



COLORADO

**Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing**

**Strategic Plan for Assuring Timely Access to Services for Individuals with
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

Report to the Colorado General Assembly

House Bill 14-1051

NOVEMBER 1, 2015

This report, and the attached project summary, is the statutorily required annual update written in response to direction set forth in House Bill 14-1051. The legislation requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (the Department) to develop—in consultation with intellectual and developmental disability system stakeholders—a comprehensive strategic plan to “to ensure that Coloradans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families will be able to access the services and supports they need and want at the time they need and want those services and supports.” This year’s submission includes updates on progress towards goals set forth in the strategic plan developed November 2014¹ and provides information on additional legislation and initiatives that support the legislative intent of HB 14-1051 and implementation of this strategic plan.

In addition to updating the strategic plan, pursuant to 25.5-10-207.5(3)(a), C.R.S., the Department is required to submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the total number of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are waiting for enrollment into a Medicaid or State funded program. This report includes information regarding number of persons waiting for enrollment into the following Home and Community Based Services waiver programs for: Persons with Developmental Disabilities (HCBS-DD), Supported Living Services (HCBS-SLS) and Children’s Extensive Support (HCBS-CES). This report also details the number of individuals waiting for enrollment into the following State funded programs: State Funded Supported Living Services and Family Support Services.

Introduction

Colorado continues to take the lead in its support of community-based living for its citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This support has enabled Coloradans to reside in communities of their choosing and in the least restrictive settings possible.

One way Colorado demonstrates its commitment to community living is through Medicaid waiver programs. The Department operates eleven Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waivers under authority granted by the Colorado General Assembly. Three of those waivers are operated within the Division for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – the Developmental Disabilities (HCBS-DD), Supported Living Services (HCBS-SLS), and Children’s Extensive Support (HCBS-CES) waivers.

In addition to Medicaid services provided through the HCBS waivers, the Department provides services and supports specifically for individuals with I/DD through annual General Fund appropriations from the Colorado General Assembly. The State-funded Supported Living Services (State SLS) program provides assistance to individuals who can live independently with limited supports, or if they need extensive supports, are receiving those supports from other sources. The Family Support Services Program (FSSP) program provides assistance, according to a family support plan, needed to maintain a family member with intellectual or developmental disability in the family home.

Budgetary limitations restrict Colorado’s ability to serve all individuals who are eligible for and in need of the services and supports described above. Consequently, many individuals are placed on waiting lists and/or receive services and supports that are not best suited to their specific needs and

¹ <http://www.leg.state.co.us/library/reports.nsf/ReportsDoc.xsp?documentId=ACA5A4C3ACC8D42387257D90007B1985>

preferences.

This document serves as an update to the plan required by HB 14-1051 for ensuring timely access to services for eligible individuals by July 1, 2020. The attached project plan provides updates on planned initiatives, and for initiatives that have been augmented by recently passed legislation.

Progress Towards Reduction of the Waiting List

Waiting List Data and Statuses

As outlined in last year's report, otherwise eligible individuals are placed on waiting lists when enrollments reach the capacity of the federally-approved waiver application, and/or when the limits of General Fund appropriations have been met. Separate waiting lists are maintained for each waiver and General Fund programs. Individuals may be included on more than one waiting list at a time.

The Community Contracts Management System (CCMS) serves as the statewide repository for waiting list data. Individuals indicate their needs and preferences which are then entered into the system by Community Centered Board (CCB) case managers into one of the following waiting list statuses:

- **As Soon As Available (ASAA)** – The individual has requested enrollment as soon as available.
- **Date Specific** – The individual does not need services at this time but has requested enrollment at a specific future date. This category includes individuals who are not yet eligible due to not having reached their 18th birthday.
- **Safety Net** – The individual does not need or want services at this time, but requests to be on the waiting list in case a need arises at a later time. This category includes individuals who are not yet eligible due to not having reached their 18th birthday.

The CCB case managers are required to verify and update the waiting lists status of eligible individuals within their respective catchment areas at least annually. In reporting waiting list data for individuals needing services immediately, the Department includes those individuals waiting for services with an ASAA status and those individuals with Date Specific status who have requested enrollment within the current fiscal year. Table 1 below details the number of individuals currently needing services immediately who are waiting for enrollment.

Program	Unduplicated Number of Individuals
HCBS-DD Only	2,081
HCBS-SLS Only	494
Both HCBS-DD and HCBS-SLS	512
HCBS-CES	88
State Funded Supported Living Services	160
Family Support Services Program	6,414

Data Source: Community Contract Management System, September 30, 2015

Some individuals are waiting for enrollment immediately into both the HCBS-DD and the HCBS-SLS waivers. In order to report unduplicated numbers of individuals waiting for HCBS waivers, the numbers above are reported as individuals waiting for HCBS-DD only, HCBS-SLS only and those waiting for both waivers.

Please note, the Department has sufficient funding to enroll all individuals currently waiting for the HCBS-SLS and HCBS-CES waivers. All enrollments have been authorized and the Community Centered Boards are currently working to get all eligible individuals enrolled.

Table 2 details the number of individuals needing services immediately who are waiting for enrollment, but currently receiving some Medicaid services.

Table 2 Persons Needing Services Immediately Who Are Receiving Some Services		
Program	Unduplicated Number of Individuals	Percentage of Individuals Waiting Receiving Some Services
HCBS-DD Only	2,081	90%
HCBS-SLS Only	494	64%
Both HCBS-DD and HCBS-SLS	512	60%
HCBS-CES	88	76%
State Funded Supported Living Services	160	36%
Family Support Services Program	6,414	38%

Data Source: Community Contract Management System and Medicaid Management Information System, September 30, 2015

Table 3 details the number of individuals currently with a Safety Net status. Please note, there is some duplication between the numbers in Table 3 and the numbers reported for individuals needing services immediately in Table 1. For example, an individual may be reported as needing HCBS-DD services immediately, but is also reported on the safety net list for HCBS-SLS.

Table 3 Safety Net Status	
Program	Unduplicated Number of Individuals
HCBS-DD Only	2,538
HCBS-SLS Only	299
Both HCBS-DD and HCBS-SLS	1,365

Data Source: Community Contract Management System, September 30, 2015

Significant progress has been made over the last year to enroll clients needing services immediately into the HCBS-SLS and HCBS-CES waivers and the Department expects that progress to continue. While the waiting list for the HCBS-DD waiver continues to grow, individuals were enrolled from the waiting list over the past year. Table 4 details the number of new individuals added to each waiver between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015.

Table 4 New Enrollments			
HCBS-DD	HCBS-SLS	HCBS-CES	Total
297	866	401	1,564

Budgetary Environment

The Colorado General Assembly has demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring services and supports are available to Coloradans with I/DD through its support of additional funding for enrollments for the HCBS-CES and HCBS-SLS waivers. However, current budget projections for FY 2016-17 indicate potential budgetary shortfalls that may drive reductions in funding for programs. Due to these budget projections, the Department was not able to request additional enrollments to reduce the waiting list for the HCBS-DD waiver, beyond requesting funding to allow for emergency enrollments and placements for individuals transitioning from other settings. The Department remains committed to ensuring all individuals have access to the services they need by 2020; this next year may require a renewed focus on addressing operational challenges and moving forward with authorized legislation in lieu of work to reduce the waiting list for the HCBS-DD waiver or expand service delivery options. Please see the attached project summary for anticipated progress towards the Department's strategic goals.

2015 Legislation: Waiver Redesign, Crisis Pilot, and Person Centered Planning

Since the submission of last year's report, the Colorado General Assembly authorized legislation further supporting the strategies identified in HB 14-1051. The 2015 legislative session produced bills that will help modernize the service delivery system for home and community based services for children and adults with I/DD. Below are some highlights of this legislation and this strategic plan has been updated to include these initiatives. Please see the attached project summary for additional deliverables and details regarding recent legislation that support the goals of HB 14-1051.

House Bill 15-1318

Creating a redesigned waiver for adults with I/DD and a conflict free case management Service Delivery System are key components of this strategic plan. These initiatives were codified by HB 15-1318, *Concerning a Single Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. The legislation directs the Department to create a single waiver for adults with I/DD with a target implementation date of July 1, 2016, or as soon as it is approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Further, the legislation requires that the waiver include flexible service definitions, provide services when and where they are needed, and offer services and supports based on individuals' needs and preferences.

The bill also directs the Department to create a plan for submission to the Joint Budget Committee by July 1, 2016 on how it will comply with federal regulations found at 42 CFR § 441.301(c)(1)(vi) regarding separation of case management from direct service delivery. The plan will be developed in consultation with all interested stakeholders. The Department anticipates that the additional choice of case management agency and the flexible service array available in the waiver will support client choice of case manager and provide modern, flexible services that will support individuals to lead the lives of their choosing in the community.

Ways in which this legislation supports the strategic goals of HB 14-1051 can be found in the attached project summary.

House Bill 15-1368

Another key component of this strategic plan is strengthening collaboration with the Colorado Department of Human Services to streamline mental and behavioral health services for individuals with I/DD. HB 15-1368, *Creation of a Cross System Response for Behavioral Health Crisis Pilot Program for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities*, seeks to ensure timely access to behavioral supports for individuals in crisis who also have an Intellectual or Developmental Disability. The bill authorizes funding for the creation of a pilot program managed by contracted vendors in two locations that delivers and coordinates services including crisis intervention, stabilization, and follow-up services not covered in either the behavioral health system or one of the waivers for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The created system must also build on the statewide behavioral health crisis system supported by the Colorado Department of Human Services. Services will be provided to eligible individuals irrespective of payer source.

The Department is working closely with the Colorado Department of Human Services on implementation of this legislation. The legislation requires project launch by March 1, 2016 and its operation through March 1, 2019. The Department anticipates that the program will be operational by March 2016 as the Request for Proposals for the coordinating vendor was released in October 2015. The pilot and the resultant cost data will assist the Department in identifying and documenting gaps between the waiver and behavioral health systems in ways that will inform waiver redesign efforts and possible changes to the service array and covered diagnoses of the behavioral health organizations. This legislation will help the Department ensure that clients with diagnoses across the behavioral health and developmental disability spectrum receive the services they need at the time that it is needed.

Conclusion

The Department reaffirms its commitment to helping all Coloradans live and work in the communities of their choosing with their friends and loved ones. With the support of the Colorado General Assembly, the Department will continue its ongoing work to ensure this commitment is realized for every Coloradan with an intellectual or developmental disability. The Department will continue to update the narrative of this plan with substantive updates on policy, legislation, and budget initiatives, and document changes to ongoing goals in the attached project summary. The Department remains committed to achieving the goal of timely enrollment for all eligible individuals by the year 2020.