

December 9, 2014

Hello:

Thank you for having us here tonight. My name is Julie Reiskin, in addition to being the director of the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition I am also a CDASS client. We are happy to be here for what has become an annual tradition—talking to you about the importance of consumer directed services in the Medicaid program. Because most of you are new to the committee we are going to start by explaining what consumer direction is. Candie Dalton, who is the HCPF manager of these programs and I will cover that. In addition to giving clients control over our personal lives, HCPF runs this program in partnership with the client community which is why we present together—and in our opinion why this program works so well and is a model of excellence in public/private collaboration. Robin Bolduc and Bruce Goguen will then put a personal face on the program. Josh Winkler and Candie will then talk about the numbers followed by Linda Skafien of the Arc of Adams County and David Bolin an IHSS provider about the need for continuation and expansion. You have a packet with information and we are always available to provide follow up.

What is consumer direction?

It is a delivery option of LTSS based on the philosophy that PWD (including elderly) know best what they need and should have choices about how needs for assistance with every day activities are met. In CO we offer a consumer direction option for three services. Those services are health maintenance (which is known in the rest of the Medicaid world as home health care (nurses or certified nurse aides), personal care, and homemaker. All of these services involve paying someone to perform tasks that absent a disability one does for oneself. This is everything from helping someone manage their ventilator to helping someone bathe and

dress to helping someone cook and clean the house. We have two options for consumer directed delivery of these services:

You have a handout that explains the difference between traditional agency care, IHSS and CDASS. IHSS or In Home Support Services does involve an agency but allows clients to hire whomever they want and manage the schedule and supervision. The agency provides support including 24 hour backup and help clients who want it with independent living supports such as skills training. CDASS affords clients the most control and require the highest level of responsibility. Clients manage all of their supports including the budget. Clients unable to direct all or some of their care can have an authorized representative manage the care for them—an AR may not be a paid caregiver and must have a relationship with the client.

You have a handout on the details of how it works:

Consumer direction meets the department goals of improving quality and reducing costs. The population that benefits depends on Medicaid forever and requires support greater than what can be provided by a family or private insurance plan. There is no way to overstate the importance of what it means to clients to have control over who comes in your home, has access to every single aspect of your life, hears your fights with your spouse, knows where you keep your bank PIN, and does very personal things. To share what that really means—and what it looks like when you do not have that is Robin Bolduc and Bruce Goguen.