

Carol Meredith, Executive Director, The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas

I have grave concerns that we are considering excluding children with high medical needs and no challenging behaviors from this waiver.

Although I have advocated for over 20 years to fill the gaps in the service system for children and adults with challenging behavior and IDD, I would never have supported the exclusion of children with high medical needs. This is a good/bad example of silo-ing.

During the work of the Community Living Advisory Committee and the Waiver Simplification sub-committee, we never recommended that one population that was previously covered by a waiver be excluded from the eligibility for a waiver. The only recommendation that we made was to have services provided under the State Plan (like the Children with Autism Wavier).

I recommend that we have a robust discussion about this at the next Benefits Collaborative meeting and have the relevant laws, rules and regulations available to us at that discussion.

Christiano Sosa, Executive Director, The Arc Colorado

The Arc of Colorado looks forward to the opportunity to help with the redesign the CHRP waiver. Clearly there are limitations in the associated legislation. As the legislation is drafted, the CHRP waiver is limited to children with both a diagnosis of a developmental disability, and severe behavioral health needs that place those children at risk of institutionalization. In its new home, the waiver redesign presents an opportunity to have an extensive view of crisis stabilization for children that fit into this category. This has been a dream for many over a number of years.

That being said, some members of our community have expressed concern that the waiver may not include provisions for children that are medically fragile. We feel it's important to address these community concerns. We also recognize that the Department did not say that medically fragile children would not be able to receive the waiver at all; however, as the redesign stands, it seems that the waiver would not be advantageous to medically fragile children as it was previously. The Arc of Colorado believes that it would be helpful to discuss where other waivers might step in to fill these gaps, and to identify possible pitfalls with the waiver as it is.

We are fully aware that legislation cannot be changed at this point. However, a discussion of where medically fragile children might fall behind, and how the Department and stakeholders could convene to prevent this from happening may very well prevent a future health crisis.