



COLORADO

**Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing**

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203

April 1, 2017

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

Dear Senator Lambert:

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (the Department) provides the following update to the Joint Budget Committee regarding the development of a single Medicaid waiver for home and community-based services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities per 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.

Since the update submitted in January 2017, the Department has made progress across all components of waiver redesign and Section 25.5-6-409.3(4). The Department is committed to a timely submission of the redesigned waiver to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Over the past quarter, the Department has enhanced the redesign process to overcome staff turnover within its core waiver redesign team and to expand, yet expedite, its stakeholders' vetting.

Still, the Department needs more time to tie together a successful waiver application and to allow for further development of companion initiatives. For these reasons, the Department has extended its target date for submission to CMS from July 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018.

The Department continues to benefit from the Waiver Implementation Council's (the Council) ongoing consultation and advice throughout the waiver design and implementation process. The Department has enhanced the Council process by bringing in a third-party to facilitate meetings and by increasing meeting length. Further, the Department is developing supplemental avenues of input, including four Council subcommittees and an online forum. The Department is also in the process of developing a plan for an efficient and meaningful implementation of a series of

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stakeholder meetings across the state. Background information, meeting materials, and a complete Council membership list are available on the [Council's webpage](#).

The Department is analyzing the breadth of fiscal, operational, and programmatic impacts of a redesigned waiver. The Department is collecting rates data, forecasting service utilization, and developing norm-referenced service limits. The results will enable accurate rate determinations, resource allocations, and budget estimates.

The Department's redesigning of the waiver further relies on the companion initiatives of piloting a new assessment tool and developing conflict-free case management. The Department can more fully align waiver redesign with the initiatives when they reach a later stage of development.

To accommodate these final steps, the Department has extended its target date for waiver submission to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services from July 1, 2017 to January 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/MAB

cc: Representative Millie Hammer, Vice-chair, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Bob Rankin, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Dave Young, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Kevin Lundberg, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Dominick Moreno, Joint Budget Committee
Megan Davisson, Joint Budget Committee Analyst
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