



***The Arc***™

*Colorado*

## **2017 Chapter Activity Report**

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## Public Policy

The Arc of Colorado regularly informed members of The Arc and other advocacy organizations about federal issues affecting people with IDD.

- **Budget and Tax**--Sufficient tax revenue must be raised 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 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 elevated expectations, integrated instruction by certified and effective teachers, inclusive classrooms, appropriate assessments, and only using positive behavioral supports.
- **Employment**--Employment programs must be expanded to provide more job development, placement, and coaching, skills training, and other services necessary to help find and maintain competitive, 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 make communication, education, independent living, and employment opportunities

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

## The Arc of Colorado—National Participation

- In March 2017, 38 people from Colorado (representing The Arc of CO, local chapters, the CO DD Council, and Alliance Colorado) attended the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. Connor Long, 2016 winner of the Catalyst award for self-advocate of the year was a keynote speaker. Vicky Wray, member of The Arc of CO Board, with Liz Weintraub led a breakout session on public policy involvement. Members of the Colorado group met with members or staff from the offices of all seven Colorado congressional offices. During the week of the policy seminar, there was considerable activity on Capitol Hill around the House version of a bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Colorado attendees, with hundreds from across the country were able to participate in a number of rallies and other gatherings in the city to express opposition to the proposal. The bill died.
- The executive directors of state chapters of The Arc participate in bi monthly calls with staff of The Arc US about public policy issues. In 2017, because of the need for significant stakeholder activity, one call per month was opened to local chapter leaders.
- Directors of chapters of The Arc in MA, AZ, IN, and CO represented The Arc at the National Conference of State Legislators in Boston, MA in August. The Executive Director participated in Colorado Night activities with about 30 CO legislators and legislative staff.

## Colorado Public Policy

The 2017 session of the CO General Assembly dominated by designation of Hospital Provider Fee revenue as an Enterprise Fund. In the closing days of the session, the General Assembly reached a compromise allowing for such designation averting a \$528 million cut in payments to hospitals, generating \$1.9 billion for transportation projects by mortgaging state buildings and lowering the state's spending cap by \$200 million.

The bill increased the special sales tax on retail marijuana sales to the maximum 15 percent, even as it removed the regular 2.9 percent sales tax – a net 2.1 percent hike. The additional marijuana tax helped to fund K-12 education.

The bill doubled Medicaid patient co-pays for prescriptions, outpatient services and emergency room visits.

Governor Hickenlooper called the legislature into special session in September, 2017 to “fix” a drafting error in the bill that inadvertently resulted in special districts, such as regional

hospitals, RTD, and SCFD being unable to tax marijuana as had been done previously. The special session ended in a stalemate.

## 2017 Legislation

### Bills that Garnered Support or \*Strongly Support Status

#### House Bills

HB 17-001—Employee Leave to Attend Child’s Academic Activities—Rep. Buckner and Sen. Kerr

The bill recreates and re-enacts the 2009 Parental Involvement in K-12 Education Act which allows employees of an employer subject to Family and Medical Leave Act (federal) to take leave from work for the purpose of attending academic activities for or with the employee’s child. Leave in the 2009 law was limited to 6 hours per month and 18 hours in any academic year. The 2009 statute carried a repeal date of Sept. 1, 2015. The bill extends the 2009 Act with no repeal date and requires school districts to publish information about the Act.

Postponed Indefinitely

\*HB 17-1038—Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children—Rep. Lontine and Sen. Zenzinger

The bill prohibits corporal punishment of children by employees or volunteers in a public school, licensed child care center, a family child care home, or a specialized youth group facility. Postponed Indefinitely

HB 17-1039—Restorative Communication Issues—Rep. Lee and Sen. Kerr

The bill makes all communication during the restorative justice process made by all participants confidential unless the participants waive confidentiality or an offender or other participant commits a chargeable offense during the process. Signed

\*HB 17-1045—Extend Home Care Allowance Program—Rep. Young and Sen. Lambert

The bill extends the CO cash benefit Home Care Allowance to families of persons enrolled in or eligible for the Supported Living Services (SLS) HCBS waiver until such time as the Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS) option is available through the SLS waiver. Signed

HB 17-1046—Update Outdated Statutes -Persons with Disabilities—Rep. Lebsack and Sen. Donovan.

The bill updates certain terms in statute and requires that all CO laws be updated to eliminate the terms mentally retarded, mentally deficient person, mental deficiency, mental defect, or mental deficient and changes statutes to refer to persons with an intellectual and developmental disability and persons with a mental illness. Signed

HB 17-1057—Interstate Physical Therapy Licensure Compact—Reps. Liston and Winter; Sens. Kerr and Gardner

The bill allows licensed Physical Therapists and PT assistants in certain states which have an agreement with Colorado to become licensed in Colorado. Signed

\*HB 17-1078—Transfer Funds from Family Support Loan Program—Rep. Landgraf and Sen. Coram

The bill repeals the CO Family support loan program and transfers funds from the loan program to the Family Support Grant Program. Outstanding debt on loans made from the original program is not forgiven by the bill. Signed

HB 17-1080—Requirements for Durable Medical Equipment Suppliers—Rep. Young and Sen. Sonnenberg

The bill amends the definition of durable medical equipment (DME) supplier to include a person or entity that intends to bill the state Medicaid program and requires the suppliers to do business in Colorado and be licensed by the CO Secretary of State. Postponed Indefinitely

\*HB17-1087—Office of Public Guardianship Pilot Program—Rep. Young and Sen. Lundberg

The bill creates the office of public guardianship within the Judicial Dept. and establishes three pilot programs in an urban, rural, and frontier area. Following a report (1-1-2021) to the General Assembly, the office of public guardianship may be expanded, continued or discontinued at the discretion of the assembly. The report will quantify the need and cost for public guardianship for indigent and incapacitated adults and, to the extent possible, quantify the cost benefit to the state and analyze off-set costs in other systems. The bill is funded by gifts, grants, and donations. Signed

HB 17-1101—Division of Youth Corrections Monetary Incentives Award Program—Rep. Rosenthal; Sens. Todd and Priola

The bill creates the youth corrections monetary incentives program which can provide monetary awards and incentives for academic, social, and psychological achievement for youth committed to the Department of Human Services- Division of Youth Corrections. The bill is funded by gifts, grants and donations. Signed

HB 17-1109—Child Sex Assault Pattern Offense Place of Trial—Reps. Danielson and Carver; Sens. Fields and Cooke

The bill allows prosecuting in one jurisdiction a person who has committed sexual assaults against a child in different jurisdictions. *The Arc supports the bill but indicated to the sponsors that similar legislation for adults who have been sexually assaulted should be considered for future legislation. Because of the narrow title of the bill, adults cannot be added.* Signed

HB 17-1121—Patient Safety Act—Rep. Buckner

The bill requires certain health care professions regulated by the state to have criminal background history record checks. Includes podiatrists, dentists and dental hygienists, medical doctors, physician assistant, anesthesiologists, nurses, certified nurse aides (CNA,) optometrists, and veterinarians. The bill requires employers to notify the state board of nursing when a CNA is terminated from employment in lieu of resignation; amends the Medical Transparency Act of 2010 to include persons applying for nurse licensure and allows the board of nursing to fine employers who fail to report. Postponed Indefinitely

HB 17-1126—Medicaid Appeal Review Legal Notice Requirement’s—Reps. Danielson and Michaelson; Sen. Crowder

The bill is from an Interim Committee on Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and Medicaid Clients. It requires the administrative law judge who hears Medicaid appeals to review the legal sufficiency of the notice of action from which the recipient is appealing and makes other changes regarding legal sufficiency. Signed

HB 17-1129—Technical Issues Filing Medicaid Appeals -Rep. Danielson, and Sen. Crowder

The bill would have clarified that a Medicaid recipient who files an appeal does not need to make an affirmative request to continue Medicaid benefits during the appeal. Postponed Indefinitely

\*HB 17-1139 Medicaid Provider Compliance Billing Safety Rules -Reps Landgraf and Michaelson; Sens. Kefalas and Humenik

The bill subjects Medicaid providers to a fine for improperly billing or seeking collection from Medicaid clients and allows the Dept. to require a corrective action plan from any provider not in compliance with Medicaid billing rules. Based on good cause, the Dept. may suspend the enrollment of a Medicaid provider. The provider has the right to appeal the suspension. Signed

HB 17-1185—Reports of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect—Rep. Singer and Sen. Smallwood

The bill adds to the list of mandatory reports of suspected child abuse or neglect and would extend the period of time required for reporting. Signed

\*HB 17-1187—Change Excess State Revenue Cap Growth Factor—Rep. Thurlow and Sen. Crowder

The bill would change the formula for determining revenue growth allowable under the Taxpayers Bill of Rights. Currently, state spending is limited to previous year’s spending plus a factor based on population growth and inflation—the Consumer Price Index. If this bill passes and voters approve it, the CPI factor would be replaced by a 5 year rolling average of per capita income. Postponed Indefinitely

\*HB 17-1188—Harassment Sexual Orientation or Disability—Rep. Foote; Sens. Coram and Moreno

Current CO law prohibits bias motivated crimes and makes harassment or intimidation of a person because of race, color, religion, or national origin a Class 1 misdemeanor. While the statute also prohibits harassment or intimidation because of mental or physical disability and sexual orientation, these crimes are not Class 1 misdemeanors. The bill would add those crimes to the misdemeanor determination. Signed

HB 17-1207—No Detention Facility Requirement Youth Ages 10-12—Rep. Lee and Sen. Priola

The bill creates provisions that remove the requirements for detention of juveniles over the age of 10 but younger than 13 unless the child has been arrested or adjudicated for a felony or weapons charge that is a misdemeanor or felony. Signed

\*HB 17-1210—School Discipline for Pre-school through Grade 2—Reps. Lontine and Buckner; Sens. Fields and Priola

The bill requires schools to provide alternatives to suspension or expulsion for students in pre-school- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The bill requires schools to adopt prevention and early intervention strategies to recuse the need for early childhood and early elementary grade suspensions and expulsions. Postponed Indefinitely

\*HB 17-1247—Patient Choice Health Care Provider—Reps. Becker and Danielson; Sen. Sonnenberg

The bill would prohibit a health benefit plan or third party administrator from limiting or restricting a covered person’s ability to choose a pharmacy, chiropractor or optometrist or requiring a fee from those to participate in a plan if the provider meets certain requirements. Postponed Indefinitely

HB 17-1253—Protect Seniors from Financial Abuse—Rep. Danielson, Sen. Crowder.

The bill would require that licensed securities professionals to report to the commissioner of securities suspicions that an elderly or at risk person is the subject of financial exploitation. The commissioner must report to the department of human services and law enforcement. The bill would also authorize the broker-dealer or financial advisor to delay disbursement of a transaction that might result in financial exploitation and provides immunity for qualified individuals. Signed

HB 17-1254—Noneconomic Damages Cap on Wrongful Death of a Child—Reps. K Becker and Salazar and Sen. Kagan.

The bill would eliminate the cap on non-economic damages for the wrongful death of a child. Postponed Indefinitely

\*HB 17-1276—Restrict Restraints on Public School Students—Rep. Lontine, Sens. Fields and Gardner

The bill would prohibit prone restraint on a student except in cases of emergencies, the bill exempts law enforcement school resource officers; requires school districts to submit annual reports regarding instances of any type of restraint and seclusion; establishes a complaint process for families. Signed

\*HB 17-1280—Disability Trusts 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act Language—Reps. Michaelson and Young, Sen. Gardner

The bill conforms Colorado statute with federal law allowing individuals to establish and contribute to a special needs trust. Signed

\*HB 17-1284—Data System Check for Employees Serving At Risk Adults—Rep. Lontine, Sens. Gardner and Aguilar

The bill establishes a state-level program within the department of human services Colorado Adult Protective Services (CAPS) data system. A CAPS check would verify whether a person is substantiated in the case of mistreatment of an at-risk adult. The bill requires employers’ at

identified facilities and within certain programs to request a CAPS check prior to hiring.  
Signed

HB 17-1307—Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program -Rep. Winter

The bill creates the family and medical leave insurance program in the Dept. of Labor. Employees would pay a premium based on a %age of the annual wages—not to exceed .99%. Money is deposited into the family and medical leave fund from which the employee could be paid if he or she takes a leave from work to care for a new child or family member with a serious disability or she is unable to work due to the individual’s own serious health condition.  
Postponed Indefinitely

\*HB 17-1329—Reform Division of Youth Corrections—Reps. Lee and Landgraf

The bill re-names the Division of Youth Corrections to the Division of Youth Services and requires the department of Human Services to initiate cultural change in the Division (similar to the Missouri Division of Youth Services), requires a community board in each region of the divisions, requires data submitted to the General Assembly to include educational outcomes, adds restraint to the seclusion working group and requires the division to report on all instances of restraint to the working group, requires a behavioral plan or incident report for all cases when a youth has been isolated from his/her peers for more than 8 hours in 2 consecutive days, requires documentation and reporting of certain incidents of restraint, establishes that an attorney for a juvenile is entitled to all records including documents and video recordings related to the juvenile while he/she is in custody of the division, and requires the division to contract with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for performance assessment regarding, de-escalation, physical management, and safety polices , as well as provision of trauma informed care. Signed

\*HB 17-1343—Implement Conflict Free Case Management—Rep. Young and Sen. Moreno

The bill implements conflict-free case management for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are enrolled in home- and community-based services. The definition of conflict-free case management is included in the bill and reflects the policy that an agency cannot provide case management and direct services to the same person. The bill defines case management agencies and contains provisions for HCPF oversight of case management agencies. The state shall promulgate rules bill for certification and decertification of case management agencies, as well as rules that ensure that a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities has access to case management services and that there is a process for a person to select the case management agency of his or her choice. Designated community-centered boards shall continue to develop individualized plans for a child in Early Intervention and for adults enrolled in non-HCBS services and may also provide direct services to those persons.

The bill establishes a time frame for the implementation of conflict-free case management in Colorado with 100% of all persons with IDD enrolled in HCBS services having access to conflict-free case management by July 1, 2022. The bill authorizes the department to seek a federal exemption from conflict-free case management in geographic areas within the state where the only willing and qualified entity to provide case management services is also the only willing and qualified entity to provide home- and community-based services in that geographic area. The bill prioritizes the use of money in the intellectual and developmental

disabilities services cash fund for systems changes related to the implementation of conflict-free case management and repeals the cash fund in 2022. Signed

\*HB 17-1353—Accountable Care Collaborative -Rep. Young and Sen. Lundberg

The bill codifies the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC), the primary Medicaid delivery system in Colorado, and Department of Health Care Policy and Financing’s work to continue to integrate physical and behavioral health care and provide access to a medical home through the ACC. Signed

## Senate

\*SB 17-011 Study Transportation Access for People with Disabilities—Sen. Lambert and Rep. Lawrence

The bill establishes a demonstration forum to study solutions to transportation access for people with disabilities. It creates a team from several departments of states to study the transportation needs of citizens in El Paso and Teller counties, make recommendations and submit a report to the General Assembly by Dec. 31, 2017. The study forum is directed to consider alternatives to currently reimbursed transportation venues and technology advances that could simplify transportation for people with disabilities. Signed

\*SB 17-012—Competency Restoration Services and Education—Sen. Martinez Humenik and Rep. Lee

The bill addresses a number of issues relating to the restoration of competency for juveniles and adults including consideration of whether or not competency services should occur on an out-patient basis if the defendant is on bond, requires that competency services should be provided in the least restrictive environment, assigns oversight to the Colorado Dept. of Human Services—Office of Behavioral Health. Signed

SB 17-017 Allow Medical Marijuana Use for Stress Disorders—Sen. Aguilar and Rep. Singer.

The bill adds acute stress disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder to the list of debilitating conditions for the purposes of the use of medical marijuana. Signed

\*SB 17-024—Clarifying Hearsay Exemption for crimes committed against a person with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities—Sen. Fields and Rep. Young

Current CO law allows a hearsay exemption for persons with IDD when a defendant is charged with a crime against an at-risk person. The bill clarifies that the hearsay exemption applies if the defendant is charged under increased penalties for at-risk persons. Signed

SB17-033—Delegate Dispensing of Over the Counter Medications—Sen. Aguilar and Rep. Lawrence

The bill allows a professional nurse to delegate to another person, after proper training, the administration of non-prescription medications with the signed consent of a parent or guardian for minors. Signed

SB17-057—Colorado Healthcare Affordability and Sustainability Enterprise—Sen. Guzman

The bill would allow the Hospital Provider fund to be considered as an enterprise fund and thereby allow revenue from the Hospital Provider fees to be excluded from TABOR refund caps. Postponed Indefinitely

SB 17-084—Coverage for Drugs in a Health Coverage Plan—Reps. Singer, and Esgar and Sen. Jahn

The bill would have prohibited insurance plans from excluding a drug or medication from its covered formulary if the drug was covered at the time the person enrolled and would have prohibited the costs of drugs to enrollees for the plan year. Postponed Indefinitely

SB 17-088—Participating Provider Network Selection Criteria—Sens. Holbert and Williams; Reps. Van Winkle and Hooton

The bill would require health insurers to develop, use and disclose the criteria used to select providers for participating networks, ensure that such criteria is based on nationally recognized evidence based standards and must make the standards available to providers and the public and sets up a process whereby the carrier must notify a provider in writing of reasons to terminate, deny, or restrict a provider's participation. Signed

SB 17-091—Allow Medicaid Home Health Services in the Community—Rep. Ginal and Sen. Moreno

The bill will allow Medicaid state plan benefits for home health services to be provided in community settings rather than only in a residence. Signed

SB 17-121—Improve Medicaid Client Correspondence -Sens. Lundberg and Crowder; Reps. Landgraf and Danielson

The bill require the state of CO to engage in an ongoing process to ensure that Medicaid clients receive information about coverage, denial, reduction or suspension of benefits in clear, readable, and understandable terms appropriate for the client. Signed

SB 17-128—Higher Ed Behavior Policies—Rep. Bridges, Sen. Fields

The bill would have require higher education institutions that receive public funding to develop, report and regularly review policies on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and hate crimes. Postponed Indefinitely

SB 17-203—Prohibit Carrier from Requiring Alternative Drug—Sen. Todd and Reps. Kennedy and Covarrubias

The bill prohibits a carrier from requiring a person to undergo step-therapy (a protocol that requires a covered person to use a prescription drug or sequence of drugs other than the drug that the person's health care provider recommends. Signed

SB 17-213—Automated Driving Vehicles—Sens. Moreno and Hill; Reps. Bridges and Winter

The bill declares that the regulation of automated driving systems is a matter of statewide concern, and that the use of such systems is authorized if the systems are capable of conforming to state and federal law. Signed

SB 17-245—Tenancies One Month to One Year Notice—Sen. Priola, Rep. Pabon

Current law allows a tenancy of one month but less than 6 months to be terminated by either party with 7 days' notice. The bill extends the notice to 21 days for tenancies of one month or longer up to a year. Signed

\*SB 17-264—Funding for Behavioral Mental Health Disorder Services—Rep. Young, Sen. Moreno

This is a JBC bill clarifying that the marijuana tax cash fund may include behavioral services. Signed

### **Bills that Garnered Oppose or Strongly Oppose Status**

HB 17-1013—Free Exercise of Religion—Reps. Humphrey and Williams, Sens. Neville and Marble

The bill would have allowed persons to cite religious beliefs to act or refuse to act in a manner that would be contrary to those beliefs except if the action is based on race or ethnicity. Postponed Indefinitely

HB 17-1146—Parents' Rights Related to Minors—Rep. Neville

The bill would have allowed school employees to dispense medication with parental or guardian consent, grant civil and criminal immunity to such employees, and allow parents or guardians to opt out of the collection and storage of data related to the child—including documentation of vaccinations. Postponed Indefinitely

SB 17-003—Repeal Colorado Health Benefit Exchange—Rep. Neville, Sen. Smallwood

The bill would repeal the 2010 Colorado Health Benefit Exchange Act passed consistent with Medicaid expansion and buy-in options of the Affordable Care Act. Postponed Indefinitely

SB 17-004—Access to Providers for Medicaid Recipients—Rep. Wist, Sen. Tate

The bill would allow non-Medicaid providers to treat Medicaid clients and bill them for services. *The Arc opposed this bill in 2016 and does so again—we believe it could further reduce the number of Medicaid providers and could jeopardize eligibility for SSI if the money used to pay for a service is considered reportable income.* Postponed Indefinitely

SB 17-016—County Choice Child Protection Teams—Reps. Nordberg and Kraft-Tharp and Sens. Jahn and Neville

The bill would make optional a current requirement that a county must create a child protection team if 50 or more referrals related to child abuse or neglect are received in a given year. Signed

## Bills that Garnered Monitored Status

HB17-1060—Reporting Requirements of the CO Dept. of Health Care Policy and Financing to the General Assembly—Rep. Thurlow and Sen. Tate Signed

HB 17-1064—Misuse of Electronic Images by a Juvenile—Rep. Willet and Sen. Fields Postponed Indefinitely

HB 17-1110—Jurisdiction Juvenile Court Parental Responsibilities—Rep. Beckman Signed

HB 17-1111—Dependency and Neglect Civil Protection Orders—Rep. Beckman, Sen. Fields Signed

HB 17-1115—Direct Primary Health Care Services—Reps. Buck and Ginal, Sen. Kefalas Signed

HB 17-1135—Portability of Background Checks for Child Care Workers—Rep. Bridges, Sen. Priola Signed

HB 17-1172—Penalties for Child Sex Traffickers—Reps. Navarro and Carver and Sen. Cooke Signed

HB 17-1204—Juvenile Delinquency Record Expungement—Rep. Lee Signed

HB 17-1211—Educators Professional Development Discipline Strategies—Signed

HB 17-1229—Worker’s Comp for Mental Impairment—Reps. Becker and Singer; Sens. Todd and Cooke Sent to the Governor

HB 17-1302—Juvenile Sexting Crime—Reps. Lee and Willet; Sens. Fields and Gardner Signed

HB 17-1320—Age of Consent Outpatient Psychotherapy for Minors Reprs. Landgraf and Michaelson; Sens. Coram and Fenberg Postponed Indefinitely

HB 17-1322—Domestic Violence Reports by Medical Professionals Reprs. Esgar and Landgraf; Sens. Donovan and Lundberg. Signed

SB 17-065—Transparency in Direct Pay Health Care Prices—Rep. Lontine and Sen. Lundberg Signed

SB 17-079—Limit Amendments to Initiated Statutory Laws—Sen. Court Postponed Indefinitely

SB 17-246—Legislative Committee—Persons with Mental Health Disorders in the Justice System—Sen. Martinez Humenik; Reprs. Singer and Michaelson Signed

SB 17-256—Hospital Reimbursement Rates—Sen. Lambert and Rep. Hamner Signed

SB 17-267—Sustainability of Rural Colorado—Sens. Guzman and Sonnenberg; Reprs. J Becker and K Becker Signed

SB 17-281—Hold CO Government Accountable Sanctuary Jurisdictions—Sens. Neville and Marble; Reprs Williams and Covarrubias—Postponed Indefinitely

SB 17-284—A Woman’s Right to Accurate Health Care Information—Sens. Marble and Lundberg; Reps. Saine and Ramsom Senate 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Lost with Amendments

SB 17-300—High Risk Health Care Coverage Program -Sen. Lambert; Rep. Kennedy—Signed

## Other State Public Policy Activity

The executive director participated in:

**Waiver Re-design Council**—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.)

**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 may be presented to the General Assembly in 2018.

**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 served 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
- Colorado Children’s Disability Advisory Group

The Director of Special Projects, Heidi Haines, served 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 sixth annual Denver Film Festival. Approximately 500 people attended one of three showings on March 10. Special guests included actors Connor Long and Roderick Stevens. The 2017 event was the most successful ever with students from the Noel Community Arts School in attendance. .

### **Families in Action**

The Arc of Colorado co-sponsored the third Families in Action on June 24, 2017 with The Arc of Weld County. About 80 family members, volunteers, and staff participated.

### **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.

The Arc of Colorado designated \$2,500 from the 2016 Colorado Gives Day proceeds to the Calabrese Life Opportunities Fund to assist in sustain the program. There is currently \$12,196 in the fund.

In the past year, The Calabrese life Opportunity Fund has provided 2 individuals with iPads and the necessary applications and protective accessories.

### **Wings for All**

The Arc of Colorado sponsored two Wings for All events in 2017 (may 13 and Sept. 30) at Denver International Airport. Wings 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. Approximately 150 persons participated in the two events. 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.

## Coleman Institute

Families at the Forefront of Technology and The Arc of Colorado were awarded a Declaration Implementation Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00. The purpose of the grant is expanding the potential of technology to increase independence for individuals with cognitive disabilities across Colorado through education and experience.

Families at the Forefront of Technology and The Arc of Colorado had a poster presentation at the 2017 Coleman conference. A member of Families at the Forefront of technology, Alice Brouhard, made a presentation about the project at the DIGS Coleman pre-conference.

Shea Tanis, from the Coleman Institute, co-presented with Heidi Haines at the Speaking for Ourselves- Colorado conference in October about the possibility of the Coleman Institute partnering with SFO to host the 2020 Self Advocates Becoming Empowered national conference.

## Self-Advocate Outreach and Support

### People First of Denver

People First of Denver completed the 3-year agreement they had with The Southwest Alliance to produce webinars, video blogs and have face to face meetings and conference calls with self-advocates in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

People first of Denver has been gradually increasing membership. Vicki Wray, the president of People First of Denver is being mentored by Vivian H. Jackson, Ph.D., LICSW, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Senior Policy Associate at Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development on ways that People First of Denver can be culturally inclusive while recruiting and welcoming new members.

### Speaking for Ourselves Colorado

Speaking for Ourselves Colorado held a statewide self-advocacy conference at the Hampden Inn in Lakewood Colorado October 14-15. This is a shift from holding the biennial statewide conference at the Rocky Mountain Village Easter Seals Camp. The Arc of Mesa and The Arc of West Central Colorado attended the conference for the first time with self-advocates from the newly formed groups in their areas.

A new executive board was elected at the conference. Julian Wang from People First of Larimer county is now the President of the organization.

Shea Tanis, from the Coleman institute co-presented with Heidi Haines at the Speaking for Ourselves- Colorado conference in October about the possibility of the Coleman institute partnering with SFO to host the 2020 Self Advocates Becoming Empowered national conference.

### Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

Vicki Wray and Heidi Haines attended SABE board meetings in Atlanta, Silver Spring, Denver and Little Rock in 2017.

Vicki Wray was asked to present at the Disability Policy Seminar with Liz Weintraub and Annie Acosta from The Arc's national office on the importance of telling your stories to legislators during hill visits and at home.

The Arc of Colorado hosted SABE for their Summer/June board meeting. Jerry Smith from Institute on Community Integration traveled to Denver to film SABE members and local self-advocates for videos that will be featured on [www.selfadvocacyonline.org](http://www.selfadvocacyonline.org) . The filming took place in the Advocacy Denver offices.

Vicki Wray is planning a run for Sergeant of Arms in the next SABE election, which will be held in Birmingham, AL in June 2018.

## Other Community Outreach Activities

In 2017, The Arc of Colorado participated in, exhibited at, or provided sponsorship for:

- Parent 2 Parent Mothers' Day Tea
- CO Non-Profit Association
- Alliance Leadership Summit
- Phamaly!
- Colorado Center on Law and Policy legislative forum
- Colorado Cross Disability Awards Luncheon
- Alliance Legislative luncheon
- Alliance Person Centered Training coalition
- Arc Thrift Annual Gala
- 2017 Sun Foundation dinner
- Firefly Autism Services Gala
- IN!—Colorado
- Colorado Fiscal Institute Budget 101
- Disability Law Colorado -40<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Special Olympics of CO—Summer Games
- Colorado Fund for People with Disabilities Open House

## Continuing Education and Staff Development

- Marijo Rymer and Heidi Haines, with representatives from The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region, The Arc—Jeffco, The Arc of Southwest Colorado attended the annual leadership institute for the National Council of Executives of The Arc in St. Louis in July.
- Heidi Haines participated in the advanced Leadership Institute at the University of Delaware in January.

## Chapter Support

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 of Arapahoe-Douglas
- Advocacy Denver
- The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region
- The Arc of Southwest Colorado

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
- The Arc of Pueblo Golden Tortilla Fundraiser
- The Arc of Aurora Summerfest
- The Arc—Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Annual Picnic
- Advocacy Denver annual picnic
- The Arc of West Central Colorado 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fashion Show
- The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region Film Festival
- The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region/The Resource Exchange Town Hall—facilitated by Marijo Rymer
- The Arc of Larimer Film Festival
- The Arc of Weld Film Festival

## **Support for New Chapters and Areas of Colorado Not Served by Local Chapters**

The Arc of Colorado approved establishment of The Arc of the Central to serve Garfield, Pitkin, Eagle, and Lake counties. The state Chapter will provide \$15,000 per year for 2 years to fund the new chapter.

The Arc of CO provided \$10,000 for The Arc Mesa to provide advocacy in western slope counties not served by local chapters. The 2018 budget proposes increasing that to \$15,000. Additionally, The Arc of CO also supports The Arc of Weld County at \$15,000 per year for advocacy in Eastern Colorado.

Heidi Haines and Marijo Rymer provided individual advocacy, information and referral to about 35 families across Colorado.