

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: JOSHUA RAEL, JD, MPA
SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR-END REPORT (JOSH'S 5-YEAR UPDATE)
DATE: JUNE 2018- JULY 2019

This report provides a summary of just some of the issues we worked on for our members and the people you serve in 2018-19 and some of the issues we will be working on this coming year. Please feel free to share this document with your board, staff, and other non-member PASAs or CCBs that would like to learn more about Alliance's return on *your* investment. This work could not have been done without your support. Thank you!

Legislative Overview

✓ State Budget Highlights

- New DD Waiver Resources:
 - 399 new emergency resources
 - 150 new off-the-top of the list waiver resources
- Rates:
 - Across-the-board: All IDD services (including services on the DD, SLS, and CES waivers, as well as EI rates) will receive a 1% provider rate increase, which will be back-dated to be effective July 1, 2019.
 - Certain targeted rate increases were also included, including a 14% individual 15-minute respite increase for SLS/CES, a 12% increase for respite per diem for SLS/CES, and a 1%-23% increase in GRSS rates depending on the SIS level.
 - All HCBS homemaker, homemaker basic, and personal care rates also received an 8.1% rate increase (which must be 100% passed through to employees who provide these services in the same manner as HB18-1407 – more information available in SB19-238).
- Additional IDD-related decisions included in the Long Bill:
 - EI brought up to the 2018-19 base
 - Caseload growth increases for FY 2019/20 will be handled, supposedly, during January 2020 supplementals.
 - Elimination of the State SLS waitlist
 - 272 individuals can enroll in FSSP from the waitlist
 - Office of Employment First created
 - Home Modification Oversight transferred from CCBs to DOLA
 - New state FTE (personnel) and DOLA inspections for oversight of host homes and other IRSS settings

✓ Alliance Bill Overview

- In addition to the state budget, Alliance tracked 28 bills in the 2019 legislative session.
- Out of the 28 bills Alliance tracked, 23 passed and will become law.
- Alliance supported 10 bills in the 2019 legislative session, all of which passed and will become law.



- Alliance initially opposed two bills, but we were ultimately able to move to a “monitor” position on both bills due to significant amendments.
 - The bills were FAMLI leave & Homecare Pass-through (SB19-238).
- Bills to note:
 - HB19-1045: Office of Public Guardianship Operation Conditions (Support/Passed). Allows for the Office of Public Guardianship to begin serving people without alternative guardianship. 3-year pilot program in Denver metro.
 - HB19-1063: At-Risk Information Sharing Between County Departments (Support/Passed). Allows some information sharing between APS & CPS without court orders to support health and safety. Prohibits a substantiated perpetrator from receiving any identifying information about the person who made a report of the mistreatment or self-neglect of an at-risk adult. Allows any person named as an at-risk adult in a report, or the person's guardian or guardian ad litem, to access the report without a court order. The bill requires a court order if the substantiated perpetrator is the guardian of the at-risk adult.
 - HB19-1210: Local Government Minimum Wage (Neutral/Passed). Allows a unit of local government to enact laws establishing a minimum wage. If more than 10% of jurisdictions seek to create min wages, the decision goes back to the General Assembly debate.
 - SB19-172: Protect from Unlawful Abandonment & Confinement (Support/Passed). Makes it a class 1 misdemeanor to unlawfully abandon an at-risk person. “The intentional desertion of an at-risk person in a manner that endangers the safety of that person constitutes unlawful abandonment.” Makes it a class 6 felony to falsely imprison an at-risk person.
 - SB19-238: Improve Wages and Accountability Home Care Workers (Oppose, then Neutral/Passed). Passes through an 8.1% rate increase for Homemaker, Homemaker Enhanced, and Personal Care to DSPs providing those services (most definitions the same as HB18-1407). After July 1, 2020, the hourly min wage for persons who provide personal care services, homemaker services, or IHSS is \$12.41.
- ✓ Rule Making and the Implementation Process:
 - HB 1407 - DSP Compensation and Aging Caregiver: Implementing the law
 - Alliance actively engaged in the rulemaking process and successfully negotiated numerous changes to the rule.
 - Alliance continues to assist members in understanding the implementation process based on confirmed rules.
 - Alliance continues to be a resource to all IDD Providers by hosting [free public informational webinars](#).
 - SB 145 - Employment Training Requirements
 - Alliance successfully avoided a problematic narrowing of the statutory interpretation of this law in rulemaking at both HCPF and DVR.
 - 018 IRSS Rule Amendments re: Host Home regulations
 - Alliance is actively engaged in this ongoing rule revision.
 - Case Management Agency and Case Manager Qualifications
 - Alliance successfully advocated for a number of changes and leveraged opportunities to improve the HCPF “Find a Doctor” provider search tool.



Alliance's Five-Year Legislative Plan

- ✓ In 2018-19 the Planning for Legislative Asks Now (PLAN) Committee was charged with creating a five-year prospective plan to guide Alliance's legislative and policy work toward a system of services and supports that honors individual choices, promotes self-determination, and brings out the potential in each individual we are privileged to serve. The plan helps Alliance strengthen its role as an IDD thought leader.
 - Ongoing Priorities
 - System capacity & sustainability
 - Waiting list
 - Person-centered practices
 - 5-year Strategic Policy Priorities
 - Individualized budgets
 - Competitive integrated employment
 - Regional Centers
 - Housing
 - Technology
 - Data
- ✓ The Alliance Government Relations Committee of Excellence (GRACE) will now prioritize the legislative agenda and help establish committees' work on policy recommendations.

Alliance's Federal and State Public Policy Work

- ✓ Alliance tracked, analyzed, and disseminated information about federal political activity, legislative and regulatory proposals and their actions and consequences. A few of these included regulatory changes to wage an hour law (the overtime rule), the Raise the Wage Act, and legislation extending state deadlines to comply with Electronic Visit Verification requirements.
- ✓ Alliance staff attended and spoke at several national conferences to increase their knowledge of, and better inform our members about, national issues and public policy initiatives in other states.
- ✓ Alliance staff regularly collaborate with provider agencies in other states to help inform our public policy agenda. Alliance is viewed as a national leader among provider associations.
- ✓ Alliance attended and tracked numerous committees and workgroups handling Colorado IDD systems changes.
- ✓ Alliance has assisted in inviting our federal delegation to participate in the "DSP for a Day" challenge.

Billing and the Colorado interChange

- ✓ Alliance continues to advocate for members by working with HCPF and DXC on billing and interChange issues.
- ✓ Alliance secured a DXC representative that oversaw all Alliance member claims.
- ✓ Alliance assisted members in securing emergency payments from the state until the interChange system billing issues were resolved.

New Membership Benefits and Organizational Improvements



- ✓ [Alliance Peer Networks](#)
 - Behavioral Therapists
 - CCBs
 - CEOs/Executives
 - Adult Services
 - Case Managers
 - CFO/Financial Managers
 - Early Intervention
 - Human Resources
 - PASAs
 - Public Relations and Development
 - Rural Providers
 - Small PASA/Parent Providers
- ✓ [Alliance Membership Handbook](#)
- ✓ New Alliance Policies
 - Antitrust Policy
 - Record Retention and Destruction
- ✓ [Updates to the Alliance Member Portal](#)

Alliance's Data Collection Efforts to Increase Provider Rates

- ✓ Alliance contracted with Health Management Associates (HMA) to work toward a third-party analysis of the state's IDD service access issues.
- ✓ Alliance staff spent months negotiating with HCPF to get service authorization and utilization rates across as many years as possible. However, the data HCPF shared did not provide sufficient information for a robust access analysis. Alliance staff are working with HMA, the Alliance Executive Committee, and the PLAN Committee's Data Group to determine the best path forward.
- ✓ Alliance staff are working to encourage member agencies to participate in the state's National Core Indicators (NCI) Staff Stability Survey to ensure staff stability is included in on-going rate discussions.
- ✓ Alliance staff and Alliance's appointed member representative continues to follow the Medicaid Provider Rate Review Advisory Committee (MPRRAC), which will again be reviewing IDD rates in 2020.

Advancing Alliance's Brand and New Member Benefits

- ✓ [Alliance continues to maintain the very popular CO IDD Jobs Page](#) (free job postings for members).
- ✓ Alliance has challenged all 100 legislators to participate in the "DSP for a Day" challenge.
- ✓ Alliance hosted informational [webinars to educate all PASAs about HB 18-1407](#) and a variety of other topics.
- ✓ [Alliance continues to publish a Public Newsletter \(reaching over 1,000 subscribers\)](#).
- ✓ Alliance represents over 80 PASAs and CCBs and has a record 60 Board Members. Alliance welcomed six new PASA members this last fiscal year:
 - A Brighter Community
 - Colorado Autism Consultants
 - Easterseals Colorado
 - Rehabilitative Rhythms



- Devereux Colorado
- Elevated Supports
- ✓ Alliance continued to grow Summit sponsorship and member benefits.
- ✓ Alliance hosted the Six State Summit and the largest and most profitable Alliance Summit to date.
- ✓ [Alliance increased our social media presence:](#)
 - [Facebook](#): 714 followers, thousands of likes and hundreds of shares.
 - [Twitter](#): @Alliance_CO has 330 followers and 1,246 tweets
 - NEW: Alliance Member Only Facebook Group
- ✓ Alliance maintained and grew our partnership with the Colorado Rockies for [IDD Community Awareness Day at the Rockies and a new partnership with the Colorado Rapids.](#)
- ✓ Alliance continued to participate and sponsor national events and conferences: Coleman Institute Conference, ANCOR National Conference, Families at the Forefront of Technology, IDD Nurses Conference, the Six State Summit, and The Arc Film Festival.
- ✓ Alliance added NEW [Member Only Discounts and Preferred Vendor Benefits.](#)
- ✓ New Committees in 2018:
 - Plan Legislative Asks Now (P.L.A.N.)
 - CMA/RFP Committee
 - HRC Committee
 - Investigations Committee
 - Host Home Committee

Awards and Special Recognitions

- ✓ Alliance honored Senator Zenzinger as legislator of the year for 2019.
- ✓ Alliance honored Mel Ruff from Ariel in Grand Junction as the 2019 DSP of the year at the IDD Awareness Day Luncheon.
- ✓ Alliance honored Mark Emery from Imagine! with the first ever Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ✓ Alliance honored Susan Mizen from Horizons with the prestigious Jane Cavode Award.

In 2019-2020, Alliance will be engaged on a variety of bills, rules, and issues. Here are just some of the things we will be working on:

- New Bills/Appropriations
 - Provider rate increases
 - EI caseload growth and funding
 - Waiting list
 - Phasing-out subminimum wage
 - State & local minimum wage
 - Human Rights Committee duties
 - Settings Rule
 - PLAN Committee priorities
- Rule Making and the Implementation Process:
 - IRSS Rule Amendments re: Host Home regulations
 - Case Management Agency and Case Manager Qualifications
 - SB 19-238: Homecare Rate Increase
 - HB 19-1210 Local Government Minimum Wage



- New Committees, Workgroups and Shock Teams
 - EVV Committee
 - SB238 Homecare Rate Increase Shock Team
 - HB 19-1210 Local Government Minimum Wage Shock Team
 - Statewide/Rural Stabilization Shock Team
 - Final Setting/Rights Modification Work Group w/HCPF.
- Other IDD Work to Expect in 2019-20
 - CMA/RFP Committee- [new provider search tool website](#)
 - HRC Committee- psychotropic med reviews and the future of HRCs
 - Investigations- information sharing with APS
 - Employment Committee's Subminimum Wage Work Group- phase-out SMW
 - Executive Committee: SEIU strategy prior to next session & data collection
 - GRACE- Review PLAN Committee Report: prioritize bills, new committees and discuss the 2020 Rates/Waiting List strategy
 - interChange/Billing/Revalidation
 - Electronic Visit Verification
 - Individualized budgets for people with IDD
 - CHRP
 - Early Intervention/Child Find
 - IDD Provider Training opportunities
 - And much more...

Press Coverage:

- [Zenzinger named top lawmaker by alliance of developmental disabilities \(Colorado Politics\)](#)
- [Horizons director recognized for decades of dedication to disabled community \(Sky-Hi News\)](#)
- [Mizen honored for her work helping people with disabilities at Horizons \(Steamboat Pilot & Today\)](#)
- [A Very Pleasant Surprise \(Montrose Daily Press\)](#)

