



COLORADO

**Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing**

Office of Community Living
1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203

June 10, 2016

The Honorable Millie Hamner, Chair
Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Avenue, Third Floor
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Hamner:

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (the Department) provides the following update in order to comply with the requirements of HB15-1318 as stipulated in Section 25.5-6-409.3(4), C.R.S.:

The state department shall notify the joint budget committee no later than June 1, 2016, if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has not approved a single consolidated Medicaid waiver for home and community-based services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If the state department has not received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by July 1, 2016, the joint budget committee shall establish a notification and review process relating to the status of the pending waiver consolidation process.

While considerable progress has been made in the development of the redesigned waiver for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the Department has not submitted a waiver application and will not receive approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by July 1, 2016.

In October 2013, the Department organized a Waiver Redesign Workgroup comprised of diverse stakeholder perspectives including individuals receiving services, their family members, professional advocates, and representatives from provider agencies and the Community Centered Boards. The Workgroup presented a comprehensive [Summary and Recommendation Report](#) to the Department in April 2015.

Following the passage of HB15-1318, ten stakeholder meetings were hosted by the Department in communities throughout the state in order to solicit advice and feedback on the Workgroup's recommendations. The results of those meetings were recorded in an [Addendum](#) to the Workgroup's report.

The Department has begun the work of evaluating and planning for the implementation of the Workgroup's recommendations. Analyses of the fiscal, programmatic, and operational impacts of a redesigned waiver are in progress.

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The Waiver Redesign Workgroup has transitioned to an Implementation Council, and the Department will benefit from its ongoing consultation and advice throughout the waiver design and implementation process. Draft service and coverage standards are in development. These standards are developed in collaboration with stakeholders and define the waiver service specifications, provider qualifications, and conditions of coverage.

Additionally, the Department must ensure alignment with its other initiatives, including compliance with new Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) regulations. Among these new requirements, in order to obtain CMS approval, the Department must assure a person-centered planning process that is free from conflicts of interest. As required by HB15-1318, the Department will submit its Conflict-Free Case Management Plan by July 1, 2016.

In consideration of the activities and requirements detailed above, the Department's target date for waiver submission to CMS is July 1, 2017 with an anticipated effective date of July 1, 2018.

If you require further information or have additional questions, please contact the Department's Legislative Liaison, Zach Lynkiewicz, at zach.lynkiewicz@state.co.us or 720 854-9882.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN
Executive Director

SEB/tbd

Cc: Senator Kent Lambert, Vice-chair, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Bob Rankin, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Dave Young, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Kevin Grantham, Joint Budget Committee
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