

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2012-027

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Establishing The Office of Community Living

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the authority vested in the Office of the Governor, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order establishing the Office of Community Living in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

I. Background and Purpose

The State has long been committed to helping all Coloradans, including people with disabilities and aging, live at home with the supports they need and participate in communities that value their contributions. In Colorado, we are fortunate to have providers and advocates working hard to connect people to the right services at the right time. However, there is a need for the State to better align services and supports so that people with long-term services and supports needs, and their families, do not have to navigate a complicated and fragmented system. This fragmentation prolongs the amount of time it takes for people to gain access to support, and prevents people from gaining access to the right services at the right time.

We need to prepare our long-term services and supports system for the coming 'wave of wisdom', when the nation's population age 65 and older is projected to double. By 2021, the number of older adults in Colorado is expected to increase by 54 percent.

The need for services is growing in other areas as well. Colorado needs to use its limited funds efficiently to better serve more people:

- As of March 2012, approximately 2,000 adults and 500 children with developmental disabilities were waiting to receive services through Medicaid waiver programs. Another 5,500 families are waiting to receive Family Support Services, which assist with the costs of caring for children with developmental disabilities.
- Waiting lists also exist for other home- and community-based waiver services. Approximately 425,000 people nationwide sustain moderate to severe traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) each year. Adults age 75 and over sustain the highest rates of hospitalization associated with TBI.

- Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability. The costs for lifelong care for a child with autism can be reduced by 66% with early diagnosis and intervention services.

Therefore, Colorado needs an effective system of services and supports to enable aging Coloradans and those with developmental, mental and physical disabilities to live in the community. This includes the full spectrum of supports from prevention and intervention services to skilled nursing care. It requires a strategic vision that will improve outcomes, recognize limited resources, break down silos, and promote self-direction and person-centered care.

All Coloradans – including people with disabilities and aging adults– should be able to live in the home of their choosing with the supports they need and participate in communities that value their contributions. To help meet these needs, we are creating an Office of Community Living within the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing with the goal of increasing access to community-based supports for long-term care services that will focus attention and resources on the unique needs of aging Coloradans and people with disabilities.

Establishing an Office of Community Living with active participation of the impacted consumers, families, advocates, providers, communities, and agencies is the most effective way to ensure that necessary coordination and administration is achieved.

II. Directives, Mission, and Scope

A. The Office of Community Living

In order to meet the growing needs of the people of Colorado, the Office of Community Living (“Office”) will be established within the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (“Department”). The Department shall establish a Director of the Office of Community Living who shall be a part of the Department’s Executive Leadership Team and report to the Executive Director. The goal of the Office is to redesign all aspects of the long-term services and supports delivery system, including service models, payment structures and data systems to create efficient and person-centered community-based care. All State agencies and divisions engaged in activities concerning Community Living shall coordinate with the Office on their activities, including, but not limited to, the Division of Housing, the Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Department of Human Services. Moreover, State agencies and divisions shall provide information to the Office and shall involve the Office in strategic decisions regarding Community Living.

To ensure appropriate services are provided to clients, guiding principles of the Office shall be to:

- Provide services in a timely manner with respect and dignity;
- Strengthen consumer choice in service provision;

- Incorporate best practices in service delivery;
- Encourage integrated home- and community-based service delivery;
- Involve stakeholders in planning and processes; and
- Incorporate supportive housing.

In furtherance of these guiding principles, the Office shall:

1. Create an advisory group, the Community Living Advisory Group, that shall consider and recommend necessary changes to the system to ensure responsiveness, flexibility, accountability, and self-directed long-term services and supports for all eligible persons that are beneficial to the citizens of Colorado. In addition, the advisory group shall:

- Be comprised of two members each of the House and Senate; members of impacted agencies and divisions; one member representing the Commission on Aging; two members representing the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs); two members representing the Community Centered Boards (CCBs); two members representing providers of care to aging and people with disabilities; two members representing Colorado Counties Incorporated; one member representing Single Entry Point providers; one member representing a nursing home or home health agency; and 12 members representing consumers or consumer advocates with aging or disability community expertise.
- Conduct open, public, and transparent meetings;
- Coordinate and integrate with the existing work of the Long-term Care Advisory Committee, the Colorado Commission on Aging, and other planning groups to ensure a cohesive planning process for Colorado;
- Recommend legislative changes for 2013 and 2014;
- Sunset September 30, 2014, with final recommendations made to the Governor and Executive Directors of the State Departments of Health Care Policy and Financing, and Human Services.

2. Consider co-location of staff among impacted Departments as is financially and programmatically feasible; and

3. Provide oversight of Community Living efforts for the State of Colorado.

III. Resources

The Office may enter into memoranda of understanding and other agreements with federal, state, and local agencies as necessary to accomplish the mission and purpose delegated to it by this Executive Order. Furthermore, the Office shall have the power to accept money, grants,

and in-kind contributions from public and private agencies and entities. The Office shall have the power to hire consultants in compliance with Colorado law as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Director. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Office shall be authorized to enter into contracts, receive and expend funds, purchase goods and services, and lease space.

IV. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by future Executive Order of the Governor.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this fifth day of
July, 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "John W. Hickenlooper".

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor