



COLORADO
Department of Human Services

Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind Annual Report

September 1, 2018



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INTRODUCTION

This report is in the following sections:

1. Community Projects & Issues Update (Section II) - These are collaborative projects between CCDHHDB and its stakeholders.
2. Legislative Recommendations for your consideration (Section III) - CCDHHDB has no recommendations at this time.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS UPDATE AND ISSUES

COLORADO DAYLIGHT PARTNERSHIP: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES/INTEGRATED CARE

The Colorado Daylight Partnership (CDP), a partnership between the Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) and CCDHHDB, continues to assist local community health centers to build a system approach to create statewide accessible behavioral healthcare for people who are deaf and hard of hearing with an annual grant from the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). CDP also adopted the Integrated Care Initiative as a project that is working to improve access to mental health, alcohol and drug treatment (also called "behavioral healthcare") through primary/health care for deaf, hard-of-hearing and deafblind Coloradans in FY 2017-18. MHCD's one-time award of unexpended funds made it feasible. CDP has completed the research and evaluation phase and is currently developing a plan to implement two sites for targeted capacity-building pilots. Key state stakeholders (i.e. OBH, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Signal Behavioral Health, Colorado Access, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Colorado State Innovation Model) will be part of this process.

Sustainable funding for CDP will attempt to be addressed jointly by CCDHHDB and OBH in the FY 2020-21 budget request cycle. CDP recognizes that it is challenging to maintain its partnership without a long-term funding commitment from the State.

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no recommendations at this time because CCDHHDB is currently implementing two other legislative initiatives.

The first initiative involves a pilot project for coordinating auxiliary services for at least two state agencies within the Executive Branch by CCDHHDB effective January 1, 2019. It is anticipated that CCDHHDB will update the Governor and the General Assembly in the next annual report in regards to this. Recommendations may include when evaluation of this pilot is conducted during FY 2019-20, as mandated by HB 18-1108.

The second initiative is a project to expand auxiliary services to rural areas in Colorado. CCDHHDB's quarterly report on the Rural Interpreting Services Project (RISP) Pilot will be submitted to the JBC office separately. The RISP Pilot is the result of a 2018 JBC staff initiative, using funds from the Telephone Users with Disabilities Fund to address access to rural services by deaf, hard-of-hearing and deafblind people who use American Sign Language.