Legislation – HB -1338 / concerning planning for the effective use of Colorado’s Regional Centers for persons with Intellectual Disabilities, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation. Received bi-partisan support / There is hereby created the Regional Center Task Force, which shall study, make recommendations on, and report findings on matters relating to state-operated intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, established as regional centers.

Member Selection process – The state implemented an application process for persons interested in serving on the TF. Selections were made to ensure that a fair representation of all Stakeholders were on the TF, which included 4 members from the JBC / two Republicans / two Democrats. The Director of DHS appointed a Chair and Co-Chair to conduct the meetings.

Facilitation - Rebound Solutions was selected by the Department of Human Services to facilitate the TF meetings. There responsibilities were to schedule meetings, secure relevant documents, arrange for presentation as requested, and arrange touring community services and regional centers.

July 7, 2014 – The first meeting was held in July 2014 with the focus to develop a strategy moving forward. It was decided to spend the first 4 months or so learning about services in the community and regional centers. This included touring and have subject experts present to the TF. We also spent a significant amount of time reviewing various documents.
August 25, 2014 – In August we toured the Pueblo Regional Center and met at Colorado Bluesky Enterprises Infant Toddler Center. The focus of the meeting was to listen to testimony from community providers, ARC, and families, from the Southern part of the state. Testimony was related to how the Pueblo Regional Center has assisted and to provide the TF an overview of the type of community services available in different parts of the state.

September 28, 2014 – In September we toured the Grand Junction Regional Center. The Task Force meeting was held on the RC grounds and similar to Pueblo the TF listened to testimony for community providers on the western slop. Again, the focus was gain a better understanding of services available in the part of the state. The TF also established a sub-committee to review the current Regional Center admissions policy. The committee was to submit recommendations to the TF on changes to the policy.

October 27, 2014 – The Task Force meet at Wheat Ridge Regional Center. The TF toured the center and again met on the grounds after.

Information presented: - Between July and November the TF dedicated itself to learning about the services in the regional centers and in the communities. We also received presentations and/or read the following (this list is not all inclusive):

- Community Services from the DIDD
- HCPF Overview
- Spark Institute Report
- JFK Partners / CANDO Gap Analysis Project
- Olmstead Decision
- Colorado Olmstead Decision
- Colorado Community Living Plan
- Reimbursement structures
Public Comments: All meeting are open to the public and time is given for interested parties to address the TF. Sub-Committee meetings are also open to the public and there is access to call in if unable to attend in person.

Survey - A significant issue that has been discussed is the outcome of the 103 persons who transitioned from the Regional Centers to the Community. The TF felt that understanding the outcomes of these persons would help inform future decisions. As a result HCPF/DHS identified a Survey tool that could be used to gather the information. MFP was the tool selected. The Departments also found a way to fund the survey. The survey is in process now.

Sub-committees - In January the TF voted to create 3 sub-committees 1) Medically Complex 2) Sex Offenders 3) High Behavioral. The Chairs of the committees were selected from the TF with representation from the community, Departments, and Regional Centers. The Sub-Committees have all met several times. Their mission is to investigate current services and gaps in services and make recommendations to the TF by May 2015.

Early Outcomes of the Task Force –
- Members have a better understanding of the community services and services in the Regional Centers.
- The Admissions policy to the Regional Center was revamped.
- A Survey tool was identified, implemented, and funded to gather data on the 103 individuals who transitioned from the Regional Centers to the Community.
- 3 Sub-Committees were formed to study current services, gaps, and funding for 3 these special groups. The committees are to make recommendations to the TF by May 2015.
**Future** – Once the data is obtained from the Survey & the sub-committees have made their recommendations, the TF will work to formulate recommendations to the JBC on or before December 2015. Recommendations will be based on these data and the information provided throughout this process.

**Personal Impressions:** As a Task Force member I have been enriched by the level of knowledge of other members. I have a better understanding of the Regional Center services and how families feel about those services. I have learned from other members and have formed professional relationships. While the work of the Task Force is not compete I believe strongly that we have a great group of people who are focused on the best possible outcomes for persons with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities.

*Presented By:*

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