



***For people with intellectual and
developmental disabilities***

2016 Chapter Activity Report

In 2016, The Arc of Colorado continued to focus on strategic priorities identified by the Board of Directors in 2013:

- **Public policy advocacy**
- **Public awareness and support for self-advocates**
- **Outreach to areas of Colorado not served by local chapters of The Arc**
- **Governance**
- **Financial Resources**

Public Policy

Federal

The Arc of Colorado regularly informed members of the Arc and other organizations who advocate with and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) about federal issues affecting the supports and services that enable people with IDD to live healthy lives in the community of their choice. The second session of the 114th Congress was as gridlocked as the previous session, but The Arc persisted in informing members of Congress about key policy issues for people with intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities:

2015 - 2016 Federal Legislative Agenda Summary

Federal public policy is critical to ensuring that people with I/DD can live fully inclusive and productive lives in the community. These policies include:

Budget and Tax--Sufficient tax revenue must be raised in order to appropriately fund social insurance (Social Security, Medicare), safety net (Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI)), and discretionary programs (such as housing, education, employment, and transportation) that people with I/DD rely on for their health, safety, and wellbeing.

Civil Rights--Civil rights must be preserved through vigilant enforcement of laws and regulations as well as strong opposition to efforts that limit the rights of people with I/DD.

Community-Based Long Term Supports & Services--These must be widely accessible, consumer controlled, and provided in the community without the requirement that people impoverish themselves in order to obtain assistance with activities of daily living, such as getting dressed, taking medication, and preparing meals.

Direct Support Professionals--These professionals must be well trained and fairly compensated to provide the necessary supports and services for people with I/DD where they work and live.

Education--The education system must help people with I/DD to achieve their full potential and independence by having high expectations, integrated instruction by highly qualified teachers, inclusive classrooms, appropriate assessments, and only using positive behavioral supports to address problem behaviors.

Employment--Supported employment programs must be expanded to provide more job development, placement, and coaching, skills training, and other services necessary to help find and maintain integrated employment for people with I/DD.

Family Support--Counseling, support groups, respite, training, cash assistance, and information and referral must be made widely available to family caregivers, especially those who are aging, and who provide supports in the community. This will help avoid costly and unwanted institutional placements of individuals with I/DD.

Health Care--People with I/DD must have timely access to high quality, comprehensive, accessible, affordable, and individualized health care services to improve and maintain health and functioning.

Housing--An adequate supply of safe, accessible, integrated, and affordable supportive housing in the community for people with I/DD must be available.

Medicaid--This program is the single largest funding source of both acute health care and long term supports and services for people with I/DD. It must be preserved and rebalanced to make home and community based services the norm and institutional services the exception.

Social Security & SSI--This system provides the primary income sources for many people with significant disabilities to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and clothing. Benefits and eligibility must be maintained and the long-term financial future of these programs must be considered outside of deficit reduction efforts.

Technology--Technology must be accessible and made widely available to persons who may benefit from it to make communication, education, independent living, and employment opportunities available for people with I/DD.

Transportation--Accessible transportation programs must be expanded and anti-discrimination policies must be enforced to help people with I/DD access employment, health care, recreational activities, and other aspects of community living.

In March, 2016 12 representatives from The Arc of Colorado and local chapters of The Arc attended the annual Disability Policy Seminar sponsored by The Arc and UCP (United Cerebral Palsy), AAIDD (American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), AUCD (Association of University Centers on Disabilities), SABE (Self Advocates Becoming Empowered), and NACDD (National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities). We met with members or representatives of both CO Senate offices and all 7 offices of the US House.

The Arc of Colorado Executive Director participates in bi-monthly calls on federal legislation with The Arc Policy office, and shares updates on critical issues with local chapter executives and others interested in The Arc policy agenda.

The Directors of The Arc of Indiana, The Arc of Arizona and The Arc of Colorado represented The Arc at the National Conference of State Legislatures annual conference in Chicago, August, 2016. We are working with NCSL staff to present at a break out session for the 2017 conference.

Colorado Public Policy

The 2016 General Assembly addressed several issues that directly or tangentially affect people with IDD. CO General Fund revenue, while increasing somewhat, reached TABOR refund limits this year which posed challenges in allocation of funding for health and human services. Additionally, the election year environment created some complications. The Arc of Colorado, with local chapters and the support of our lobbyists, Fofi Mendez and Jon Labadie, actively advocated for legislation that impacted people with IDD.

On March 15, *The Arc of Colorado Day* was proclaimed by both chambers of the legislature. We hosted a luncheon for legislators, chapter staff and volunteers and self-advocates who were present that day. Liz Weintraub was our featured speaker.

2016 Colorado Legislative summary

HB 16-1405—State Budget Bill—Some Highlights

CO Dept. Health Care Policy and Financing

- The 2016-17 budget proposed by the Administration included a 1% across-the board rate reduction for Medicaid providers. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) identified options to avert a reduction in provider rates.
- The Administration also proposed rolling back a rate increase for Primary Care Services that had been in effect for the past two years. Originally, the rate increase was provided by the

federal government to encourage states to increase Medicaid rates for Primary Care Services to rates paid by Medicare. CO covered the rate increase for the second year. Some primary care services would have seen up to 25% reductions under the proposal. However, the JBC identified other ways to avoid the reductions for most primary care services.

\$500,739,116 for services to adults and children with IDD in the HCPF Office of Community Living budget:

- \$362,346,433—Adult DD Waiver
- 69,681,391—Supported Living Services (SLS) Waiver
- 26,310,826—Children’s Extensive Support (CES) Services Waiver
- 32,255,501—Case Management
- 6,960,460—Family Support Services
- 63,311—Preventive Dental Hygiene
- 3,121,194—Eligibility Determination and Wait List Management

The budgeted items noted above presume that all children eligible for the CES Waiver will be included as will all adults eligible for the SLS waiver.

The line item for the Adult DD waiver presumes 141 new enrollments:

- 14 transitions through the Colorado Choice Transitions program for persons currently living in nursing homes or at Regional Centers in Intermediate Care Facilities/for persons with IDD
- 40 emergency placements
- 55 enrollments for persons transitioning from foster care to the adult IDD waiver
- 32 placements for persons aging out of the CES waiver.

Bills supported by The Arc of CO

HB 1037—Income Tax Credit for Employment of Persons with Disabilities—Rep. Windholz/Sen. Aguilar.

The bill would have implemented recommendations from an interim task group recommending tools to increase employment for people who are blind or visually impaired. The sponsors added persons with IDD to the included population. The bill would have provided state income tax credits for employers hiring the covered groups and also provided state tax credits for cost to the employer for equipment or technology to assist those hired. Postponed indefinitely in a House Committee

HB 1027—Criminal Depositions for At Risk Adults—Rep. Danielson/Sens. Todd and Sonnenberg

Under current law, a prosecutor may request to depose an at-risk adult victim or witness if the victim or witness may be unavailable at trial. The bill allows the request for both at-risk adults and at-risk elders. If the motion relates to an at-risk elder, the court shall schedule the deposition. If the motion relates to an at-risk adult, there is a presumption that the deposition should be taken to prevent injustice. The court may deny the motion if it finds that granting the motion will not prevent injustice. Signed

HB 1101—Medical Decisions for Unrepresented Patients—Rep. Young /Sen. Lundberg

An attending physician or a designated physician (physician) may make health care treatment decisions as a patient’s proxy decision-maker if:

- After making reasonable efforts, the physician cannot locate any interested persons, or none of the interested persons are willing and able to serve as proxy decision-maker;
- The attending physician has obtained an independent assessment of decisional capacity by another health care provider not associated with the healthcare facility; and
- The physician has consulted with and obtained an agreement with the medical ethics committee of the health care facility where the patient is receiving care. If the health care facility does not have a medical ethics committee, the facility shall refer the physician to a party that can provide consultation and recommendations.

The authority of the physician to act as proxy decision-maker terminates if an interested person is willing to serve as proxy decision-maker or a guardian is appointed. When acting in good faith as the proxy decision-maker, an attending physician or his or her designee is not subject to civil or criminal liability or regulatory sanction.

The bill underwent numerous amendments and the sponsor worked with stakeholders to address concerns. Signed

HB 1195 - Home Modifications in Medicaid Waiver Services—Reps. Landgraf and Young/Sens. Steadman and Crowder

Currently, in CO HCBS Medicaid waivers there is a lifetime cap on funds for home modifications for people with disabilities who require modifications to allow them to stay in their own homes. The bill would have required the state to amend HCBS waivers to allow the “caps” to re-set each time a waiver is renewed—usually every five years. The bill also would have clarified the definition of home modification services to ensure that services are related to an eligible person's disability as permitted by federal law, and not solely for a physical impairment. The bill passed the House but was Postponed Indefinitely in a Senate Committee.

HB 1224 -Treat Trafficking of Children as Child Abuse—Rep. Lundeen/Sen. Woods.

The bill amends the statutory definition of child abuse or neglect to include any case in which a child is subjected to human trafficking for involuntary servitude or human trafficking for sexual servitude. Signed

HB 1254—POST Training re: People with Disabilities—Rep. Young/Sen. Grantham

The bill requires the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)Board to provide a training curriculum on abuse and exploitation of persons 18 years of age and older who have an intellectual and developmental disability. Signed

HB 1260—Extend Statute of Limitations for Sexual Assault—Rep. Fields/Sens. Johnston and Cooke

The bill extends the statute of limitations for sexual assault to 20 years. Signed

HB 1277—Appeal Process for Medicaid Benefits—Reps. Landgraf and Lontine/Sens. Kefalas and Roberts

The bill requires the department of health care policy and financing to give a Medicaid recipient a 20-day advance notice if medical assistance benefits are being suspended, terminated, or modified, unless certain conditions are met. Under current law, the state department allows an applicant or recipient to file an appeal within 30 days after the date of notice of the

intended action. The bill extends the time for appeal to 60 days after the effective date of the intended action. Signed

HB 1321—Medicaid Buy In for Certain Waivers—Rep. Young/Sens. Merrifield and Tate

The bill directs the department of health care policy and financing to seek federal authorization for and to implement a Medicaid buy-in program for persons who are eligible for home- and community-based services under the Supported Living Services, Spinal Cord Injury and Brain Injury Waivers. Signed

HB 1328—Restraint and Seclusion—Reps. McCann and Lee/Sens. Lundberg and Lambert

The bill strengthens the safety provisions for the use of restraint and seclusion on individuals, particularly youths, who are being detained by a state or local agency. Language is added to clarify that restraint or seclusion must never be used as a punishment, sanction, or part of a treatment plan, or for retaliation, or for protection, except in the case of demonstrated emergencies.

The bill defines conditions for restraint or seclusion and also establishes a study committee to report back to the legislature on the effects of restraint or seclusion on youth. Signed

HB 1361—Patient Choice of Pharmacy—Reps. Primavera and Becker/Sens. Sonnenberg and Newell

The bill would have prohibited a health benefit plan for prescription drug coverage, from:

- Limiting or restricting a covered person's ability to select a pharmacy or pharmacist of the covered person's choice
- Imposing a co-payment, fee, or other cost-sharing requirement for selecting a pharmacy of the covered person's choosing;
- Denying a pharmacy the right to participate in any of its pharmacy network contracts in CO.

The debate on the bill largely centered on whether or not a health plan could require patients to use only the pharmacies that the plan designated. Most health plans require that patients use mail order to refill maintenance drugs. Independent pharmacies and most chain pharmacies supported the bill. Insurance companies opposed it. Passed the House but was Postponed Indefinitely in the Senate

HB 1373—Medical Marijuana Use at Schools -Rep. Singer/Sens. Holbert/Marble

Under current law, a school district can allow a parent or guardian or other authorized caregiver to administer non-smokeable medical marijuana to students with a valid prescription but requires districts to adopt a policy for doing so. No CO district has enacted such a policy. The bill no longer requires districts to enact local policy. The bill describes the conditions under which medical marijuana products can be administered on school property, a school bus, or a school function. Signed

HB 1384—Testimony—Legal Privilege for Advocates of Persons with Disabilities—Rep. Danielson

The bill establishes a legal privilege related to testifying without consent for disability advocates. The bill was postponed indefinitely at the request of the sponsor.

HB 1394—Aligning Issues for At Risk Persons with Developmental Disabilities—Rep. Young/Sen. Grantham

The bill implements recommendations of the at-risk adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities mandatory reporting implementation task force charged under SB 15-109. The bill:

- Standardizes statutory definitions among Colorado Criminal Code, adult protective, and the office of community living
- Specifies enhanced penalties for crimes against an at-risk person apply to all persons 70 years of age or older and to all persons with IDD; and
- Clarifies the definitions of persons who are required to report instances of mistreatment of at-risk elders or at-risk adults with IDD.
- Reduces the time when a law enforcement agency or county department is required to prepare a written report from 48 hours to 24 hours;
- Specifies that a county department of human or social services is to conduct an investigation of allegations of mistreatment of an at-risk adult; and
- Clarifies that the human rights committee is responsible for ensuring that an investigation of mistreatment of an adult with IDD occurred. Signed

HB 1398—Implement Respite Care Task Force Recommendations—Reps. Young and Landgraf/Sens. Steadman and Martinez-Humenik

The bill appropriates \$900,000 from the IDD Cash Fund for CDHS to use a competitive bid process to identify a contractor to (among other things):

- conduct a study to demonstrate the economic impact of respite; provide an analysis of caregiver populations and the differences between caregivers who do and do not use respite services;
- show the impact of funds spent on respite services compared to funds saved in health care;
- use an evaluation tool to assess the respite care provided through Medicaid waiver programs and all Colorado respite care programs
- create an up-to-date online inventory that lists existing training opportunities and providers along with information on how to become a respite care provider;
- develop a statewide training system for people who want to provide respite care services;

Signed

HB 1420—CO Healthcare Affordability and Sustainability—Rep Hullinghorst/Sen. Crowder

The bill would have designated hospital provider fee revenue as an enterprise fund to exempt said revenue from TABOR limitations. The bill passed the House but was Postponed Indefinitely in a Senate Committee.

HB 1426—Intentional Misrepresentation of Assistance Animal—Reps. Primavera and Willet/Sens. Tate and Jahn

The bill “evolved” considerably during the legislative process and contains elements of two bills that were Postponed Indefinitely earlier—HB 1201 and HB 1308. The final bill makes it a petty felony offense for a person to knowingly and willingly misrepresent a service or assistance animal; the bill ensures that persons must be given a written or verbal warning first and authorizes the Dept. of Regulatory Affairs to assist in public education efforts to inform the business community and consumers about service and assistance animals. Signed

SB 19—Videotape Mental Condition Evaluations—Sen. Cooke/Reps. Saine and Foote

The bill requires a court-ordered mental condition examination to be video and audio recorded. A copy of the recording must be included with the evaluator’s report. Signed

SB 27—Medicaid Option for Mail Order Prescription Drugs—Sens. Todd and Martinez-Humenik/Reps. Primavera and Landgraf

The bill allows persons receiving Medicaid benefits the option to receive through the mail prescribed medications used to treat chronic medical conditions. The recipient may receive up to a certain amount of the medication and shall pay the same copayment amount as recipients receiving the medication through any other method. The department of health care policy and financing (department) shall encourage recipients to use local retail pharmacies for mail delivery. Signed

SB 38—Transparency for Community Centered Boards—Sen. Aguilar/Reps. Young and Sias

The bill originally would have required agencies designated as Community Centered Boards to be subject to the Colorado Open Records Act and for the state auditor to conduct regular performance and financial audits of those agencies. The Senate sponsor amended the bill to delete the CORA requirement. The bill was amended in the House to require agencies designated as CCBs to post notices of, agendas, and minutes of Board meetings and provide copies of materials distributed at Board meeting to the public; provide opportunities for public comment at Board meetings; and provide individual contact information for Board members. The bill also requires these agencies to provide revenue and expenditure information about services related to the CCB contact upon request. The bill further requires the state auditor to conduct financial and performance audits of CCBs every five years. Signed

SB 77—Employment First for Persons with Disabilities—Sen. Kefalas/Reps. Ginal and Primavera

The bill requires the heads of HCPF, CDLE, CDE, and CDHE to work through the State Rehab Council to develop an employment first policy that increases competitive integrated employment for persons with disabilities. The departments will develop a strategic plan to incentive employers to hire people with IDD and provide training and support for people with disabilities to identify, get, and maintain community based jobs in integrated settings. Signed

SB 120—Review by Medicaid Client for Billing Fraud—Sen. Roberts/Rep. Coram

The bill would have a health care provider to provide a covered person with a written disclosure concerning charges for out-of-network services whenever the network facility schedules a procedure or seeks prior authorization from a carrier for nonemergency services for the covered person. Postponed indefinitely in a Senate Committee

SB 169—72 Hour Mental Health Holds—Sens. Martinez and Cooke/Reps. Landgraf and Tracy Kraft Tharp

Under current law, if law enforcement is contacted to support a person who might qualify for a 72 hour Mental Hold, the agency is required to take the person to a designated mental health facility. If no designated facility is available, a person can be taken to a law enforcement facility. In practice, people are taken to emergency departments whether or not the ED is in a designated mental health facility or to a law enforcement facility. The bill establishes protocol for monitoring and treatment for persons taken to law enforcement facilities and also establishes a due process procedure for extending a 72 hour hold. The bill, in its final form, sets a two year limit on use of law enforcement facilities for mental health holds and creates a stakeholder process to make recommendations. Vetoed

SB 178—Grand Junction Regional Center Campus—Sens. Lambert and Kefalas/Reps. Young and Brown

The bill requires the department of human services to vacate the Grand Junction regional center campus and list the campus for sale no later than July 1, 2018, or earlier, if the department can

transition each person receiving services at the Grand Junction regional center campus to non-regional center campus residences before that date. The state would continue to operate services for people transitioned from the campus. Signed

SB 192—Assessment Tool for People with IDD Eligible for Services -Sen. Lambert/Rep. Young

The bill requires the department of health care policy and financing, pursuant to the state department's ongoing stakeholder process relating to eligibility determination for long-term services and supports, to select a needs assessment tool for persons receiving long-term services and supports. Signed

SB 196—Inclusive Higher Ed Pilot Programs -Sens. Cooke and Cadman/Reps. Ginal and Primavera

The bill appropriates \$250,000 from the IDD Cash fund to fund programs at UNC, CU-Colorado Springs and Arapahoe Community College. The bill requires the department of higher education the institutions participating in the pilot program, JFK Partners, and IN! -- a stakeholder group supporting inclusive higher education, to work together to develop pilot programs at the pilot sites. Signed

Bills Opposed by The Arc of Colorado

HB 1054—End of Life Options for Terminally Ill Individuals—Reps. Court and Ginal/Sen. Merrifield.

The bill would have created options to authorize authorizes an individual with a terminal illness to request, and the individual's attending physician to prescribe medication to hasten the individual's death. The House version of the bill was Postponed Indefinitely by the House and the twin version in the Senate was Postponed Indefinitely by a Senate Committee

SB 16—Health Exchange Voter Approval to Impose Tax—Sen. Lundberg/Rep. Sias

The bill would have placed a question on the Nov. 2016 statewide ballot as to whether the health benefit exchange can impose a tax to support its ongoing operations. The bill was Postponed Indefinitely in a House Committee

SB 162—Medicaid Recipient Access to Medical Professionals—Sen. Tate

The bill would have allowed Medicaid eligible patients to access treatment from non- Medicaid providers. Postponed Indefinitely in a House Committee

Other State Public Policy Activity

The Arc of Colorado Executive Director serves on:

- **Regional Center Task Force Implementation Sponsor Group**—The task force is a small group of Colorado Department of Human Services and Health Care Policy and Financing staff plus one CCB representative and one advocacy organization representative. The group meets monthly to track the recommendations of the RCTF for the CO General Assembly. Since September, 2016, the group has been focused on addressing the findings of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in regards to abuse and neglect of residents at the Pueblo Regional Center.

Waiver Re-design Council—The group was convened to provide guidance and advice to the Department on the development and implementation of a redesigned waiver to support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The redesigned waiver will offer an array of services and supports that are flexible to the needs and preferences of the individuals who receive them, are available when and where they are needed, and incorporate the following principles:

- Freedom of choice over living arrangements, social, community, and recreational opportunities
- Individual authority over supports and services
- Support to organize services in ways that are meaningful to the individual receiving services
- Health and safety assurances
- Opportunity for community contribution
- Responsible use of public dollars

State Innovation Model—Policy Group—The SIM policy group has met for 18 months and provides input to the SIM Implementation team for policy changes needed to integrate primary care and behavioral health services throughout all CO systems—public and private. A sub-group identified recommendations for training and continuing education requirements for health care providers to enhance their ability to serve people with IDD. The committee has also recommended that behavioral health services for people with IDD be fully integrated into the Medicaid mental health system (echoing the 2015 recommendations of the mental health services for people with IDD task force.)

Colorado Community Choice Transition Advisory Group—this group meets quarterly to provide input to state departments on the plan to transition Colorado Medicaid members out of nursing homes and long-term care facilities and into home and community-based settings.

Community First Choice—The CFC Council provides input to CHCPF regarding implementation of a federally available option to encourage states to make benefits such as personal care, home-maker services, health maintenance, and other supports available in the community to avoid costly nursing home or institutional placement. Cost estimates for implementing CFC in Colorado have been revised and will be presented to the General Assembly in 2017.

Community Living Quality Improvement Committee—convened by CHCPF to study national trends, current and potential data to develop recommendations for a quality improvement process for the Office of Community Living.

The Executive Director, Marijo Rymer, serves on:

- JFK Partners Advisory Council
- CANDO—Medical/ Mental Health Subcommittee
- Rocky Mountain Human Services Mill Levy Advisory Committee
- CO Mobile Mental Health Crisis Advisory Committee
- IN! Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education—Board of Directors

The Director of Special Projects, Heidi Haines, serves on:

- Advocacy Denver Children's Mental Health Advisory Committee
- JFK Partners Advisory Committee

Public Awareness/Community Outreach

Film Festival

The Arc of Colorado hosted the fifth annual Denver Film Festival. Approximately 400 people attended one of three showings on March 11. Special guests included actors Connor Long (Menschen and Learning to Drive) and David DeSanctis (Where Hope Grows.) The 2016 event was the most successful ever.

Heidi Haines worked closely with the Sie Film Center and the planning team to promote the event and arranged for coverage by 9 News, Colorado Public Radio, Channel 7, and two local radio stations. She also made arrangements with Denver Public Schools for students from Montbello schools to attend.

Plans are underway for the 2016 series.

Families in Action

The Arc of Colorado, under the leadership of Heidi Haines, co-sponsored the third Families in Action at Estes Park Colorado, August 5-7. The state chapter, with The Arc of Larimer County, The Arc of Weld County, and the Association for Community Living in Boulder-Broomfield counties provided a weekend of education, socialization, and respite for families of children with IDD under the age of 12. 230 family members, volunteers, and staff participated. The Arc of CO purchased a language translation system for the event and has made it available to local chapters since then.

Calabrese Life Opportunity Fund

The primary purpose of the fund is to provide technology devices (along with training) not covered by insurance or state funded programs and accompanying training for persons with IDD. Heidi Haines provides staff leadership for the management of the fund and processing of applications. In 2016 we have awarded 4 ipads and a desktop computer to 5 individuals. We have spent \$3,841.32 and have \$15,085.32 remaining in the account.

The Arc of CO will focus on the CLOF for appeals on the 2016 CO Gives Day.

Wings for All

Heidi Haines organized and provided leadership for the first opportunity in Colorado to participate in the program (developed by The Arc US) which provides a simulated experience at airports for families of persons with IDD to navigate the airport, check in, check baggage, go through security, and board an aircraft. On October 8, 76 people participated in Wings for All at Denver International Airport. United Airlines provided volunteer pilots and flight attendants for the program. TSA, airline, and airport staff were eager to participate and very appreciative of the learning opportunity. We are planning round two of Wings for All for the spring of 2017.

Coleman Institute

Shea Tanis, Associate Director of the Coleman Institute, approached The Arc of Colorado to establish an ongoing partnership with the Institute to engage us to develop meaningful ways for self-advocates throughout the country to participate in the annual Coleman Institute technology conference. Heidi Haines will work with Shea in the next 6 months to develop the plan.

Catalyst Award

The Arc of Colorado with support from all local chapters of The Arc nominated Connor Long, Louisville, CO, for the 2016 Catalyst Self Advocate of the Year award presented by the Board of Directors of The Arc US. Connor joined eight 8 other Catalyst award recipients including the Google Corporation for Corporation Foundation Philanthropist of the Year, to the Nike Corporation for Corporate Advocate of the Year to the cast of *Born This Way*—television show of the Year. Connor's speech "rocked" the dinner audience of about 400 people. The standing ovation was long and heartfelt.

Self-Advocate Outreach and Support

People First--Heidi Haines, serves as the advisor for the Denver area People First Chapter. The chapter meets regularly at The Arc of Colorado—Logan Towers Conference room. The Board meets at Advocacy Denver. Heidi routinely assists the Denver group in board as well as membership meetings and provides support for the chapter when they engage in statewide events with other self-advocacy groups.

People First of Denver, in partnership with self-advocacy groups in Arizona, Texas and New Mexico was awarded the Regional Self-Advocacy Technical Assistance Grant: The purpose of these projects is to provide regional support to self-advocacy organizations that focus on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Heidi and Kayley Day (Advocacy Denver) with self-advocates Joanie Neiubar and Vicki Wray attended the partnership meeting in Phoenix in August. In July, Vicki and Joanie, with Heidi's assistance, presented a national webinar on public transportation as one of the grant projects.

Speaking For Ourselves--Speaking for Ourselves (SFO) is the statewide consortium of self-advocacy organizations (such as People First of Denver) in Colorado. The Arc of Colorado serves as fiscal agent. SFO met in Alamosa and Fort Collins.

Heidi Haines worked with the CO DD Council to secure sponsorship for the inaugural Self Advocacy Summit in November, 2015 at the Antler's Hotel in Colorado Springs. More than 80 self-advocates from around Colorado attended, including 11 from People First of Denver.

Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered--Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) is the self-advocacy organization of the United States. Founded in 1990, SABE members have worked hard for the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the community throughout the 50 states and the world for 24 years.

Heidi Haines was selected by SABE's executive committee to be a National Advisor. Advisors are non-voting members of SABE who are willing to actively support the goals of SABE and to assist the Board of Directors. Advisors and helpers for SABE must know how to help people understand information and how to help people without taking over the responsibilities of the board.

Vicki Wray, member of the board of directors of The Arc of Colorado, serves on the SABE Board of Directors. She attended the national board meeting in Orlando, FL in July.

Heidi and Vicki attended the Georgetown University Leadership Academy for Cultural Diversity and Linguistic Competence held in Santa Fe, NM in June.

SABE has been awarded a grant from AAIDD to create a national Self Advocacy Resource Center. Heidi will be closely involved with the advisory team at SABE to manage the grant. Heidi will be attending the winter meeting of the Association for University Centers of Excellence in IDD to make a presentation about the grant.

Technology Navigator Fellows and Learning Labs--Over 100 colleagues from across The Arc's chapters applied for the Fellowship and 16 were selected—including Heidi Haines. The Fellows work across a range of The Arc's functions, including residential programming, IT, education, employment, travel training, and more, and serve all sorts of communities, in rural and urban settings, and who have been actively supporting people with I/DD to achieve more in their lives. The Fellows are also running physical Learning Labs, where people with I/DD and their supporters can learn about technology that meets their needs. Some of these Learning Labs will collaborate with staff from local offices of Comcast, which is a sponsor of this work.

Other community outreach activities--In 2016, The Arc of Colorado participated in, exhibited at, or provided sponsorship for:

- Colorado Cross Disability Awards Luncheon
- Alliance Leadership Summit
- Parent 2 Parent Mothers' Day Tea
- Colorado Center on Law and Policy legislative forum
- Brain Injury Alliance legislative breakfast
- Alliance Legislative luncheon
- 2016 Coleman Institute Conference
- CO Non-Profit Association
- Lifetime Respite Conference
- Alliance Person Centered Training coalition
- Arc Thrift Annual Gala
- 2016 Hemispherectomy Conference
- 2016 Tuberos Sclerosis conference
- Firefly Autism Services Gala
- IN!—Colorado
- Colorado Fiscal Institute Budget 101
- Disability Law Colorado

- CO Association of People Supporting Employment First
- Special Olympics of CO—Summer Games
- Community Connections Inc. annual membership meeting
- DD Leadership Institute (The University of Delaware brought “the institute” to Colorado Springs in 2016—leaders from The Arc of Pueblo, The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region, The Arc—Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties, and The Arc of Arapahoe and Douglas participated.)
- Colorado Fund for People with Disabilities Open House
- Colorado Blue Sky Open House
- The Resource Exchange annual luncheon

Continuing Education and Staff Development

- Heidi Haines attended the William and Mary Law Institute of Special Education Advocacy five day training program co-sponsored by the PELE Special Education Advocacy Clinic, Wrightslaw, and the OK Disability Law Center. The program included 25 sessions on applicable state laws, ethics, and best practices in special education advocacy.
- Marijo Rymer and Heidi Haines, with Mariah Emond (The Arc of WCCO), Wil Romero and Hannah Widmer (The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region) attended the annual leadership institute for the National Council of Executives of The Arc in Palm Springs, CA in July.
- Heidi Haines has been accepted as a fellow to attend the National Consortium on Developmental Disabilities Leadership Institute advanced program to be held in January, 2017.
- Marijo Rymer, Heidi Haines, Liz Mora (The Arc of SWCO), Mariah Emond (The Arc of WCCO), Wil Romero, The Arc of the PPR, Lori Ropa and other staff and volunteers from The Arc—Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties attended the preconference Disney Institute session held at The Arc National Convention in Orlando, FL in Nov. 2016.
- Marijo Rymer with Carol Meredith (The Arc of Arapahoe and Douglas Counties) presented at and attended the National Association for persons with Dual Diagnosis.

Staff and/or Board members of The Arc of Colorado attended (or will attend) annual meetings for

- The Arc of Weld County
- The Arc of Larimer County
- The Arc—Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin
- The Arc of Arapahoe-Douglas
- Advocacy Denver
- The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region

We participated in and/or provided support for other local chapter activities including:

- The Arc—Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Summit of Hope
- The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region—annual awards banquet and launch of capital campaign
- The Arc of Pueblo Golden Tortilla Fundraiser
- The Arc of Aurora Summerfest
- The Arc of Arapahoe and Douglas holiday parties
- The Arc—Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Annual Picnic
- Advocacy Denver annual picnic
- The Arc of West Central Colorado Family Day and 2nd Annual Fashion Show

- Presentation at The Arc—Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties Board orientation—Heidi Haines
- The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region Valentine’s Day Dance
- The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region/The Resource Exchange Town Hall—facilitated by Marijo Rymer
- The Arc of Larimer Open House
- Individual consultation with The Arc of SWCO and The Arc of WCCO
- Team building for The Arc of SWCO and The Arc of WCCO
- Film Festivals for The Arc of PPR, The Arc of Weld and The Arc of Larimer

Expanding the Arc to Areas of Colorado not Served by a Local Chapter

The Arc of Colorado approved affiliation of The Arc of West Central Colorado in January, 2016. The Arc Board of Directors met in Delta, CO to host the members of the new chapter.

The Arc of CO is working with families in the central mountain areas of CO to establish a new chapter to serve Garfield, Pitkin, Eagle and Lake Counties.

The Board of Directors approved a resolution from the Executive Committee to establish a Board designated fund for rural outreach. The purpose of the resolution is to affirmatively demonstrate that The Arc of CO is committed to the goal of expanding the presence of The Arc in CO (identified as a critical area of focus in 2013.) The target goal for the fund is \$150,000. The Board designated \$100,000 as the initial fund balance.

The Arc of CO provided \$15,000 each to The Arc of WCCO and The Arc of SWCO in 2016 plus an additional \$25,000 to The Arc of SWCO to offset an unanticipated shortfall in expected allocation.

Additionally, The Arc of CO provides \$10,000 annually to The Arc of Mesa for advocacy in western slope counties not served by local chapters and \$15,000 to assist The Arc of Weld County to provide advocacy in eastern CO counties.

Lastly, Heidi Haines and Marijo Rymer provided advocacy to people who have family members with I/DD in areas not served by a local chapter. In 2016, they assisted approximately 25 families from throughout the state.

Governance

Board of Directors

All local chapters of The Arc in Colorado have appointed members of their chapters to serve on The Arc of CO state board and all eight authorized member at large positions are filled. More than 60% of members of the Board are family members of persons with IDD or self-advocates.

The Board contracted with Kate Kalstein Consulting to assist with development of procedures and practices to engage the members of The Board and to develop a board handbook. Kate facilitated two BOD meetings and will finalize the handbook in early 2017.

Financial resource development

The annual allocation to The Arc of Colorado from the arc Thrift Allocation Committee was increased in 2016. That allocation, sound resource management, small staff, and an increase in individual donations, allows The Arc of Colorado to fulfill its mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Marijo Rymer, Executive Director

Heidi Haines, Director of Special Projects

Nov. 12, 2016