

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services

people who help people

VETERANS AND DISABILITY SERVICES
Timothy C. Hall, Deputy Executive Director

DIVISION FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Karen L. Beye
Executive Director

April 27, 2009

Dear Friends:

I want to take this opportunity to update you on issues of importance to families and individuals with developmental disabilities regarding changes that are being made to the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) programs, including the HCBS-DD (Comprehensive Services), HCBS-SLS (Supported Living Services) and HCBS-CES (Children's Extensive Support) waivers. I will be writing to you on a regular basis as we together navigate the changes to the programs. My intention is to provide regular updates (see attached) that will cover the following areas:

- "What We Are Hearing" from families, Community Centered Boards and providers
- "Important Upcoming Dates" on which various changes will take place
- "Changes to Waiver Services" that are being made

These changes to the Medicaid waivers, combined with our state's and nation's current economic crisis create many daunting challenges. I was hoping that we would have "hold harmless" funding to provide for a smoother transition. However, the current State budget challenges prevented that from happening. The federal requirements to standardize rates and services across the State will have an impact, but we are working to minimize those impacts. I ask for your commitment to work with me to find solutions so that our entire system grows stronger across the State and continues to provide quality services that reach the greatest number of people. I know that the changes can be frightening to individuals and families and I know that your family member's needs will likely change over time. With such significant waiting lists of people who need service, I am very interested in balancing the needs for more services for individuals currently enrolled in waivers services with meeting the needs of individuals who are not receiving any services at this time.

My staff and myself are working very closely with each Community Centered Board, as well as provider agencies and advocacy organizations in the State to implement these changes and I can assure you that everyone across the State and at the local level is working very hard on these changes. I am committed to improving the array of services to people with developmental disabilities and their families as evidenced by the addition of consumer directed attendant support services and family caregiver services. Together, we can improve our services and make the system better. I urge you to continue to communicate with my office through our dedicated email address at DevelopmentDisabilities.FAQ@state.co.us or you may call Roberta Aceves at 303-866-7030.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon S. Jacksi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Jacksi