

2024 IDD Awareness Day Policy Webinar

Welcome!

- Please mute your audio
- We will take questions at the end
- The slides and recording will be posted at:
www.alliancecolorado.org/iddawarenessday2024
- Come back to watch the Live Virtual Luncheon from 12:00 – 1:30pm on March 20th!

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities



AWARENESS DAY

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
Awareness Day

Hosted by:



JFK Partners is Colorado's University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Program. Our mission is to promote the individuality, inclusion, active community engagement, and health and well-being of all people of diverse backgrounds with developmental disabilities and their families.



Alliance is a nonprofit, statewide association of Community Centered Boards, Provider Agencies, Case Management Agencies, Strategic Partners, and Advocacy Network members dedicated to strengthening services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The Arc of Colorado provides system advocacy, public awareness, community education, and support for self-advocacy organizations across the state for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc of Colorado is the state chapter and, across the state, we have an additional 14 local chapters.

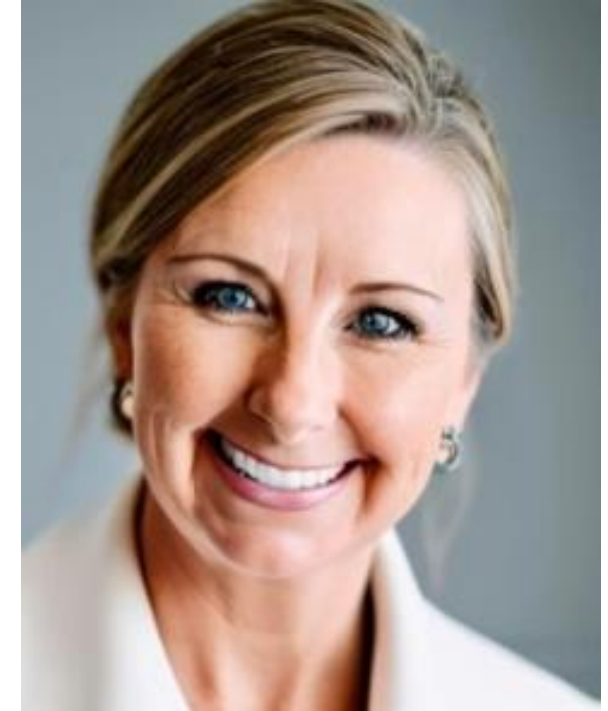
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Director



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Agenda:

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- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
 - Important budget actions
 - 2024 bills to watch in Colorado
 - Legislative advocacy 101

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AWARENESS DAY

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

- In 1987, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- Raises awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life, as well as the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live
- Colorado events include:
 - Award Finalists Webinar – March 4th
 - Disability Rights Advocacy Day – March 7th
 - IDD Awareness Day – March 20th



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Important Budget Items

Direct Support Workforce
Case Management Redesign
Waiting List Elimination
Pediatric Behavioral Therapies

Direct Support Workforce Challenges

- **Direct Support Professionals, or DSPs**, assist people with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives in the community through a diverse range of services, such as helping them get ready in the morning, take medication, find a job, and participate in social activities
- The pandemic worsened longstanding challenges to recruit and retain DSPs, creating service gaps
- Minimum wages increase each year, creating more competition for this critical workforce
- **How can the General Assembly help?**
 - Approve rate increases to raise pay for DSPs to \$16.55 per hour statewide (up from \$15.75 this year) and \$18.29 in Denver
 - Approve 2.5% rate increase for all Medicaid services
 - Approve 2% provider increase for Early Intervention



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Case Management Redesign

Major, concurrent systems changes creating the “**Perfect Storm**” of service disruption:

1. Case Management Redesign – new Case Management Agencies and geographic regions
2. End of the Public Health Emergency – eligibility redeterminations & staffing shortages
3. New Case Management data system – technical challenges causing errors, delays
4. Staffing issues – changes are worsening longstanding shortages and high turnover among Case Managers

Results:

- Breaks in eligibility for people with disabilities
- Gaps in case management, service approvals
- Mass confusion
- Case Management Agencies & Providers struggling to operate
- **Potential loss of critical daily supports**



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Case Management Redesign

- **How can the General Assembly help?**

- Joint Budget Committee should approve Department proposal for stabilization funding to:
 - Provide support for Case Management Agencies to hire/retain staff to handle the backlog and maintain operations
 - Hire 2 additional Department staff to provide technical assistance and oversee the new case management data system
 - Support fixes and enhancements for the new data system



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Waiting List Elimination

- The Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver is the only one with a waiting list
- Although significant progress has been made, people are still waiting
- During the “Perfect Storm”, cautious about a significant number of new enrollments
- **How can the General Assembly help?**
 - Fund at least 129 *new* DD waiver enrollments
 - 129 will trigger population-based enrollment methodology to help stabilize rural services



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Pediatric Behavioral Therapies



- PBT services are for people 20 years old and younger to assist with behavioral needs
- Changes to how the state pays for these services and chronically low provider rates have created a shortage of providers
- Many limit the number of Medicaid enrollees they accept, and some provider agencies have closed or left the state in recent years
- **How can the General Assembly help?**
 - Approve PBT rate increases to align with other states

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Colorado Bills to Watch

2024



Bills to **SUPPORT** in 2024



- ✓ HB 24-1063 Addressing Abbreviated School Days
- ✓ HB 24-1067 Ballot Access for Candidates with Disabilities
- ✓ HB 24-1165 Denver Airport Accessibility
- ✓ HB 24-1167 Prohibit Student Seclusion
- ✓ HB 24-1168 Equal Access to Public Meetings
- ✓ SB 24-136 Uniform Guardianship & Conservatorship Act

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Addressing Abbreviated School Days

([HB 24-1063](#))

- Clarifies what constitutes an abbreviated school day and effects on students with disabilities
- Requires Dept. of Education to implement a policy that explains, among other things:
 - When abbreviated school days are permissible
 - Review of abbreviated schedules on a regular basis
 - Information sharing with parents/guardians/custodians
 - Documentation and records about abbreviated school days
- Requires additional data collection and reporting to the General Assembly

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Representative
Mary Young



Representative
Lorena García



Senator
Chris Kolker

Ballot Access for Candidates with Disabilities

([HB 24-1067](#))

- Addresses persistent barriers faced by individuals with disabilities seeking public office and participating in political processes
- The Colorado General Assembly, the Secretary of State, and Colorado political parties must ensure accessibility for candidates with disabilities in the caucus process or any future alternative for ballot access
- Within six months of the bill's effective date, requires the option for individuals to participate in precinct caucuses or party assemblies through video conferencing, unless being held in an area without broadband internet service

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Representative
David Ortiz



Representative
Brandi Bradley



Senator
Faith Winter



Senator
Larry Liston

Denver Airport Accessibility ([HB 24-1165](#))

- Mandates accountability around mutually agreed-upon timelines for securing basic access in specific areas
- Sets up an advisory committee within the airport to support expanding and improving accessibility features as the airport grows
- Mandates certain minimum accessibility features including way-finding features and accessible bathrooms with changing tables in each concourse

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Representative
David Ortiz



Representative
Jennifer Bacon

Prohibit Student Seclusion ([HB 24-1167](#))

- Prohibits the use of seclusion on a student by a school district, district charter school, or institute charter school
- Requires State Board of Education to create rules prohibiting seclusion
- Requires creation of a resource bank of materials regarding alternatives to seclusion and restraints
- Amends reporting requirements to ensure incidents of seclusion are reported

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Representative
Regina English

Equal Access to Public Meetings ([HB 24-1168](#))

- Requires state and local public bodies to ensure accessibility requirements by July 1, 2025:
 - Any public meeting with a recorded vote or where public testimony is heard must be accessible in real time by:
 - live streaming video or
 - audio that is recorded and accessible to individuals with disabilities
 - Allow participation in meeting and testimony by video conferencing
 - Provide auxiliary aids or services

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Representative
Meg Froelich



Representative
Manny Rutinel



Senator
Nick Hinrichsen

Uniform Guardianship & Conservatorship Act

([SB 24-136](#))

- Prohibits guardianship where less restrictive alternatives meet adult's needs
- Requires less restrictive alternatives be tried
- Clarifies lawyer for respondent must represent adult's wishes
- Includes interested persons in Notices and information
- Requires court notification of restrictions to visitation/relationships lasting more than 7 days
- Clearly states RIGHTS of the individual subject to guardianship or conservatorship
- Removes stigmatizing language such as “ward” and “incapacitate”

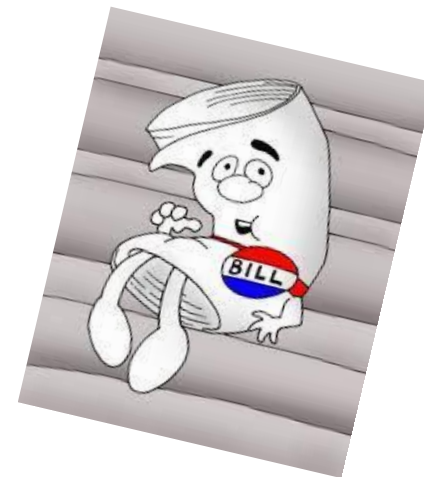
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Senator
Bob Gardner

Additional bills to watch

- HB 24-1019 Crisis Resolution Team Program
- HB 24-1034 Adult Competency to Stand Trial
- HB 24-1115 Prescription Drug Label Accessibility
- HB 24-1161 Motor Vehicle Access Individuals with Disabilities
- HB 24-1360 Colorado Disability Opportunity Office
- HB 24-1318 Modify Rental Premises Person with Disability



For more bills...

Check out our online bill trackers!



alliancecolorado.org/bill-tracker



<https://fastdemocracy.com/shared-bills/?sharing-bill-list-id=mPb0rXoEuTzL>

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Legislative Advocacy 101

How to get involved at any level



Beginner Advocacy (actions that take 2-15 mins)

- Find out who your representatives are
 - leg.colorado.gov/find-your-legislator
 - congress.gov/members
- Connect with organizations you trust:
 - Follow on social media
 - Sign up for their newsletters
 - Respond to Action Alerts
- Register to vote
- Program your elected official's contact info into your phone



Intermediate Advocacy (actions that take 15-60 mins)

- Learn how your legislators voted on important bills
 - Bill trackers or scorecards from organizations you trust
 - Thank them for supportive votes
- Call or visit your legislators to discuss issues you care about and share your lived experience(s)
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper



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Advanced Advocacy (actions that take 1-8 hours)



- Attend and/or testify at a hearing on a bill of interest to you
 - [Colorado Session Schedule](#)
 - [Public Testimony Options](#)
- Attend or host a candidate forum, town hall, or other educational opportunity and ask about their stance on issues important to you
- Create a lasting relationship with a legislator by being an ongoing resource for them
- Volunteer to help a candidate, cause, or organization

Questions? Contact Us:



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