

# The Latest in LTSS



## Meet the LTSS Newsletter Partners

This newsletter is a regular distribution created by a group of stakeholders in the El Paso, Park, Pueblo, and Teller County areas to provide information on Colorado's long-term services and supports (LTSS) system. Members of leadership at several agencies involved in this work have joined together to ensure accurate information is distributed and joint advocacy is productive. Partners in this work include:

**The Arc Pikes Peak Region**, one of 15 chapters of The Arc in Colorado, serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in El Paso, Park, and Teller counties. Through advocacy, supported decision-making, guardianship, education and social opportunities, The Arc PPR promotes and protects the human rights of people with IDD and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the communities of the Pikes Peak Region throughout their lifetime. The Arc PPR is committed to ensuring the voices of people with IDD and their families are represented as our system navigates the various changes impacting long term services and supports. We believe that our partnerships with the agencies represented on the LTSS Communication Committee are vital in our advocacy efforts for people with IDD, their families, caregivers, providers, and the community.

**The Arc of Pueblo** is a local chapter of the Arc of Colorado and part of the Arc of the United States. The Arc is known as the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We encompass all ages and specialize in guardianship and alternatives to guardianship, educational advocacy, public policy and resources to connect individuals and families to local support services. At The Arc of Pueblo, we work to promote and protect those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to actively support opportunities and philosophies that are inclusive and welcoming to all.

**Colorado Community Health Alliance (CCHA)** - CCHA is the Health First Colorado regional organization responsible for administering physical and behavioral health benefits to approximately 279,000 members receiving primary care across Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, El Paso, Gilpin, Jefferson, Park, and Teller counties. As a regional organization, CCHA supports opportunities that increase or improve access to appropriate care. At CCHA, we strive to enhance member health and reduce costs through thoughtful strategy development, innovative clinical programs and community-based interventions.

## Newsletter Highlights

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**Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP)** serves as the Regional Accountable Entity (RAE) for Region 1 in Colorado. RMHP provides support for Health First Colorado members, who have a primary care provider in the following counties: Alamosa, Archuleta, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Custer, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, Fremont, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Jackson, LaPlata, Lake, Las Animas, Mesa, Mineral, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Pueblo, Rio Blanco, Rio Grande, Routt, Saguache, San Juan, San Miguel, and Summit. Rocky Mountain Health Plans works together with your Primary Care Medical Provider (PCMP), community care teams, and other local partners to help you get the care you need, when and where you need it.

**Family Voices Colorado** is a family-led nonprofit that partners with families of children and youth with special health care needs and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to navigate complex systems, secure services, and build skills and confidence to advocate over a lifetime. We serve families across Colorado with our efforts focused on ages birth through 26 but will assist all families on a case-by-case basis in navigating systems. We center our work in the expertise of lived experience and work to bridge the gap between families and the systems that are tasked with serving them- partnering with agencies including CMAs/CCBs, schools, health providers, RAEs, and other community-based partners.

**PEAK Parent Center** is honored to collaborate each month with our disability community partners who contribute to this newsletter. As Colorado navigates difficult budget decisions, we remain steadfast in supporting families statewide with training, information, and individualized guidance & support from our Parent Advisors. Families can turn to PEAK to better understand their rights and responsibilities under IDEA, Section 504, and other disability-related laws, and to gain the knowledge and skills needed to participate meaningfully in their child's education and services. We welcome families to connect with us at [www.peakparent.org](http://www.peakparent.org) whenever they need guidance or support.

**The Resource Exchange (TRE)** serves as the Case Management Agency (CMA) and for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families across El Paso, Pueblo, Teller, and Park counties. We provide navigation, advocacy, and coordination of long-term services and supports (LTSS) to promote independence, inclusion, and quality of life. TRE is committed to ensuring accurate information is shared and that collaborative advocacy efforts remain strong as Colorado's LTSS system evolves. Through partnerships with these agencies, we work to amplify the voices of people with IDD, their families, and providers in shaping a responsive and person-centered system.

**El Paso and Pueblo County Department of Human Services (DHS)** are responsible for determining financial eligibility for Medicaid and Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS programs) under Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program). This includes:

- El Paso & Pueblo County DHS are the financial gatekeeper for LTSS programs, ensuring compliance with Medicaid eligibility rules.
- LTSS services include HCBS waivers, nursing facility care, and PACE, aimed at helping individuals remain in their homes or receive institutional care when necessary.



- DHS works closely with CMAs for financial eligibility and provides multiple channels for application and verification to streamline access.

**Pueblo County** serves as a subcontractor for The Resource Exchange (TRE) to deliver intake and eligibility, Consumer-Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS), Assisted Care Facilities (ACF), and Nursing Facility (NF) aspects of case management services within the Pueblo Region. This collaboration ensures that individuals receiving Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) in Pueblo County have access to coordinated case management, eligibility support, and continuity of care through TRE's oversight and regional service model.

## Stay Informed and Connected this Holiday Season!

There is a lot of information being shared regarding current and upcoming changes in Colorado's LTSS system. It is important to stay informed through accurate information from reliable sources. We have put together a list of current places you can access up to date information.

Colorado Department of Healthcare, Policy, and Finance (HCPF)

- Interested Parties' Advisory Group (IPAG) formation - [View Informational Memo 25-029](#)
- HCPF Office of Community Living Calendar of Stakeholder Events and Opportunities - [Office of Community Living Stakeholder Engagement](#) | [Department of Health Care Policy and Financing](#)
- HCPF Stakeholder Comment Form for the Governor's Budget Announcement - [HCPF Office of Community Living - Governor's Budget Announcement - Stakeholder Comment Form](#)
- HCPF Summary of Stakeholder Feedback - [summary document outlining stakeholder feedback](#)

Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC)

- CDC Workshops and training for parents - [Grow your knowledge, build your skills - Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition](#)
- CCDC Updates on Medicaid and Ways to Take Action - [Protect Medicaid: Take Action Now! - Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition](#)

The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region

- Proposed Changes to Medicaid and LTSS System Advocacy Priorities Survey - [Proposed Changes to Medicaid and LTSS System Advocacy Priorities Survey](#)



## What the Acronyms Mean

- **ARG** = Arbor Review Group (3rd party disability application reviewer)
- **CDASS** = Consumer-Directed Attendant Support Services
- **CES** = Children's Extensive Support
- **CFC** = Community First Choice
- **CHRP** = Children's Habilitation Residential Program
- **CMA** = Case Management Agencies. Formerly CCBs and SEPs.
- **CMRD** = Case Management Redesign
- **CCM** = Care and Case Management system (statewide Member health record). This replaced the Benefits Utilization System (BUS)
- **DD** = Developmental Disabilities
- **DSA** = Direct Service Area. This is how CMRD designated CMAs. TRE works with both DSA 11 (El Paso, Park, and Teller Counties) and DSA 12 (Pueblo County).
- **DVR** = Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- **HCPF** = Health Care Policy and Financing
- **HMA** = Health Maintenance Activities
- **IHSS** = In-Home Support Services
- **ISLA** = Interim Supports Level Assessment
- **LTSS** = Long Term Services and Supports. Also known as HCBS (Home and Community Based Services) or LTC (Long Term Care).
- **Member** = person in services
- **NA** = Nurse Assessor
- **OCL** = Office of Community Living
- **PAR** = Prior Authorization Request
- **PETI** = Post Eligibility Treatment of Income
- **RAE** = Regional Accountable Entity
- **SIS** = Supports Intensity Scale
- **SLS** = Supported Living Services