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Alliance
Colorado Communities United for People
with Developmental Disabilities

About Alliance

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Alliance is a nonprofit, statewide association of Community-Centered Boards (CCBs) and Program-Approved Service Agencies (PASAs). We are distinguished by our leadership and advocacy for member organizations and the individuals and families they serve. Our efforts in the areas of public policy, state legislation, developmental disability initiatives, and best practices have positioned us as the premier resource for Colorado's community-centered system of services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Alliance is dedicated to strengthening community services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by collaboratively advancing innovative policies and practices.



Membership Benefits

As members of Alliance, organizations can:

- Participate as informed, involved, and influential players in shaping legislative and departmental policies and discussions.
- Actively engage in collaboration, information-sharing, and training to promote best practices and shape the future of services and supports in Colorado.
- Stay in-the-know with timely and in-depth information provided by Alliance staff and member organizations.
- Receive substantial discounts through group purchasing plans through our Preferred Vendor Program.
- Attend the annual June Summit open only to members of Alliance and invited guests.
- Participate in special events and activities, such as Awareness Day at the Capitol and the Medicaid Region VIII Six State Summit.
- Access timely information on our website, including the Alliance Member Portal, where you can find information about Alliance meetings and committees, issues of interest to our members, communications, policies, procedures, legislative updates, and the members-only legislation tracker.



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COIDD

“Alliance works hard to strengthen community services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and is proud to uphold and demonstrate the highest program and ethical standards in our field. Our members are well-respected professionals in their communities and unite under the Alliance name to advocate with one voice at every level of government.”

- Joshua Rael, JD, Alliance Executive Director

Alliance Public Policy Priorities

Alliance is committed to working toward a system of services and supports that honors individual choices, promotes self-determination, and brings out the potential in each and every individual with whom we work. We realize that the community is a place to live, learn, and grow, and that the choices individuals make should reflect their values and priorities. Alliance believes that a system built on the principles of self-determination is a more efficient, elegant, and effective way of providing services and supports. More importantly, we believe that creating a system that offers the opportunity for self-determination and the right to make choices is the right thing to do for the individuals we are privileged to serve.



Mural created by individuals served by Envision, the Community-Centered Board serving Weld County.

Alliance's Priorities

- Eliminate wait lists for intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) services through investments in community capacity
- Promote person-centered and consumer-directed services
- Ensure the availability of locally accountable, quality case management services
- Ensure the availability of early intervention services
- Advance employment opportunities for individuals with IDD
- Enhance behavioral supports for individuals with IDD
- Enhance access to technology and information for individuals with IDD
- Promote regulatory reform to enhance person-centered services and self-direction

Alliance Member Events

Awareness Day for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Awareness Day is the only annual event designed to raise awareness for Coloradans with IDD.

This annual event at the State Capitol raises awareness for the individuals our members serve throughout Colorado. They lead the Pledge of Allegiance in the House and Senate, witness passage of a Joint Resolution recognizing Awareness Day, and then enjoy a luncheon with legislators and other invited guests. We also take time to recognize outstanding Direct Support Professionals for their dedication to the individuals they serve. This event draws nearly 300 people, including many legislators who come to learn what they can do to improve the lives of Coloradans with IDD.



Alliance June Summit

The annual June Summit offers Alliance members the opportunity to expand and develop new contacts with fellow members, hear from local and national speakers, and network with trusted exhibitors from throughout the state of Colorado. We invite recognized speakers from the intellectual and developmental disabilities field and leaders in Colorado's IDD service system to join our members and discuss pertinent issues and best practices. The June Summit draws more than 200 attendees and is the premier venue in Colorado for Alliance members and invited guests to meet, learn from each other, and discuss plans for the future.

The June Summit is where thought leaders come together to shape the future of Colorado's IDD system.

Code of Ethics

Alliance members have voluntarily agreed to uphold the following high standards of professional ethics. All members are united for excellence and Alliance approved.

Section 1: The Individuals and Families We Serve

- Alliance members shall provide supports and services with the highest compassion, respect, integrity and professionalism.
- Alliance members shall use a person-centered approach to provide services and supports that balance the individual's personal goals and choices (what is important to the person) with the individual's health and safety (what is important for the person). Alliance members shall promote the individual's choice, self-determination, inclusion, growth, development and independence.
- Alliance members shall respect the right to privacy and confidentiality for the individuals and families served. Members shall not disclose privileged or nonpublic information.
- Alliance members shall readily provide relevant, current and truthful information to individuals and families receiving services to support an environment of informed choice and self-determination.
- Alliance members shall promote Employment First principles to encourage competitive, integrated employment of individuals with disabilities within the general workforce.
- Alliance members shall promote access to technology and information as an equal right for individuals with disabilities.

Section 2: Business Ethics

- A. Alliance members shall aim to implement existing and emerging best practices in the field of service delivery for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and maintain a commitment to being Colorado's thought leader in the intellectual and developmental disability services community.
- B. Alliance members will respect the individual's right to choice and will support a fair and competitive marketplace by not using solicitation, coercion, or persuasion to influence

an individual's decisions regarding their services or providers.

- C. Alliance members shall provide accurate and timely information when necessary and appropriate to other providers, legislators, Alliance staff, state department staff, and the larger community.
- D. Alliance members shall be transparent and responsible stewards of public and private funds.
- E. Alliance members shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, statutes, and regulations.
- F. Alliance members shall support Direct Support Professionals through adequate training and benefits, as well as competitive wages, within the parameters of available state and federal funding.
- G. Alliance members that provide case management services shall make available to service providers detailed and complete information during the Request for Proposal process about the characteristics, support needs, approved services, rates, and relevant finances to allow the service provider to submit an informed and reasonable proposal to the individual requesting services.
- H. Alliance members shall speak with respect and cooperate with providers, legislators, Alliance staff, state department staff, and the larger community.

Section 3: Alliance Membership Responsibilities

- A. Alliance members shall promote Alliance's mission, vision and values while adhering to the bylaws of the Association.
- B. Alliance members shall collaborate and communicate with advocacy groups, state and community partners when promoting Alliance's mission and values.
- C. Alliance members should clarify, when appropriate, statements and actions made as an individual and those made as a representative of Alliance.
- D. Alliance members shall take no action that could benefit them at the expense of Alliance.

Alliance members are committed to excellence and have come together to establish and adhere to high ethical standards.



Alliance Staff

Josh Rael, JD Executive Director

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In June, 2014, Josh was honored and excited to accept the position of Executive Director at Alliance. Josh is looking forward to the opportunity to lead this outstanding membership organization and continue his advocacy work for the most vulnerable populations while strengthening community services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Prior to this role, Josh worked as a contract lobbyist for Alliance for nearly 8 years.

Josh was born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado and received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Colorado State University-Pueblo, a Juris Doctor from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and is completing his Master in Public Administration with an emphasis in Nonprofit Management at the University of Colorado-Denver.

Ellen Jensby, JD Public Policy Director

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Ellen serves as the Public Policy Director for Alliance. In this role, Ellen provides leadership and direction in implementing Alliance's public policy priorities, as well as analysis and monitoring on a broad range of state and federal public policy issues and legislation. She contributes a unique background in law and policy, as well as federal disability policy experience, to the work of Alliance.

Ellen holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Oklahoma and a Juris Doctor from the University of Kansas. She is a graduate of the National Leadership Institute on Developmental Disabilities.

Alliance Staff

Kylie Kampbell, Membership Coordinator

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Kylie joined Alliance in 2009. As the Membership Coordinator, Kylie is a primary point of contact for Alliance members, who look to her for information and resources. She coordinates all of Alliance's meetings and events, and manages Alliance's office. Kylie plays a critical role in ensuring the success of Alliance's two biggest events, Awareness Day and the June Summit, year after year. She remains eager to help Alliance and its members achieve their shared objectives.

Kylie has many years of volunteer experience working with non-profit organizations, helping plan events and silent auctions in her free time. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Marketing from Colorado State University.

Emma Hudson, MPA, MPH Legislative Liaison

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Emma serves as Alliance's Legislative Liaison. In this role, Emma provides insight into the policy-making process for members. She acts as a voice for members to express critical issues to legislators and as a translator for members to learn about important legislative developments. Emma holds a Bachelor of Science in English Literature, a Master of Public Health, and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also holds a graduate certificate in Consumer Health Advocacy.

Before joining Alliance, Emma worked on a variety of state and federal policies with an emphasis on state budget analysis, women's health policy, and low-income health insurance policy.