



Alliance Testimony for Joint Meeting on House Bill 1101

Alliance is a statewide association comprised of 15 Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and 19 Service Provider Organizations (SPOs) collectively advocating to enhance the Developmental Disabilities Community System and to provide quality services and supports to persons with developmental disabilities in Colorado. The mission of Alliance is “to enhance and strengthen community services and supports for people with developmental disabilities.”

Alliance is extremely grateful to the legislature for their efforts to reduce the waiting lists through this bill. Even in these tough economic times, the community centered system has demonstrated the capacity to develop and implement a significant number of critically needed resources for individuals and their families. Since this bill was enacted, over 650 new people have received services in the community.

Alliance Request:

Alliance respectfully requests that a multi-year plan be developed by these joint committees with realistic targets.

- ✧ Alliance’s #1 priority is addressing the Waiting List for Services.
- ✧ In order to address the Waiting list, it is critical that the “cash fund” components of HB 1101 remain intact and are funded for this purpose.
- ✧ We remain committed to always exploring new options and new efficiencies, such as the implementation of CDASS and the Family Caregiver Act.
- ✧ The need is urgent and growing, as outlined by Dr. David Braddock, Professor of Psychiatry at the CU School of Medicine and Executive Director of the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities in his presentation to the Interim Committee on the Waiting List in July, 2007 which outlined the following:
 - ✧ Colorado’s fiscal effort for DD services has been significantly below the *average* state for 30 years, and the gap is growing.
 - ✧ When Colorado is compared to states with roughly the same population (4-7 million), its fiscal effort ranks last out of those 14 states. In fact, 7 of those 14 states are spending *50% more* than Colorado.
 - ✧ In 2006, Colorado was 73% behind the *average* state in fiscal effort, requiring a 9.9% increase in spending per year from 2007-2016, just to reach the average.
 - ✧ At that time, an estimated 20% of persons with DD, over 9,000 people, lived at home with a caregiver over the age of 60.
 - ✧ Colorado’s Medicaid Waiver funding fell 4% from 2002-2006, while the average state increased such spending by 24% during the same period.

We thank you for your consideration of our request.