

# IDD Awareness Day Policy Webinar

Welcome!

- The webinar will begin at 10:00 am
- All attendees will be muted
- Please use the Q&A button for questions
- We will address questions at the end of the webinar
- Closed captioning is provided
- The slides and a recording will be posted at:  
[www.alliancecolorado.org/iddawarenessday](http://www.alliancecolorado.org/iddawarenessday)
- Join the Virtual Luncheon from 12:00 – 1:00pm on this same zoom link!

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities



AWARENESS DAY

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities  
Awareness Day

# Presenters:



Judy Reaven  
Associate Director



Ellen Jensby  
Senior Director of Public  
Policy & Operations



Christiano Sosa  
Executive Director



# Agenda:

- COVID-19 policies related to IDD
- Workforce Crisis
- 2022 bills to watch in Colorado
- Legislative advocacy 101

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# COVID-19 Policies Related to IDD



- **Protected Medicaid Enrollment**
- **Temporary increases in federal Medicaid match**
  - +6.2% during Public Health Emergency
  - +10% dedicated to Home and Community-Based Services, effective 4/1/21 – 3/31/22 per the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- **Service flexibilities:** remote service delivery, e-signatures, etc.
- **New 3-tier Day Habilitation structure** with 1:1 service option
- **Temporary reimbursement rate enhancements** for increased staffing, hero pay, protective equipment, and program losses
  - **New \$15 base wage for Direct Support Professionals - must be permanently funded!**
- **People with IDD were prioritized** in early vaccine distribution

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# Direct Support Workforce Crisis

- **Direct Support Professionals, or DSPs,** are workers who 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
- We have a severe shortage of DSPs, resulting in:
  - Temporary program closures & waiting lists
  - Providers turning away new referrals, delaying launch of new services, facing unsustainable turnover costs
  - Need to fill gaps with National Guard troops
  - People with IDD can't access services, must cope with staff turnover



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# Direct Support Workforce Crisis



## How can the General Assembly help?

- Make permanent the reimbursement rate increases funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), supporting the \$15/hr base wage and preventing a wage cliff when the ARPA funds expire in 2024
- Provide a 2% increase for all Medicaid services

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# Colorado Bills to Watch

2022



# Bills to **SUPPORT** in 2022

- ✓ [HB22-1107 Inclusive Higher Education Opportunities](#)
- ✓ [HB22-1114 Transportation Services for Medicaid Waiver Recipients](#)
- ✓ [HB22-1189 Behavioral Health Crisis Response Training Deadlines](#)
- ✓ [HB22-1214 Behavioral Health Crisis Response System](#)

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# HB22-1107 Inclusive Higher Education Opportunities

- Low societal expectations and limited opportunities prevent people with IDD from enjoying the benefits associated with higher education:
  - Higher employment rates
  - Better wages
  - Increased socialization, community belonging, and independence
- Creates the Inclusive Higher Education grant program to help colleges and universities establish or expand HE programs for students with IDD

## PRIME SPONSORS



Representative  
Mary Young



Representative  
Mary Bradfield



Senator  
John Cooke



Senator  
Jeff Bridges

# HB22-1114 Transportation Services for Medicaid Waiver Recipients

- People with disabilities lack accessible, reliable transportation options due to geographic and capacity limitations of existing services
- Bill aims to expand employment options by creating a path to allow companies such as Uber and Lyft to serve people with disabilities through Medicaid

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Representative  
Colin Larson



Representative  
Alex Valdez

# HB22-1189 Behavioral Health Crisis Response Training Deadlines

- Already passed and signed!
- Extends current statutory deadlines for Dept. of Health Care Policy & Financing to obtain a training vendor to help coordinate services for people with IDD and co-occurring behavioral health needs
- Also extends deadlines for case management agencies, mental health centers, and provider agencies to complete the training

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Representative  
Leslie Herod



Representative  
Julie McCluskie



Senator  
Dominick Moreno



Senator  
Bob Rankin

# HB22-1214 Behavioral Health Crisis Response System

- Requires crisis system, including crisis walk-in centers and mobile crisis programs, to meet minimum standards to provide mental health and substance use disorder services
- Clarifies the populations that must be able to access crisis services
- Amendment added people with disabilities and co-occurring conditions to the list of populations that must be served

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Representative  
Mary Young



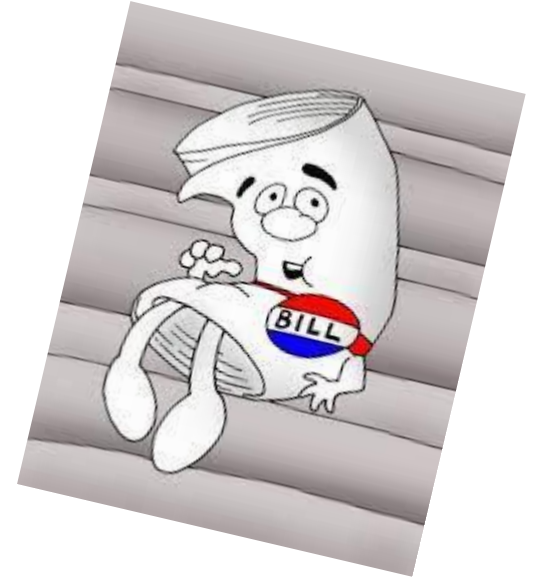
Representative  
Rod Pelton



Senator  
Chris Kolker

# Additional bills to watch

- [HB22-1278 Behavioral Health Administration](#)
- [HB22-1295 Department Early Childhood and Universal Preschool Programs](#)



# HB22-1278 Behavioral Health Administration

- Redesigns Colorado's behavioral health service system
- Establishes a Behavioral Health Administration to create a coordinated, cohesive, effective BH system
- Identifies people with IDD and other co-occurring disabilities as priority populations
- Includes protection to prevent them being denied behavioral health services

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Senator  
Pete Lee



Senator  
Cleave Simpson

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# HB22-1295 Department Early Childhood and Universal Preschool Program

- Establishes the functions and responsibilities of the new Department of Early Childhood
- Relocates early childhood programs from the departments of human services and education to the department of early childhood, including the Early Intervention program for children 0-3.
- Creates Colorado universal preschool program

## PRIME SPONSORS



Representative  
Emily Sirota



Representative  
Alec Garnett



Senator  
Janet Buckner



Senator  
Stephen Fenberg

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# Even more bills...

Check out our online bill trackers!



[alliancecolorado.org/bill-tracker](https://alliancecolorado.org/bill-tracker)



[cqrcengage.com/thearco/collegbilltracker](https://cqrcengage.com/thearco/collegbilltracker)

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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](http://leg.colorado.gov/find-your-legislator)
  - [congress.gov/members](http://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 15-30 mins)

- Learn how your legislators voted on important bills
  - Bill trackers or scorecards from organizations you trust
- Call or visit your legislators to discuss issues you care about
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper
- Volunteer to help a candidate, cause, or organization



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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
- Attend a candidate forum or town hall and ask about their stance on issues important to you
- Create a lasting relationship with a legislator by being an ongoing resource for them

# Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day

## Q&A



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March 23, 2022

Hosted by



**Thank you for attending our Policy Webinar!**

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