

## **Mill Levy Advisory Council, BCHS**

Monday, March 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, Jolie Bernstein, Asher Johnson, Lisa Slager, Matt McMullen, Jill Tappert, Robert Morris II.

### **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**

5:50pm

### **Approval of Minutes**

February minutes approved by council.

### **A&I Avenues Updates**

Staffing:

- Total staffing target: 173
- Staffing as of March 9, 2026: 170

Job Openings:

- 3 LTSS Case Managers

Mill Levy Supported Positions:

- All Mill Levy-funded positions are staffed currently

Successes in February:

- A&I Avenues completed mandatory training with case managers to ensure they have not only the technical information regarding the many changes

underway with Medicaid waivers and services, but also the soft skills to help with communication to clients who may see a reduction in services.

- While our turnover continues to be low in comparison to other CMAs in the greater Denver metro region, we have seen an uptick and are reviewing selection criteria and ways to expand our outreach.
- Barb Wilkins- Crowder achieved her personal success goal of retiring on February 20. While her departure is a great loss for our agency, we sent her off with an open house at Acreage. Staff, community members and colleagues from near and far stopped by to wish Barb well as she begins her next big adventure.

#### Challenges:

- With the Medicaid Sustainability measures in place, many families are confused and concerned. In addition to some changes having been “paused,” as we reported last month (see notes that were included last month below) , we now are facing the almost certainly of across-the-board (ATB) cuts that will come out of the legislature’s figure setting actions in motion this week and next as they prepare the final state budget. Depending on the final numbers, CMAs and provider agencies are expecting significant ripple effects and are working on various scenarios in anticipation. We expect the news of ATBs toward the end of March.
- Policies Affected – 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 (CC) and 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
  - A&I Avenues is hosting one of its regular Provider Fairs on April 16 from 4 to 7 at our 1665 Coal Creek Drive location.
- Community Advisory Committee (CAC), required by HCPF CMA contract, met last week 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 ([karbour@aiavenues.org](mailto: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. [Medicaid Sustainability and Colorado's LTSS system.](#)

### **IDD Mill Levy Updates:**

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month

Colorado Emergency Rental Assistance:

- Emergency rental assistance available for eligible Coloradans at risk of eviction
- Application window: March 9 at 10:00 a.m. to March 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m
- Random selection; eviction-risk applicants prioritized.
- Apply on the Colorado Division of Housing website.

Maiker Housing Partners Lottery (Adams County):

- Opening Project-Based and Housing Choice Voucher lottery.
- Dates: March 4 at 7:00 a.m. through March 5 at 11:59 p.m.
- Apply online at [www.maikerhp.org](http://www.maikerhp.org).

- Recorded information available at 303-227-2743; flyers in English and Spanish.

#### Mobility 4 All:

- RTD LiVE Workshops:
  - LiVE program offers 50% discounted RTD fares for income-qualified riders.
  - In-person workshop: March 19, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at Center for People with Disabilities, Longmont.
  - January training recording available; brochures in English and Spanish.

#### The Works Program Donations:

- Boulder County Public Health program needing donated clothing and essential items.
- Items needed are warm casual clothing, winter jackets, socks/scarves/gloves/hats, casual shoes, towels, backpacks.
- Contact Georgia Babatsikos at [gabatsikos@bouldercounty.gov](mailto:gabatsikos@bouldercounty.gov).

#### Webinar on Integrated Service Coordination Models for Housing Providers

- March 16, 2026, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET.
- Focus on service coordination to support older adults and people with disabilities in subsidized housing.
- Presented by National Church Residences.
- Topics include impact of service coordination, community partnerships, and best practices.
- Registration available online.

#### HSRC background:

- Partnership between HHS and HUD supporting cross-sector collaboration for housing and supportive services.

RFA funding agreements for Programs and Services have been executed.

## **General Orientation**

### Mill Levy Background & History

- In 2002 voters approved supplement to existing mill levy to support developmental disabilities programs in Boulder County.
- In 2002 to present: Continued funding to partners including Imagine!, ACL, CPWD, PLAY Foundation.
- In 2018 the County hired OMNI Institute and Keystone Policy Center to conduct a countywide needs assessment.
- In 2019 the full report was submitted and recruitment for the IDD Advisory Council began.
- January 2020 the first IDD Advisory Council seated.

### Mill Levy Structure & Allocation

- Funded through 1.5 mill property tax
  - 1.0 mill for services for developmentally disabled persons.
  - 0.5 mill to Health & Human Services.
- Funding supports people of all ages with cognitive and developmental disabilities to live fuller, more independent lives.

### IDD Mill Levy Eligibility Definition (Updated Feb 2025)

- Documented intellectual and/or developmental disability before age 22 or adult-acquired brain injury resulting in disability.
- Includes diagnosed intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, and other neurological conditions affecting intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior.
- Individuals must be in process of or approved for a Medicaid waiver or disability benefit program to access emergency mill levy funds.

### 2018 to 2019 County Needs Assessment Overview

- Led by OMNI & Keystone; sought communitywide feedback on experiences with Mill Levy services and remaining gaps.
- Emphasized inclusion: “Nothing about us without us.”
- Data Collection & Participation
- Conducted June through October 2018.

### Methods included

- Community survey (313 respondents).
- Community forums (61 participants).
- Focus groups/interviews: 21 individuals with IDD, 5 family members, 38 professionals.

## Needs Assessment Recommendations Priority Areas

- Housing
- Mental health
- Community education & IDD awareness
- Systems navigation, case management & advocacy
- Self-advocacy, community engagement & social connectedness
- Ongoing monitoring & evaluation

## IDD Advisory Council Purpose & Composition

- Established in 2019.
- Purpose: Advise and recommend actions to the Board of County Commissioners to improve services for residents with IDD.
- 11 members, appointed by BOCC, representing:
  - Individuals with IDD.
  - Family members/caregivers.
  - Nonprofits/businesses with expertise in the IDD community.
  - Community members with expertise in areas like transportation, housing, recreation, behavioral health, employment.
  - Committed to identifying and implementing new resources for the IDD community.

## Solicitations Led or Recommended by the Council

- 2022: Systems Navigation solicitation.
- 2024: Direct Services RFA; Social & Recreational RFA.
- 2025: IDD Housing Program solicitation; Programs & Services RFA; Housing Needs solicitation; Willoughby Corners recommendation.
- 2026: IDD Housing Needs RFP; IDD Community Needs RFP.

## Ethics & Conflict of Interest Guidance

- Members should contact staff if they suspect a conflict.
- Possible outcomes:
  - No action needed.
  - Disclosure required prior to discussion/vote.
  - Recusal (no participation in discussion or decision-making).
- Members must be mindful when speaking publicly and should not represent the council unless formally designated.

## **IDD Mill Levy Presentation Where We Are Now**

### Housing Progress and Activities

- Boulder County Housing Authority

- IDD design consultant engaged for Willoughby Corner Phase 2.
- Construction and supportive services planned for 32 units dedicated to IDD, autism, and brain injury.
- Imagine!
  - Housing navigation via Community Partners Program.
  - Residential Support Specialist focuses on housing stabilization.
- Upcoming Opportunity
  - Conduct countywide housing needs assessment/market analysis.

#### Systems Navigation, Case Management & Advocacy Progress

- A&I Avenues
  - Case Specialists I & II, Transitional Case Manager, Crisis Specialist.
  - Family Support Services Program and Autism Spectrum Disorder Program
- ACL
  - Individual, group, and systems advocacy.
- Upcoming Opportunity
  - Collect data on provider capacity (DSPs, case management, etc.).

#### Mental Health Progress

- Oliver Behavioral Consultants
  - Two offerings of MH-IDD training for Medicaid-eligible providers.
  - Follow-up survey to identify remaining gaps.
- Imagine!
  - Mental Health Clinic providing comprehensive MH services.
- Upcoming Opportunity
  - Develop emergency wrap-around services solicitation (modeled after START), including additional training.

#### Self-Advocacy, Engagement & Social Connectedness Progress

- Community Link Weekend social programming.
- Inclusive Acres Sensory-friendly theater offerings.
- Autism Society of Boulder County – Gateway Fun Night.
- TLC Learning Center Supporting families accessing therapy.
- Recreation Partners

- PLAY/EXPAND
- Town of Erie (ACCESS)
- Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center
- Ignite Adaptive Sports
- Imagine! recreation programs
- Upcoming Opportunities
  - Create a solicitation requiring an activities calendar.
  - Develop structured avenues for input and consultation from people with IDD, autism, and brain injury.

#### Community Education & IDD Awareness Progress

- ACL
  - Leading group & systems advocacy (e.g., SABE).
- Upcoming Opportunity
  - Invest in accreditation and training programs to:
  - Increase IDD, autism, and brain injury awareness.
  - Promote community spaces that are welcoming and accessible.

#### Ongoing Monitoring & Evaluation Progress

- Active IDD Advisory Council since 2020.
- Updated definition of target populations to include autism and brain injury.
- Collaboration with Data & Reporting Team on evaluation frameworks.
- Residential phone survey conducted.
- Plans for updated needs assessment.
- Ongoing policy monitoring and communication.

#### Housing Goals

- Imagine!'s Community Partners Program
  - Serve 80 individuals over two years.
  - 80% show improvement on AFLS (life skills).
  - 90% show increased confidence in independent living.

#### Advocacy Goals

- Individual Advocacy
  - 70% of participants with advocacy goals show increased ability to navigate systems.
- Group Advocacy
  - 75% report decreased isolation and increased social connection.
- Systems Advocacy
  - 75% of goals achieved improving access and service quality.

#### Systems Navigation Goals

- A&I Systems Navigation

- 80% successfully enrolled in public benefits.
- Boulder County Public Health – Children with Special Needs
  - 90% of families show progress on shared care plan goals.
  - 85% with Medicaid Buy-In/waiver goals successfully enroll.

#### A&I Avenues Case Management Agency Goals

- Case Management
  - 80% experience a positive outcome after crisis support.
- Crisis Management
  - 100% of eligible clients receive one-time financial stabilization assistance.
- Transitional Case Management
  - 100% enrolled in an A&I program by year end.

#### Mental Health Goals

- Imagine! Mental Health Clinic
  - 75% show improved or maintained social/emotional wellness.
- Public Health CSN Program
  - 100% of families offered MH consultation or life coaching.
  - Families show progress toward at least one MH goal.
- Planned
  - Release solicitation for MH wrap-around services and provider training.

#### Self-Advocacy, Engagement & Social Connectedness Goals

##### PLAY Boulder (EXPAND)

- Increase unduplicated participants from previous year.
- Maintain or increase number of activities offered.
- Identify and outreach to 4 agencies serving underserved populations at least twice per year.

#### Inclusive Acres

- 80% of families report increased inclusion and skill gains.

#### Ignite Adaptive Sports

- 50% report increased confidence.
- 90% feel accepted and included.
- 60% report improved quality of life.

### Imagine! (Social/Emotional)

- 75% maintain or improve social/emotional wellness.

### Town of Erie (ACCESS)

- 75% of participants report increased confidence, skills, or inclusion.
- 80% of staff show increased preparedness and knowledge after training.

### Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center

- 75% show maintained or improved physical attributes.
- 75% show measurable improvement in psychological qualities (confidence, resilience, regulation, problem-solving, empathy).

### TLC Learning Center

- 90% of scholarship-supported clients receive 20+ therapy visits per discipline by year-end.

### Budget

- The program manages approximately \$10 million annually, with an additional ~\$8 million in fund balance targeted for major initiatives such as housing, including the Willoughby Corners project.
- Funding guided by 2 year cycles for most programs; one-time capital for projects like Willoughby Corners.
- Agencies meet with county data/performance team to define measurable outcomes; biannual reporting; funding can be adjusted based on results.
- Outcome areas include functional living skills, independence, reduced isolation, benefits enrollment, and confidence/self-advocacy with high target percentages for improvement.

### Funding overview

- A&I Avenues: \$3,344,614; Supports Medicaid waiver case management, systems navigation, crisis management, family support, and autism services.
- Association for Community Living (Boulder & Broomfield Counties):

\$156,839; Provides group advocacy to help people of all ages stay socially connected.

- Association for Community Living (Boulder & Broomfield Counties): \$254,445; Provides one-on-one advocacy to help people of all ages navigate complex systems.
- Boulder County Housing Authority: \$10,000; Hires an IDD design consultant for planning accessible residential units at Willoughby Corner.
- Boulder County Housing Authority: \$2,000,000; Designs and builds 32 inclusive, supportive residential units at Willoughby Corner for people with IDD, autism, and brain injury.
- Boulder County Public Health: \$649,602; Provides care coordination for children with cognitive and developmental disabilities.
- CCAP (Child Care Assistance Program): \$502,194; Helps families pay for quality childcare for children with disabilities up to age 18.
- Center for People with Disabilities: \$99,347; Teaches independent living skills to people with IDD, autism, and brain injury.
- Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center: \$50,000; Expands access to equine therapy for children and adults.
- Community Link Social: \$57,092; Offers inclusive weekend activities for adults with IDD to build social connections and reduce isolation.
- Developmental Disabilities Center (Imagine!): \$2,534,744; Supports direct services for adults and children, including mental health and behavioral services.
- Developmental Disabilities Center (Imagine!): \$217,285; Helps people with IDD, autism, and brain injury find and maintain stable, long-term housing.

- Financial Resource Team Emergency Funds: \$50,000; Provides emergency funds for residents with IDD, autism, and brain injury who have urgent or unmet needs.
- Ignite Adaptive Sports: \$25,000; Expands access to adaptive winter sports.
- Inclusive Acres of Boulder County: \$8,450; Offers social activities for neurodiverse youth to build connection and community.
- PLAY Boulder Foundation: \$205,347; Provides therapeutic recreation programs for people with IDD, autism, and brain injury ages 6+.
- TLC Learning Center: \$51,500; Hires a Therapeutic Program Services Director to expand pediatric OT, speech, and physical therapies.
- Town of Erie: \$49,330; Expands ACCESS adaptive programming for people of all ages.

### **April Agenda Setting**

- Develop transition age/housing training opportunities (possibly presented by A&I Avenues and ACL)
- Develop additional community education trainings for the community to fill gaps

### **Meeting adjourned**

7:42 pm