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Denver Options

Englewood, CO 80112

Developmental Pathways

ccbpartners.org

Eastern Colorado Services

North Metro Community Services

The Resource Exchange

The Honorable Bernie Buescher, Chairman
Colorado Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Buescher:

On behalf of CCB Partners, I offer this brief follow-up to the continuing discussion surrounding the changes to the developmental disability system. These are complex issues, and it is our intention to provide relevant information which may be helpful to the Joint budget Committee.

Testimony I gave during the most recent JBC hearing referenced difficulties in paying service providers. The changes the developmental disability system is currently undergoing are putting significant stresses on its structure and administrative proficiencies; subsequently, funding streams recently were slowed throughout the system. This resulted in payments to CCBs being delayed and trickling down to service agencies. CCBs worked quickly with DDD and HCPF to resolve billing issues to prevent further delayed payments to providers. What I failed to mention was that in mitigating harm to providers, the CCBs that assisted with cash flow problems incurred costs and assumed risks in doing so. Some CCBs were forced to draw on their lines of credit thus incurring interest expenses as well as depleting that resource to the CCB. Others used operating reserves and risked their own agency's financial health. It was also brought to my attention that I may have left you with the impression that all CCBs provided this assistance. This is not true, as some CCBs simply did not have or have access to resources to do so.

While there may be contention surrounding how the changes initiated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid were implemented and the high degree of new administrative burdens, CCB Partners are doing what is possible to ensure continuity in care while maintaining high quality services in this new environment.

Whatever the intention of the changes, there are many burdens placing significant strain on the system. Thus, it is important Colorado leaders stay abreast of the progress being made and the impact on individuals with disabilities. CCB Partners appreciates the JBC's efforts to remain at the forefront of these issues and looks forward to working together to meet the needs of some of Colorado's most vulnerable citizens.

We appreciate your continued time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Pinneo
President, CCB Partners
Executive Director, North Metro Community Services

CC: Colorado Joint Budget Committee
Steve Tool, Executive Director, Department of Health Care, Policy & Financing
Barbara Prehmus, Department of Health Care, Policy & Financing
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