

Factors in IDD System Change

Colorado's case management system is under examination as the State works to comply with new federal rules. Alliance is committed to ensuring the availability of quality, locally accountable case management services. Alliance has identified the following factors that must be considered in any systems change related to case management services:

Personal choice: Individuals receiving services, or their representatives, should have maximum freedom to choose an agency and self-direct services. Options that allow maximum personal choice and self-determination should be prioritized.

Health and Safety: Systems must create healthy, sustainable, and safe services. Any changes to the system must not harm the people it is intended to serve.

Stability and continuity: Stability and continuity of services must be maintained. Options that create the least amount of disruption to the system should be prioritized, and chaos should be avoided.

Simplification and standardization: Priority should be given to options that are easy for Community-Centered Boards (CCBs), Program-Approved Service Agencies (PASAs), and the State to implement. Systems should also be easy for individuals and families to navigate. For example, options that require significant changes to statute, system structure, Department oversight, and internal agency systems should be avoided.

Longstanding community relationships: Decision-making and support for persons at a local level should be maintained. Options that maintain the current community-centered model, existing community partnerships, and local area planning efforts should be prioritized. Options that disrupt local accountability in favor of statewide or national case management should be avoided.

Sustaining specialty knowledge of IDD services: Specialized expertise in supporting persons with IDD must be sustained. Options that dilute IDD expertise or advance a medical model of services should be avoided.

Sustaining local funds, i.e. mill levies: Millions of dollars from local sources help sustain Colorado's IDD system. Options that ensure the availability of these local dollars should be prioritized. Options that create a threat to the receipt of these funds should be avoided.