



### **Notes from 4.13.20 Weekly COVID TA Call**

#### **Alliance Updates**

- PPE Update: Members, do you need PPE? If so, let us know before 4.13.20 @ 2:00pm by clicking HERE: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/88HDSYJ>
  - This also went out in the COVID-19 Alliance email on Friday 4.10.20 at 5:00pm.
- Daily Alliance COVID Emails: COVID-19 communications start to slow so we may be publishing these email updates every other day, or when we have some breaking news to share.
- Alliance Nominating Committee Updates: Nominations Due by Friday for the Committee and Executive Committee: <https://mailchi.mp/alliancecolorado/nominating-committee-2020?e=0d0cf9c1d6>
- Alliance Meetings this week:
  - Executive Committee meets Wednesday afternoon re: Alliance Budget, Virtual Summit, and new membership level dues.
  - Thursday:
    - Alliance BOD Meeting 9:30 – 10:00am
    - Alliance State Forum
      - with CDPHE 10:00-10:15am
      - with HCPF (Provider/PASA issues) 10:15-11:00am
      - CCB Peer Network with HCPF 11:00-11:30am
    - CCB Peer Network without HCPF 11:30am-12:00pm
- Reminder: CLS and Capitol Chronicles Email Updates will be posted on the Member Portal on the Member Communications Page and Member Legislative Updates Page. No A-Team News for another week or two.
- Overview of GRACE
  - GRACE will be meeting before session restarts to set new priorities.
    - Send requests/recommendations to Josh, Emma and/or Randy [emma@emmahudsonconsulting.com](mailto:emma@emmahudsonconsulting.com)
- Updates from Emma Hudson Consulting & Colorado Legislative Strategies
  - The Executive Committee (consisting of legislative leadership) met and decided legislators may be back in session as soon as May 18. Goal is to get a new revenue forecast on May 12, and they expect to be \$2-3B out of alignment with the state budget. Important to note that we will not be ending the wait list this year after all our collective efforts. JBC Members are still committed to this but they just have other priorities now. Because they can't work on the WL this year, several legislators and JBC Members are very eager to give something to the IDD community this year and ending SMW practices in the state. The SMW wage bill has a \$150,000 general fund fiscal note. The fact legislators want to try to give us something with a fiscal note is an act of solidarity with our community. Regardless,

Emma plans to work with the SMW Sub-Committee to see if there are ways to reduce the fiscal note on the bill.

- There are so many bills on the table and bills that will die, we don't expect the legislators will use all 52 days they have left in session. We expect they will charge through the budget to get a draft to the Governor by May 30. State departments need that money and assurance to plan for anything after July. Will be tough and require a lot of cuts. Emma is working with the JBC to ensure they will keep the emergency resources (399 DD emergency resources).
- Unclear how the public will be able to participate in session once they start up again. Will lobbyists and the public be able to come to the capitol and to committee meetings in person? They may even allow legislators to be electronically present; this is something they are working on now.
- The JBC will reconvene May 4 to start working.
- The general fund is \$12.5B and will be where the cuts come from first.

## CO Dept Updates

- HCPF Guidance that was sent out last week
  - [Operational Memo - Updated Case Management Operational Changes in response to COVID-19 \(April 6, 2020\)](#): The purpose of this Operational Memo is to inform Case Management Agencies (CMAs) of modifications to the temporary operational changes for face-to-face member contact and assessment authorizations.
    - Allows e-signatures, 1 year for assessment rather than 6 months, clarifies CIR, etc. Initial & CSR assessments completed by phone/virtual authorized for up to a 1 year, e-signatures.
  - [Operational Memo - Operational Information for HCBS Residential Services Pertaining to COVID-19 \(April 7, 2020\)](#): The purpose of this Operational Memo is to inform providers and case management agencies (CMAs) of guidelines that shall be followed in residential settings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including actions necessary where there is a suspected or confirmed case of the COVID-19 illness.
  - [Operational Memo - COVID-19 Communication for Suspending In-Person Inspections for HCBS Home Modification and Individual Residential Support Services-Host Home Settings \(April 8, 2020\)](#): The purpose of this Operational Memo is to inform home and community-based services (HCBS) providers and CMAs of the temporary suspension of in-person inspections for the Home Modification and Home Accessibility Adaptation benefits on the Brain Injury (BI), Children's Extensive Supports (CES), Community Mental Health Supports (CMHS), Elderly, Blind, and Disabled (EBD), Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) and Supported Living Services (SLS) waivers, as well as the temporary suspension of in-person inspections for Individual Residential Support Services-Host Home (IRSS-Host Home) settings during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - [Operational Memo - Community Centered Boards and Single Entry Points Operational Changes in Response to COVID-19 \(April 8, 2020\)](#): The purpose of this Operational Memo is to inform Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Single Entry Points (SEPs) of temporary changes to administrative requirements within the Fiscal Year 2019-20 CCB and SEP contracts, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Allows to suspend or conduct via electronic means.
  - [Operational Memo - Temporary Training and Certification of Nurse Aides \(April 8, 2020\)](#): The purpose of this Operational Memo is to inform nursing facilities of instructions for

temporarily waiving certain training and certification requirements for nurse aides in nursing facilities.

- [Updated HCBS Provider Retainer Payments and Case Management Action Required for Closures Related to COVID-19](#) – Supported Employment & Prevoc was added. Added a way to indicate through billing the difference between services actually rendered & retainer payments. Please bill accordingly. **If you've already been billing, please re-bill with the new codes.** Must be documented & authorized by Case Managers, and only in the A/S/D authorized for that service provider in the SP.
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- Friday HCPF Webinar Highlights:
  - Hospital crisis standards of care for triage of resources does not take disability/subjective quality of life into consideration.
  - Budget complexities:
    - Est. \$3.2 billion revenue decline in next FY – don't yet know how HCPF will prioritize funding.
    - HCPF has been asked to reduce current-year budget by \$20M – not difficult because of reduction in routine health visits, delaying contracts that don't support critical work, delaying implementation of new programs recently authorized, and delaying hiring of non-critical positions.
    - Not planning to reduce any Medicaid benefits now, however this may affect future FYs.
  - New flexibilities HCPF is requesting:
    - Amending app K request to add: staffing flexibility for residential services, exclusion of PMIP (professional medical information page), and authorization of retainer payments for residential services.
    - 1135 waiver request: requesting to waive signatures for LTSS eligibility and waive the service every 30-days rule to retain eligibility.
    - Disaster state plan amendment: asking for authority to provide enhanced payments to CCBs, suspend IMD status, and get sick time for CDASS attendants
  - Covered a variety of flexibilities in process or that they are exploring.
  - National COVID-Ready caregiver certificate training program for frontline staff – available free through 4/17/20 with code COCOVIDCERT (enter at checkout)
    - <https://covidcert.nextstep.careers/>
  - March 18 was cutoff date for financial eligibility freeze – if anybody had a break in their eligibility prior to March 18, they need to get re-enrolled.
- CDPHE
  - [COVID-19 Preparation and Rapid Response: Checklist for Long-Term Care Facilities \(LTCFs\)](#)

### Federal Updates

- We sent an Action Alert last week to have as many providers as possible fill out ANCOR's survey on cost study. We would also then have access to Colorado data. This is critical because Congress and lawmakers have trouble understanding how all the money they have already authorized is going to get to providers or won't get to providers. We need to know how it has impacted your operations and your budget. **If you have not filled it out, please do so before 1:00pm today!**

- Alliance Action Alert: ANCOR Survey for IDD Providers: Time extended until 1:00pm on 4.13.20 (today) <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ANCORc19survey>
- In the third funding package, there are Association for Community Living grants to Aging and Disability Resource Centers – Colorado plans to apply but is only eligible to receive \$750k. Unclear how the funds might flow to the community but we will keep an eye on it. Will help with hospital and nursing home transitions, added I&R, workforce assessment.
- ANCOR letter to CMS regarding the Public Health & Social Services fund. Alliance is reaching out to Colorado delegation. Allocating a number equivalent to 6.2% of each providers' revenue through Medicare. ANCOR requested they do the same for Medicaid providers.
- On April 10, ANCOR, ACCSES, The Arc, APSE, and Easterseals joined together in [a letter to Congressional leadership](#) asking for an additional \$20 billion in the next stimulus bill to support Home and Community-Based service providers and direct support professionals. The letter requests HCBS grants to support the direct support workforce, better access to personal protective equipment for DSPs, personal care attendants, and other direct care workers, increased production of PPE and ventilators nationally, the inclusion of people with disabilities and their caregivers in the paid leave provisions under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and expansion of small business loan programs to larger non-profits serving people with disabilities.
- Fourth funding package underway – **hope you completed survey!** Asking for Public Health and Social Services fund to be “replenished” with funds designated for IDD agencies specifically.
- 6.2% FMAP increase: Alliance met with Bonnie and OCL team to talk over Alliance Members' questions. They do not have a plan for the FMAP stuff but we hope they will have an update by Thursday's meeting.