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**Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing**

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

October 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 (HCBS) for adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) 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 July 2017, the Department has reached significant milestones in its redesign of a single consolidated waiver. Specifically, the Department and the Waiver Implementation Council (the Council) have completed a one-year process of reviewing all potential waiver service definitions. The Department has also completed multiple projects, each of which returned results critical to developing the waiver.

From the project results and Council input, the Department has gained a better understanding of the financial, operational, and programmatic impacts of a consolidated waiver. The Department has found that additional work is needed to ensure the waiver will be successful and sustainable. To accommodate the additional work, the Department has extended its target date for submitting the redesigned waiver application to CMS from January 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019.

The Department will use the extended timeframe to further develop and analyze tools, information, and data. Through extended analysis, the Department aims to ensure accurate resource allocations, costs estimates, and a service model that truly delivers the right services, in the right place, at the right time. The Department will reengage the Council for guidance and input throughout this work.

The Department will also use the time and the collective results to inform the final stages of waiver redesign, which include planning for the waiver transition period, statewide stakeholder engagement, and preparing and submitting a successful waiver application.

The Department will benefit from additional time to streamline the consolidated waiver with other programs to improve access and navigation and to leverage common resources and infrastructure. The Department also expects to more fully align the waiver with companion initiatives of Conflict Free Case Management, new Assessment Tool, and Person-Centered Planning.

For the reasons stated, the Department has extended its target date for submission of the redesigned waiver application to CMS from January 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019

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/jkn

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
Bettina Schneider, Budget Analyst, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
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