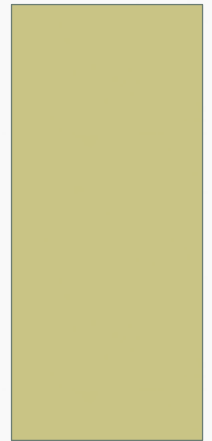


**ALLIANCE
GRACE & PLAN
COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**2019 SESSION IN REVIEW &
ALLIANCE P.L.A.N. FOR THE FUTURE**



GRACE COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

- Government Relations Advisory Committee of Excellence (GRACE)
- 2018-2019 GRACE Committee Members:
 - Chair: Randy Brodersen
 - Rob Deherrera
 - Tara Kiene
 - Doug McNeill
 - Sally Montgomery
 - Debbie Spencer
 - Tom Turner
- New Structure
- **Charge:** To influence and inform members of the Colorado Legislature and State Departments with respect to the Colorado Community Centered System and to keep Alliance members informed of all relevant government and legislative activities.

2019 IDD OVERVIEW



2019 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

- New DD Waiver Resources:
 - 399 new emergency resources
 - 150 new off-the-top of the list waiver resources
- Rates:
 - Across-the-board: 1% provider rate increase
 - Targeted Rate Increases:
 - 14% rate increase for individual 15 min respite SLS/CES
 - 12% rate increase for respite per diem SLS/CES
 - 1%-23% rate increase in GRSS depending on SIS level
 - 8.1% rate increase for homemaker, homemaker basic, and personal care rates (worker pass-through)

2019 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Additional IDD-related decisions included in the Long Bill:
 - EI brought up to the 18-19 base
 - Elimination of the State SLS waitlist
 - 272 individuals can enroll in FSSP from the waitlist
 - Office of Employment First
 - Transfer Home Mod Oversight from CCBs to DOLA
 - New FTE and DOLA inspections for oversight of host homes and other IRSS settings

2019 ALLIANCE BILL OVERVIEW

- In addition to the state budget, Alliance tracked 28 bills in the 2019 legislative session.
- Out of the 28 bills Alliance tracked, 23 passed and will become law.
- Alliance supported 10 bills in the 2019 legislative session. All of which passed and will become law.
- Alliance initially opposed two bills, but we were ultimately able to move to a “monitor” position on both bills due to significant amendments.
 - FAMLI leave & Homecare Pass-through

HB19-1045

OFFICE OF PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP OPERATION CONDITIONS

- Rep Snyder, Rep Soper, & Sen Ginal
- **Alliance position: Support**
- Allows for the Office of Public Guardianship to begin serving people without alternative guardianship
- 3 year pilot program in Denver metro

PASSED

HB19-1210
LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINIMUM WAGE

- Rep Melton, Rep Gallindo, Sen Moreno, Sen Danielson
- **Alliance position: Neutral**
- Allows a unit of local government to enact laws establishing a minimum wage

PASSED

SB19-172

PROTECT FROM UNLAWFUL ABANDONMENT & CONFINEMENT

- Rep Singer, Sen Danielson, & Sen Ginal
- **Alliance position: Support**
- Makes it a class 1 misdemeanor to unlawfully abandon an at-risk person.
 - “The intentional desertion of an at-risk person in a manner that endangers the safety of that person constitutes unlawful abandonment.”
- Makes it a class 6 felony to falsely imprison an at-risk person

PASSED

SB19-238

IMPROVE WAGES AND ACCOUNTABILITY HOME CARE WORKERS

- Rep Duran, Rep Kennedy, Sen Danielson & Sen Moreno
- **Alliance position: Oppose...and then neutral**
- Passes through an 8.1% rate increase for Homemaker, Homemaker Enhanced, and Personal Care to DSPs providing those services
 - (definitions mostly the same as HB18-1407)
- Min wage for these workers becomes \$12.41

PASSED

PRIORITIES & EXPECTED BILL ENGAGEMENT IN 2020 SESSION

- Waiting list
 - Rural attrition
- Medicaid common policy and/or targeted rates
- Subminimum wage
- State & local minimum wage
- Provider search tool
- Human Rights Committee duties
- PLAN Committee priorities

CONCURRENT RULE-MAKING

- DSP pass-through (HB18-1407)
- Caregiver emergency (HB18-1407)
- State SLS & FSSP
- Employment (SB18-145)
- Host Home/IRSS
- CMA/CM
- Homecare pass-through (SB19-238)
- EVV

2019 SESSION IN CONTEXT



HAND WE WERE DEALT

- Dems controlled all statewide office (and still do).
- A record-breaking number of Democrats in Legislature: 19 Dems in the Senate and 41 Dems in the House.
- Caucuses: Business friendly Dems, Progressive Dems, and Republicans.
- 30% of the legislature had no political experience and held an innate distrust of lobbyists.

WHAT WE EXPECTED

- Business-friendly Dems would have to take a tough stand against more progressive members to moderate their caucus.
- Most Democrat bills would pass and many would be replays from years were Reps had some power.

PREVIOUS UNKNOWNNS

- Polis team mostly from DC, didn't know how they would engage. Now we know, he's a very active governor.
- How Speaker Becker and President Garcia would manage their independent priorities. Both walked away with wins and so did their caucus members

WINNING HANDS

- Oil and Gas regulatory changes, full day kindergarten, reworking TABOR goes to the ballot, gun purchase holds for the unstable, local governments setting minimum wage, health care transparency, and equal pay regulatory changes all *passed* without much trouble
- Studies were the outcome of many bills like paid family leave, state run retirement and universal health care

IDEAS THAT FOLDED

- Death penalty
- Vaccinations
- Rent control
- Tobacco tax increase

TONE & PROCESS

- Politically divided
 - Republicans lost 2 seats in Senate and 5 seats in House, Dems had widest margin of control in decades.
- Filibustering
 - Reading bills at length
 - Lawsuit filed against Sen. President
- Extended late night and weekend hours (even more so than usual)
- Grand deals to pass high-impact bills
- New definition of stakeholdering
- Recall elections and resignation

EYE ON THE JACKPOT

- Future of the budget could be impacted by the “debrucing” bill made it to the ballot. It benefits education, transportation and higher education.
 - This was the Speaker’s big end of session push.
 - It will be up to the Dems and beneficiaries to move it forward.
- Passage = pressure taken off of the budget.

2020 SESSION PREDICTIONS

- Control of the House is likely not in play, Democrats will hold.
- Senate will stay in Democrat control, recalls could tighten margin.
- Next chance for change is after the 2022 session and it will likely be dependent on the Presidential. Maps will be redrawn.
- Partisanship bleeding into the rest of the year through the election.

PLANNING LEGISLATIVE ASKS NOW (PLAN) COMMITTEE REPORT



PLAN COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

- **2018-2019 PLAN Committee Members:**
 - Sally Montgomery, Chair - Mosaic
 - Bob Arnold - Starpoint
 - Randy Brodersen – North Metro Community Services
 - Mark Emery – Imagine!
 - Tara Kiene – Community Connections
 - Doug McNeill - Laradon
 - Cindy Opheim – Cottonwood Community Alternatives
 - Jodi Walters – Parker Personal Care Homes
 - Melanie Worley – Developmental Pathways
- **Charge:** To create a five year, prospective plan to guide Alliance's legislative and policy work toward a system of services and supports that honors individual choices, promotes self-determination, and brings out the potential in each individual we are privileged to serve.

POLICY AGENDA OVERVIEW

- Not an exhaustive list of Alliance focus areas
- Items identified as priority areas based on:
 - Barriers we see when providing services
 - Impact that success would have on the people we serve
 - Degree to which they help us achieve our ultimate vision for IDD services
- We will work on these *in addition to* the many items the association is working on already.
- We may pursue changes through legislation, rule, or other mechanisms.
- Perfect time to embark on an ambitious public policy agenda!

PLAN POLICY AGENDA 2020-2025

- **Ongoing Priorities**
 - System capacity & sustainability
 - Waiting List
 - Person-centered practices
- **5-year Strategic Policy Priorities**
 - Individualized budgets
 - Competitive integrated employment
 - Regional Centers
 - Housing
 - Technology
 - Data

ONGOING PRIORITIES

SYSTEM CAPACITY & SUSTAINABILITY

- **Problem:**

- Rates have long trailed the cost of services
- Baseline rate set at 76% of cost in 2008
- Rates fail to keep pace with inflation, rising minimum wage, increased regulatory requirements, etc.
- Low pay and high turnover for DSPs
- Reduced continuity of support
- Reduced access to services & choice of provider

SYSTEM CAPACITY & SUSTAINABILITY

- **Desired outcome:**
 - Waiver participants with IDD will have access to at least one provider for all requested services within a reasonable distance of their home community.
 - Waiver participants will locate a provider within 90 days of service authorization and be able to stay with the provider of their choice.
- **Action:** Continue to examine all available solutions and pursue them as directed by membership
- **Committees:** GRACE, Executive Committee

ELIMINATE DD WAITING LIST

- **Problem:**
 - People wait years, decades
 - Despite numerous attempts, no plan in place
 - Despite significant progress in recent years, waiting list continues to grow
- **Desired Outcome:**
 - All eligible Coloradans with IDD will have access to enrollment in the waiver that best suits their needs within 90 days of DD determination or meeting age criteria (whichever is later)
- **Action:** Continue to examine all available solutions and pursue them as directed by membership
- **Committees:** GRACE, Executive Committee

PERSON-CENTERED PRACTICES

- **Problem:**
 - While significant progress has been made, still have a lot of work to do before CO offers truly person-centered services
 - Rules, service plan, and services not yet fully aligned
- **Desired outcome:** All rules, assessment tools, and service plans used by HCPF and CDPHE are in alignment with, and supportive of, person-centered practices.
- **Action:** Infuse PCT into all Alliance committees and initiatives and achieve strategic policy agenda.
- **Committees:** All; Person Centered Thinking as needed.

5-YEAR STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITIES

INDIVIDUALIZED BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

- **Problem:**

- Currently, waiver participants get an allocation of units, not dollars
- Complex for individuals, families, managing entity
- Difficult to predict utilization, state budgeting
- Often, units go unused and needs unmet
- Service Plan Authorization Limits and unit caps on certain services compound access problems

INDIVIDUALIZED BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

- **Policy Goal:**
 - Create service budget represented in dollars
 - Manage like household/personal budget
 - Limited only by overall budget allocation
 - Freedom to purchase type and amount of desired service within available funds
 - More predictability in terms of state budget
 - Providers establish rates within guardrails
 - System capacity discussion shifts focus from provider to people accepting services

INDIVIDUALIZED BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

- **Action:**
 - Create Alliance committee to research, make recommendations
- **Questions/Challenges:**
 - Robust algorithm to establish budgets
 - Support for individuals to manage budget
 - Appropriate guardrails for rates
 - Ongoing initiatives:
 - Assessment tool
 - Waiver redesign

ADVANCE COMPETITIVE, INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT

- **Problem:**

- People with IDD have much lower labor force participation and higher under- and unemployment due to:
 - Low societal expectations
 - Inadequate education/training opportunities
 - Inadequate funding for individualized employment supports
 - Siloed employment services
 - Discrimination
 - And much more...
- Struggle to find competitive, integrated jobs in the typical workforce

ADVANCE COMPETITIVE, INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT

- **Policy Goal:**

- The environment to make significant advances in CIE is ripe in CO
 - Employment First Advisory Partnership
 - Office of Employment First
 - Customized Employment Pilot
 - Sub-minimum wage work group
- Leverage these opportunities, beginning with subminimum wage discussions, to eliminate barriers to CIE

ADVANCE COMPETITIVE, INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT

- **Action:** Continue efforts of the Alliance Employment Committee and Shock Team. Beginning with sub-minimum wage discussion, identify and address barriers to CIE that can be addressed in 2020.
- **Questions/Challenges:**
 - Income limits and other disincentives
 - “Soft” barriers: expectations, taking risk
 - Financing structures to incentivize – cost

REGIONAL CENTERS

- **Problem:**

- Census at Regional Centers at all-time low
- National trends shift away from state-operated service models
- Costly, unsustainable
- People want services in their own communities
- With adequate supports, they can be served there

- **Policy Goal:**

- Enhance private, community-based services and eliminate referrals to Regional Centers.

REGIONAL CENTERS

- **Action:**
 - Create an Alliance committee or shock team to research and recommend solutions/strategies.
- **Questions/Challenges:**
 - Regional Center Task Force
 - Pushback from families/guardians, employees
 - Provider of last resort?
 - How to support transition toward closure

INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- **Problem:**

- Rising housing costs in CO
- Insufficient federal room & board
 - Less than ½ average monthly rent
- Long waiting list for HUD rental assistance
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of safe and accessible housing in desired communities
- Many providers subsidizing housing costs

INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- **Policy Goal:**
 - Find solutions to expand safe, accessible, affordable housing for people with IDD.
- **Action:** Create an Alliance Committee to research and recommend solutions/strategies.
- **Questions/Challenges:**
 - Housing is an issue for many, not just IDD
 - Cost
 - Nuances with specific proposals
 - E.g., supplementing R&B – upper limit? How justify cost? What about moves?

INCREASE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

- **Problem:**

- Technology can increase independence and personal outcomes, create cost savings, and address staffing shortages.
- People with IDD have limited opportunity to access personal devices, wifi, and apps to enhance independence.
- Technology solutions such as remote monitoring and telehealth are not reimbursed
- Lack of high quality provider-search tool limits provider choice.

INCREASE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

- **Policy Goal:**
 - Create a mechanism to fund the utilization of technology solutions including remote monitoring technology, telehealth, high-speed internet access, and personal devices.
 - Create an intuitive, functional, user-friendly web-based provider search tool.
 - Explore becoming a Technology First state.

INCREASE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

- **Action:**

- Create an Alliance committee to explore opportunities for technology.
- Continue the work of the Alliance CMA/RFP Committee to advocate for a functional provider-search tool.

- **Questions/Challenges:**

- Financing mechanisms
- Individual privacy concerns
- EVV?

IMPROVE IDD SERVICES DATA

- **Problem:**

- Reliable IDD service system data is woefully lacking
- Can't measure access to services, provider capacity, service gaps
- Need reliable data to inform public policy

- **Policy Goal:**

- Create a mechanism to collect uniform statewide data, preferably by an independent party.

IMPROVE IDD SERVICES DATA

- **Action:**
 - Create an Alliance Data Committee and work with advocacy partners to identify a strategy for statewide data collection
- **Questions/Challenges:**
 - Consistent definitions
 - What do we collect?
 - Who collects what in a changing system?
 - Limitations in a complex world
 - Cost

PLAN PROCESS

1. Alliance committees will research, make recommendations
 2. Recommendations will be considered by GRACE
 3. GRACE will recommend moving forward with specific legislative/regulatory changes
 4. Executive Committee will give final approval
 5. Full BOD will be informed and vote if necessary
- External stakeholders will be involved as appropriate
 - Political landscape and external bills/initiatives will be weighed continuously

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- Significant additional workload
- We need subject matter experts!
 - Lots of research and technical work
- Share the love - please consider signing up your staff who are passionate about these topics
- **Thank You** to our PLAN Committee members!
- Questions?
 - Ask Sally, Ellen, Josh, or any PLAN committee member

THANK YOU

Please consider joining the 2019-2020 GRACE or PLAN Committees to impact Alliance's legislative priorities and long-term strategy.

All committee emails, notes, and documents are available on the Alliance portal for all members.