

Mill Levy Advisory Council, BCHS

Monday, February 9, 2026

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

ADA statement

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Advisory Council Members in Attendance

Heidi Que, Daren Kraft, Jayne Dixon Weber, Kari Rowe, Annette Treufeldt-Franck, and Jolie Bernstein.

Absent

Asher Johnson, Lisa Slager, Julie Marshall and Robert Enderson.

Community Members in Attendance

Jodi Walters, Ailsa Wonnacott, Kimberly DeGraff

Boulder County Employees in Attendance

Rebecca Seiden, IDD Mill Levy Program Coordinator & Ally Joel, IDD Mill Levy Program Specialist

Call to Order

5:05pm

Approval of Minutes

January 2026 minutes approved by council.

A&I Avenues Updates

Staffing:

- Total staffing target: 177
- Staffing as of February 6, 2026: 172

Job Openings:

- Children's Case Manager
- Case Manager
- IDD Intake Case Manager
- Service Coordinator
- Housing Coordinator

Mill Levy Supported Positions:

- All Mill Levy funded positions are staffed currently

Successes in December:

- A&I Avenues continues to train case managers and care coordinators to ensure they have not only the technical information regarding the many changes to waivers identified prior to the end of calendar year 2025, but also the soft skills to help with communication to clients who may see a reduction in services.
- We have a one-day training scheduled in February for Case Managers on the topic of difficult conversations. This will be led by Employer's Council. We are looking forward to giving Case Managers a space to prepare and troubleshoot the difficult conversations they are having/will have with families whose services are changing due to the Medicaid Sustainability measures.

Challenges:

- With the Medicaid Sustainability measures in place, many families are confused and concerned. In addition, just last week we heard from HCPF that some of the measures they had asked us to implement have been "paused." This causes confusion and frustration for both Case Managers and families. These include the below.

Policies Affected and Immediate Pause Required:

- **Individual Residential Services and Supports (IRSS) Rate Alignment**
 - Action Required: Please pause all IRSS-related actions, including:
 - Discussing changes in setting type with members or providers.
 - Updating or initiating PARs related to IRSS setting changes.
 - No further action should be taken until updated guidance is issued. This policy is delayed pending further direction.
- **56 Hour Caregiving Cap**
 - Action Required: Please pause all communication with members and families regarding the 56-hour caregiving cap, including:
 - Outreach or advance notice, including use of the Member Letter found in the Operational Guide, until it is updated to reflect changes
 - Planning discussions
 - Documentation or preparatory steps
 - This policy is delayed pending further direction.
- **Community Connector Age Limit**
 - Action Required: Please pause all actions related to the Community Connector age limit, including

- Discussing service removal for children under age 6
- Removing the service from support plans or PARs
- Initiating changes based on age alone
- At this time, no service changes should be made related to age eligibility.

Other items:

- Community Advisory Committee (CAC), required by HCPF CMA contract, will meet again in February for its quarterly review of complaints, concerns and successes. We are still searching for two client representatives and/or family members of those receiving services to volunteer on this committee. [Read more about volunteering for the Community Advisory Committee](#)
- A&I Avenues Board of Directors: We are also seeking prospective candidates to serve on the Board of Directors for this agency. Please help spread this word and direct any interested parties to contact Kathryn Arbour at karbour@aiavenues.org for more information about the process.
- The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) has launched a dedicated website in response to the state and federal budget pressures. More on the [Medicaid Sustainability and Colorado's LTSS System](#).
- Our Case Management team is aware of the upcoming changes and as noted above is actively training to provide the highest level of service to clients and their families during the implementation of these many changes targeted.

IDD Mill Levy Updates:

RTD LiVE Transit Program

- Eligibility: age 20+, gross household income $\leq 250\%$ FPL, no SSN/Tax ID required.
- Faster eligibility for individuals receiving SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, or who have a disability.
- Benefits: 50% RTD fare discount; IDD waiver participants may use LiVE for additional discounted trips once waiver transportation caps are reached (including Access-A-Ride).
- Application Workshops:
 - o [Feb 26, 10am to 12pm at CPWD Boulder](#)
 - o [Mar 19, 10am to 12pm at CPWD Longmont](#)

- Additional Application Support: Denver Human Services phone applications:
 - 7209444346 or DHS_RTDLIVE@denvergov.org
- Free Tax Preparation Resources
- Free tax assistance available for people earning \$69,000 or less with basic tax returns.
- VITA: IRS certified volunteers providing free in person or virtual tax filing; locations listed on Colorado VITA website.
- TCE / AARP Tax-Aid: Specialized for adults 60+, support with pensions, Social Security, retirement income.
- Get Ahead Colorado or Hacia Adelante Colorado: Connects individuals to free online and in person tax filing services; visit GetAheadColorado.org. Additional local resource list: linked via Boulder Public Library (Free Tax Preparation, Tax Help & Information).
- HCPF / State Updates
- Children's Waiver Updates
 - Community Connector (CES & CRRP): annual unit limit reduced 50% (2,080 to 1,040 units; 520 to 260 hours).
 - Exceptions available for members with significant/complex needs through CMA request.
- Adult Waiver / Medicaid Updates
 - Soft caps added to Personal Care, Homemaker, and Health Maintenance Activities as these services move from SLS to Community First Choice (previously uncapped).
 - Homemaker hours by Legally Responsible Persons (LRPs) reduced from 10 to 5 hours/week per LRP per member; up to two LRPs allowed. No exceptions permitted. Applies under both CFC and HCBS waiver until transition.
- IRSS (Residential) Billing / Rate Alignment
- Staffed Homes with rotating staff will bill at the higher IRSS rate due to higher operational costs.
- Host Homes, Family Homes, and other shared living settings will bill at the lower IRSS rate.
 - Change does not reduce services, lower rates, limit rights, or change

waiver benefits; it standardizes rates for longterm sustainability.

Public Awareness Subcommittee Report Out

Defining Program Priorities:

- IDD, ASD and BI friendly spaces. This includes the sensory friendly lighting and sound sensitivity awareness, but also awareness and compassion from staff.
- Community partners and allies. Businesses, first responders, NGOs, local political counsels and persons.
- Community visibility. Through placards, business certifications, other signage and education and training of front-off-house employees in Boulder County.

Accreditation Criteria and Training:

- AsIAM model - percentages of employees and government employees/contractors trained and ongoing accountability

Public Awareness and Certification:

- Publicly visible certification, such as decals/placards or awards, to promote awareness and pride in participation

Existing Community Training and Avoiding Duplication:

- Needs more research by subcommittee and/or vendor.
- We do think new training will need to be created for front-of-house type employees
- Training must be tailored to front-line staff and meet the specific needs of autism, IDD, and brain injury populations.

Online Resource Repository:

- Incentive proposal to add certified businesses to the calendar project that will be vendor maintained

Chamber of Commerce and Government Support:

- partnering with chambers of commerce to encouraged business participation.
- endorsements from city councils and equity offices

Working Session

- New members will receive bylaws, needs assessments, budget materials, and council info in March; mentorship/buddy system discussed.
- Discussion on using Robert's Rules, hand raising, guest participation, and

public comment timing; will consult County Attorney and draft housekeeping rules.

- Interest in shifting from email to project management tools or Teams channels; Rebecca and Ally will explore options and training needs.
- Proposal for resource lists, desk guides, visual systems maps; Jolie, Heidi, and Daren to form subcommittee.

2026 Progress Update: Bolder County's IDD, ASD, and BI Community Needs Presentation

Priority Areas Identified

- Housing
- Systems Navigation, Case Management & Advocacy
- Mental Health
- Self-Advocacy, Engagement & Social Connectedness
- Community Education & IDD Awareness
- Ongoing Monitoring & Evaluation

Housing

Progress

- Boulder County Housing Authority:
- IDD design consultation for Willoughby Corners Phase 2
- 32 units planned with supportive services for IDD, Autism, and BI residents
- Innovations funded for flexible housing supports (including family support for shared housing)
- Work underway to strengthen safety mechanisms in host-home models
- Housing navigation supports offered through Imagine!'s Community Partners Program

Opportunities

- Conduct housing needs assessment and market analysis

Systems Navigation, Case Management & Advocacy

Progress

- A&I Avenues expanded staffing (Case Specialists, Transitional CM, Crisis Specialist, ASD Program)
- ACL delivering individual, group, and systems advocacy
- Investments:
 - ~\$3.3M to A&I Avenues (CM, crisis, navigation)

- ~\$254K for individual advocacy (ACL)
- ~\$156K for systems advocacy (ACL)
- ~\$649K to BCPH for early intervention & navigation
- FindHelp resource directory in use
- Provider inventory survey underway (host/companion homes)
- Activities Calendar / Community Ambassador solicitation in progress

Opportunities

- Broaden provider capacity survey (DSPs, case management)
- Expand family/caregiver advocacy programs
- Strengthen centralized online IDD information repository

Mental Health

Progress

- Oliver Behavioral Consultants providing MH-IDD training courses and follow-up needs-gap surveys
- Imagine! operating a Mental Health Clinic for individualized services
- Workforce training expansion is ongoing

Opportunities

- Emergency wraparound services (START-model comparison)
- Additional data analysis to refine MH provider training
- Increase number of IDD-informed MH providers

Self-Advocacy, Engagement & Social Connectedness

Progress

- Building formal consultation roles for people with IDD
- Increased funding for social/recreational programming
- Programs supported include:
 - Community Link weekend programs
 - Inclusive Acres sensory-friendly theater
 - Autism Society of Boulder County: Gateway Fun Night
 - TLC Learning Center therapy access supports
 - PLAY (EXPAND), Town of Erie ACCESS, Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center, Ignite Adaptive Sports, Imagine!

Opportunities

- Strengthen avenues for IDD/Autism/BI community consultation
- Provide increased self-advocacy training

Community Education & IDD Awareness

Progress

- Development of general disability-awareness training adaptable for businesses & community spaces
- ACL delivering tailored IDD trainings to service agencies, law enforcement, educators, recreation centers, etc.

Opportunity

- Create accreditation and training program to promote IDD-friendly community spaces

Ongoing Monitoring & Evaluation

Progress

- Continued community-level disability data collection
- Monitoring of state and national policy shifts
- Improved definitions for allowable Mill Levy expenses
- Enhanced evaluation reporting requirements for funded partners
- Collaboration with Data & Reporting Team to create program-specific evaluation criteria
- Active IDD Advisory Council (since 2020)
- Recent data inputs: Residential phone survey, Residential RFP, updated needs assessment

March's Agenda Setting

- HHP discussion continued
- Overview of RFAs and the benchmarks - where they are in satisfying filling gaps.
- Budget update
- Process of a Request for Information (RFI) and determine if we need one
- PA subcommittee report out

Meeting adjourned

6:58pm