partnership with stakeholders to identify and move forward strategies to support the recruitment and retention of Colorado's direct care workforce; the Department has worked with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to finalize rules surrounding training and oversight requirements for Homemaker and Personal Care Services. This work is essential in a consolidated waiver to ensure we have a robust and prepared provider workforce to serve our members in a consolidated waiver.
- The Department continues to build upon the work completed in the actuarial analysis conducted by Bolton Health Actuarial, (2019) "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Waiver Redesign Project Cost Modeling." Specifically, the Department has been and will continue to closely engage stakeholders on the development of the Person-Centered Budget Algorithm (PCBA), which is essential to implement a consolidated waiver. Using information gathered during the new assessment process, the PCBA will help identify a range of resources to be used during the support planning process.
- This quarter, the Department has been planning for a "Soft Launch" of the [New Assessment and Person-Centered Support Plan](#), targeted for November 2021, for case managers and members to experience the automation within the new Care and Case Management Information Technology (IT) system. The Department will be working with stakeholders this winter to continue development of the PCBA and begin to develop the structure for a new Exceptions Process to address exceptional outlier cases for individual's whose needs are extraordinary and not fully captured within the PCBA.

Background information on the consolidated waiver is available on the Waiver Redesign Stakeholder Engagement [website](#). If you require further information or have additional questions, please contact the Department's Legislative Liaison, Jo Donlin, at Jo.Donlin@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Kim Bimestefer
Executive Director
KB/mab

Cc: Representative Julie McCluskie, Vice-chair, Joint Budget Committee

Senator Bob Rankin, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Leslie Herod, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Kim Ransom, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Chris Hansen, Joint Budget Committee
Carolyn Kampman, Staff Director, JBC
Eric Kurtz, JBC Analyst
Lauren Larson, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
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Anne Saumur, Cost Control and Quality Improvement Office Director, HCPF
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