

Mill Levy Advisory Council, BCHS

Monday, January 12, 2026

5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

ADA statement

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Advisory Council Members in Attendance

Lisa Slager, Daren Kraft, Asher Johnson, Jayne Dixon Weber, Kari Rowe, Annette Treufeldt-Franck and Jolie Bernstein.

Absent

Heidi Que, Julie Marshall and Robert Enderson.

Community Members in Attendance

Jodi Walters, Ailsa Wonnacott, Kimberly DeGraff, Jill Tappert, and Tim Dolan.

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

December minutes approved by council.

A&I Avenues Updates

Staffing:

- Total staffing target: 177
- Staffing as of January 12, 2026: 174

Job Openings:

- Children's Case Manager
- Case Manager x2 (1 listed as over hire)
- Early Intervention Therapist x1 (new position)

Mill Levy Supported Positions:

- All Mill Levy funded positions are staffed currently

Successes in December:

- A&I Avenues leadership recognized the holiday season by offering gifts to all staff through the Goody platform. We identified a dollar limit, and each employee had hundreds of gift choices to select from. We introduced this in December of 2024, and it was very well received with 98% participation. We are on track to exceed that level of participation as the program winds down in early February.
- 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 continue to build our common culture and are continuing to implement a robust system for performance feedback and quality improvement.

Challenges:

- We continue to make progress with turnover having reduced significantly over the course of 2025. Our ongoing challenge is to retain case managers for two years minimum given the significant investment in training. Our overall average retention rate across the organization is solid at just over 5 years. While we are making progress with new case managers, we still see departures early in their tenure, as they feel overwhelmed by the amount of detailed reporting and critical tasks they are responsible for. HCPF is preparing a survey to distribute widely among case managers sometime during this second half of the current fiscal year (ending June 30).

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:

Federal Funding Freeze Update:

- The federal government has issued a series of letters to Colorado regarding three major funding streams: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), known locally as Colorado Works; the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), which supports the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP); and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), which funds a broad range of services for vulnerable Coloradans, including child welfare.
- These letters indicate that the federal government is temporarily freezing certain funding streams for Colorado, a move that also impacts four other states. The freeze affects TANF, CCAP, and SSBG, including a small portion of child welfare funding. The action stems from federal concerns about “fraud, waste, and abuse,” and as part of this process, states have been asked to provide detailed client data—including names, birthdates, and Social Security numbers—to verify eligibility. Colorado must submit this data by January 20.
- At this time, some federal funds have already been distributed to Colorado, including TANF’s January allocation, a portion of the annual SSBG, and enough funding to cover CCAP providers through January and CCAP staff through February 15. However, it remains unclear whether these funds could later be frozen or reclaimed.
- In a significant development, the media reports that a judge has temporarily blocked the federal administration from freezing CCDF, TANF, and SSBG funds. This ruling ensures that funds will continue to flow to Colorado and its counties while a lawsuit against the federal government moves forward.

Affordable Rentals Currently Available:

- There is current immediate move-ins available for one-, two- and three-bedroom homes, in Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville and Nederland through BCHA. These properties accept housing vouchers. Please see Ally’s email with details or visit BCHA’s affordable rentals website: [Available Rentals - Boulder County](#).

BCHA Willoughby Corners Phase 2

- BCHA is incorporating most of the requests provided through the community forums led by Desiree Kameka Galloway, the IDD Design

Consultant on this development project. The building includes amenities including a private courtyard, outdoor kitchen, sensory pod rooms, exercise and movie rooms, and community spaces.

- The project aims to have a PASA provide supportive services onsite, similar to the model at 30 Pearl, ensuring residents retain the right to choose their own service providers and benefit from community events and support.
- To support this project, it was proposed to the council to draft a letter of support for Willoughby Corners to assist with funding applications to CHFA, with members agreeing to have Rebecca and Ally draft the letter, circulate for edits, and finalize before the February 1 deadline.

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

2025 Boulder County IDD Residential RFP Data

Presentation Overview

- Boulder County IDD Residential RFP Data for 2025 presented by Ally Joel.
- Data provided by Wayfinder, A&I Avenues' platform managing RFPs and IDD provider directory.

Data Included in the RFP Summary

- Service types requested: IRSS, GRSS, CHRP.
- Waiver types: DD and CHRP.
- Support levels: 1–6, none, or unknown.
- Number of provider responses.
- Status of referrals: Open, Closed, Placed, Expired.
- Reasons for unplaced referrals.

Key Terminology

- IRSS: Individual Residential Services & Supports (1–3 people).
- GRSS: Group Residential Services & Supports (4–8 people).
- CHRP: Children's Habilitation Residential Program.
- DD Waiver: Developmental Disability waiver.

Residential Service Requests 2025

- Total Boulder County residential referrals: 142.
- 124 IRSS
- 7 GRSS
- 11 CHRP

Request vs. Provider Response Trends

- Response rates remained consistent across support tiers.
- Support level generally did not impact number of responses unless the tier level was unknown.

Placement Outcomes

- 42% of IRSS referrals were placed; 58% unplaced.
- 11% of unplaced referrals remained open into 2026.
- Unplaced referrals were notably higher for tiers 2, 4, 5, 6, and “no support level.”

Reasons for Unplaced Referrals

- Most common: RFP withdrawn; plan reevaluation.
- Least common: No suitable provider; no responses received.
- Additional reasons: family not responding, choosing provider outside RFP process, staying with current provider.

Key Takeaways

- Funding/support levels were not major barriers to placement.
- Provider inventory (lack of providers) was not a major factor.
- Higher number of unplaced vs. placed referrals suggests additional non-RFP factors influence success.

Considerations for Improving Placement Success:

- Provider/home fit.
- Roommate compatibility.
- Location and community access.
- Specific behavioral or medical needs.
- Demographic considerations (gender, cultural background, etc.).

Host Home and Companion Home Provider Inventory Survey Discussion

Provider Identification

- Which providers currently offer residential services?
- How many host homes does each provider have available?
- Total beds available vs. total empty beds.

Data Accuracy

- Caution: Many HHPs work with multiple PASAs - risk of double counting.

- If providers send out their own surveys, request response rate data.

Host Home Concept

- Commonly understood as a family setting where an individual with I/DD moves in and adapts.
- If group homes (4–8 residents) are not available, consider promoting roommate model (2–3 residents).

Community Network

- Tight network of HHPs in Boulder County (BoCo) supports each other (e.g., respite care).
- Operates largely by word of mouth - potential source for information.

Provider Motivation

- Why did you decide to become a host home provider?
- What drew you to this role?
- How do providers blend residents and household together?

Provider Tenure

- How long has each provider been offering the service?
- Breakdown: % long-term successful providers vs. newer (e.g., up to 3 years, 5 years).

Support Needs

- Additional supports required.
- Burnout concerns and recruitment process challenges.

Exit Interviews

- Tap into exit interviews for insights.
- Request stories from providers who were not successful.
- Agencies may already have exit interview data.

Non-Providers

- What would make it possible for you to become a host home provider?
- Include questions for those considering becoming providers.

Legislative Update

- Pending legislation to create a public HH database (town, bed count, contact info; addresses protected).

- Sponsored by Rep. Brown; supported by Disability Law.
- Timeline: Likely a year out if passed.

February'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