



MOSAIC®

A life of possibilities for people
with intellectual disabilities.



SLS - Critical Services for People Served

Mosaic – Northern Colorado

The people with intellectual disabilities who utilize Supported Living Services come from a variety of situations. The short descriptions below are about three individuals Mosaic currently serves who truly stand to lose everything if Mosaic is unable to provide services due to low rates. They will likely not be able to find provider agencies who are willing to agree to provide the supports they need due to those same low rates. It is the impact to people like Steve, John and Jim that keeps me up at night. We are fast approaching the point where we may not be able to absorb the losses that we continue to experience providing SLS services. While there are other providers out there I don't know many who can absorb this type of financial loss any better than we can. The potential loss of continuity in their services is really concerning for these gentleman. They know Mosaic and we have been able to provide them with consistent providers and supports over the years. In the first six months of this fiscal year (7/1/16-12/31/16) Mosaic in Northern Colorado has lost over \$40,000 prior to any administrative expenses that are required to run the services. The loss is projected to grow with increasing costs and the new minimum wage requirements. The state of Colorado needs to carefully look at rates for these intermittent services and take action. If that doesn't happen people who qualify for the SLS Wavier will not be able to find provider agencies making their resources unusable. This is reflected in the data compiled by Alliance about responses to request to provide services across the state. The number of PASAs who respond is dropping dramatically for all but a few services.

Steve is a gentleman who owns his own condo and receives about 10 hours per week of supports from Mosaic under the SLS Wavier. We have served Steve for several years and he counts on the staff from Mosaic to help him with grocery shopping, cooking, support with medical appointments and accessing his community. Mosaic acts as Steve's representative payee to assure he can maintain his finances and cover the expense that come with being a home owner. We are not paid to provide this service, however Steve has no family or friends who can take on this important job. Steve also receives job coaching through his SLS funding and works in a community job. Maintaining his home, working and shopping in our community gives him a sense of purpose and he contributes to the community as a whole. While ten hours doesn't sound like much it is critical to Steve to being able to live on his own. If he did not have these supports and a representative payee to help him with finances he would not be able to keep his home which is affordable option for him in Fort Collins. If he loses his home his job would also be in jeopardy. Without these services it is likely Steve would become homeless and be without a job. He would be in crisis, need to access other community services (shelters, food banks, etc) and become a priority for an HCBS comprehensive wavier resource at a much higher cost to the state.

John is in almost the same situation. He owns his home, works a long term community job. He is an excellent neighbor and friend. He also receives about 10 hours a week of services through the SLS Wavier to support him with his finances, grocery shopping, medical appointments and support in

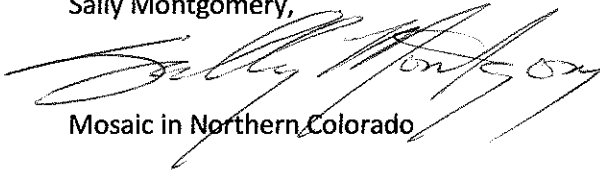
accessing his community. The risk to John if we have to end his services are significant. He has more medical issues and is approaching 60 years of age.

Jim lives alone in an apartment he rents in Fort Collins. He struggles with diabetes and depression in addition to his intellectual disability. Jim began receiving services when his only family member died and he had nowhere to turn. It was such a difficult time for him. He has grown so much with only minimal supports. Without family to reach out to Jim has become close with one of his staff who often goes above and beyond to invite him to her home for holidays, making sure he has things to look forward to. Without the 10 hours of support he receives he would not be able to manage his diabetes and medical appointments along with shopping, meal prep and checking to be sure he takes his medication.

Steve, John and Jim have nowhere else to turn outside of Medicaid wavier supports. Ending up on the streets is tough for anyone, but if you have an intellectual disability it can easily lead to mistreatment, abuse and even death.

Thank you for considering the impact of inadequate rates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is critical that Colorado address this issue before more vulnerable individuals are pushed into situations that expose them to the risks I mentioned above.

Sally Montgomery,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Montgomery', written over the printed name.

Mosaic in Northern Colorado