

January 28, 2013

To: Community Living Advisory Group

From: Marijo Rymer, co-chair, Waiver Simplification Committee/Long Term Care Advisory Committee

Re: Enabling/aspirational legislation—principles for re-design of CO LTSS system

The Waiver Simplification Committee of the LTCAC requests enabling/aspirational legislation from the 2013 Colorado General Assembly to facilitate the re-design of our state's system of long term services and supports—including, but not exclusive to, Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers. At the January 10 meeting of the LTCAC, the group voted overwhelmingly to forward a request for such legislation to the Community Living Advisory Group.

With direction and support from the Legislature and the Governor, Colorado state agencies and stakeholders will work together to make concrete recommendations for system change that could include:

- renewals of existing DD waivers to be submitted to CMS in FY-13-14
- statutory changes to CO Medicaid state plan in FY 14-15
- simplification/consolidation of existing HCBS Medicaid waivers
- opportunities to increase Medicaid funding

We request sponsorship of a bill that will direct DHS, HCPF, and CDPHE to make recommendations for system changes that would result in long term services and supports based on;

- individual life goals, interests, desires, preferences, strengths and abilities as the foundation for the planning process,
- outcomes based on individual life goals, interests, strengths, abilities, desires and preferences,
- services and supports needed by the individual to work toward or achieve outcomes, and
- principles of self-determination and self-direction.

Legislation would direct the state to recommend changes to the Medicaid state plan; HCBS Medicaid waivers, and state general fund services to assist people in achieving goals for community inclusion and participation, independence, self-determination and direction, recovery and/or productivity.

Additionally, we request that the legislation direct state agencies to pursue all available opportunities for increased funding for CO's Medicaid programs and to make recommendations for ongoing financial sustainability.

