



The Newsletter That Serves Its Readers



# PASCO Picayune

Your Home. Your Community. Your #1 Choice.



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Is the alphabet soup of special education confusing for you to understand?

The concepts of 504s, IEPs, and other acronyms leave many parents frustrated in their quest to understand the education system and make decisions to accommodate their child's needs.

Join The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas Counties as we facilitate a workshop to help parents of school-aged children with I/DD obtain a better understanding of their rights and available resources.

### Participants will:

- Learn how to be proactive when communication issues arise
- Find out about their rights and their child's rights as protected by state and federal law
- Learn about special education funding in Colorado
- Have the opportunity to ask questions and hear feedback from other parents

## Back to School Basics

Special Education, 504s, and IEPs



### Guest Speakers:

- ❖ Cg La Scala, Director of Advocacy at The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas Counties
- ❖ Ed Steinberg, Ph.D., former State Director of Special Education for the Colorado Department of Education



September 9 (6:30pm - 8:30pm)

**Where:** Highlands Ranch Community Association- Eastridge Recreation Center, 9568 University Boulevard, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

### REPEAT Presentation

September 19 (10:00am-12:00 pm)

**Where:** The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas Counties 6538 S. Racine Circle, Centennial, CO 80111

### WORKSHOPS ARE FREE!!

Please RSVP to [kim@arc-ad.org](mailto:kim@arc-ad.org) or call (720) 457-1032

A meal will be served at this presentation so we appreciate RSVPs; however, we understand that things come up. Please give us as much advance notice as possible, but don't let an RSVP prevent you from attending!



## Family Liaison (Pilot) Program

To reach more people about PASCO services, as well as communicate with existing PASCO employees and clients, beginning in late September, PASCO will launch the Family Liaison pilot program. The role of the job (developed by a PASCO Mom) will essentially consist of two distinct yet equally important parts; 1) Community Outreach to get the PASCO message to new clients who may benefit and 2) Existing Client and Employee relationship building.

By assisting the Outreach team in various geographical areas at localized events (health fairs, farmers markets, fall harvest festivals, etc...) PASCO will be

able to reach a variety of people (who could greatly benefit from programs), from people who participate as employees and clients in PASCO services.

The second function of this job will be client and employee relationship building. We believe PASCO families would benefit from developing deeper connections to other families who may have similar experiences. The Family Liaison will call CNAs who are serving a family member throughout the year as a personal touch, developing a relationship. They would also help in planning events for specific areas as well as relaying information about resources available.

As the program progresses, we look forward to your cooperation. It will begin in three areas of Metro Denver—North (Thornton), Central (Denver), South (Littleton), with Kimbra, Marci and Vickie being the pilots of the pilot. If you live in one of these areas look out for an introductory call in the next few months. Here's hoping to the success of this new endeavor. Please feel free to call or email me directly with questions/concerns.

(303) 274-3654

[damian.rosenberg@pascohh.com](mailto:damian.rosenberg@pascohh.com)



Our friends at Pepsi and Suncor Energy are teaming again this year to raise funds for Kids Mobility Network.

For the months of August and September, Pepsi is offering many, many incredible product specials on Pepsi and Rockstar Energy Drink products. In addition to offering deep product discounts to you, Pepsi will donate a portion of every sale to Kids Mobility Network to help us serve children with disabilities.

Pepsi, Suncor Energy, and Kids Mobility Network invite you to visit any Suncor store across the front range to take advantage of these great Pepsi promotions. Suncor stores are branded as Shell gasoline stations. For a full list of participating locations please check out our website at [www.kidsmobility.org](http://www.kidsmobility.org)



## Nursing Corner

It is with great sadness that we are sharing Pat Drew, RN passed away on 6/3/15. I visited Pat a week prior to her passing and she wanted me to share a few words with colleagues, consumers and families once she had passed away.

Pat wanted her colleagues, consumers and families to know that she had numerous nursing jobs throughout her career and was new to home health when she joined PASCO. Once she joined PASCO, she immediately knew that home health was her favorite place in nursing and just loved her families and consumers.

We will miss seeing her and her beloved Newfoundland puppies in the office.

Pat had numerous siblings that provided her support at home during her time of illness.

We would like to welcome to the nursing team:

Marcia Polynice  
Lindsay Amacker  
Denise Anker  
Kelly Lopez  
Lew Hazen  
Penny Jones  
Becky Lynch  
Maria Salcido  
Patty Wisell  
Melissa Cabeen

We would like to say good bye to Peggy Grove, RN, you will be missed and thank you for all that you have done. We hope you come back to visit us with your fabulous baked goods.

If you have any questions or difficulties

## Human Resource Corner

Hello valued PASCO employees and newsletter readers:

It is with a heavy heart I write this article. This is the first newsletter that has come out since Steven Callaway has retired from PASCO. He was more than just an HR Director - he was a friend and was genuinely concerned with all of our lives. He knew everyone by name, by face, and he knew our families. It was extremely hard to see him go. However, he is keeping in touch with us in the office. Steve is starting a small business of his own, refinishing furniture and redoing the upholstery. If you have any thank you cards or notes that you would like pass on to Steve, please send them to us in HR and we will make sure that he gets them.

Additionally, many of you have noticed a new face in the HR department - Kara Vigil. Kara started with PASCO as a field C.N.A and has worked her way into a position in the office. She is here for support on a lot of our HR needs. Kara has also been helping out with the intake process in the new I/DD service lines. Please say hi to Kara as well when you are in the office. There are several HR updates that we wanted to share. First, regarding the required annual

skills competency - we have a new location. We are now offering it at the Community College of Denver - Lowry campus. If this location is more convenient to you, please ask Krystle Heartso about dates and times that they have available to complete the requirement.

Open enrollment went well this year. We received a lot of positive feedback about the process being easier this year, and there



being less stress regarding enrollment. Hopefully we can continue to have a simplified enrollment process where you are able to maintain your elections each year.

We are always hiring C.N.A.s, direct service providers, and nurses— please e mail [chris.lauer@pascohh.com](mailto:chris.lauer@pascohh.com) or visit our website

[www.pascohh.com](http://www.pascohh.com) and visit the career opportunities page.

Finally, the Summer Picnic is coming soon! Due to park reservations, we had to move it to a Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at Morse Park. If you would like to RSVP, please contact Alejandra Merjil in the office. She is often at the front desk, but is available in HR as well. She can be reached at

[Alejandra.Merjil@Pascohh.com](mailto:Alejandra.Merjil@Pascohh.com)

Thank you all for your hard work, and dedication to the PASCO mission.

Adam, Chris, Holly, Krystle, Kara, and Alejandra - The Human Resources Team

contacting your primary nurse, please contact Stephanie Campbell, RN during office hours. You may also call on-call (303) 231-6479 if you need to speak to a nurse when the office is closed.

We wish you well,  
Denise Hodgert, RN, M.S./HSA  
Director of Nursing Administration x 313

Stephanie Campbell, RN, BSN  
Clinical Nursing Supervisor x 314

## Turmeric Smoothie

A great (and delicious) recipe for overall health.

- 1 Cup hemp or coconut milk
- 1/2 Cup frozen pineapple (or mango chunks)
- 1 fresh banana
- 1 Tbs. coconut oil
- tsp. turmeric (can be increased by a tsp.)
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ginger

Mix and enjoy the frothy deliciousness.



## Jackson's Honest Chips: A Mother's Story

Our son, Jackson, suffered from an undiagnosed autoimmune disease for nearly 11 years before he received an official diagnosis from the Undiagnosed Disease Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in late 2014. Starting at age two, this rare disorder gradually robbed Jackson of all gross and fine motor skills; by the time he was five, he was living in a wheelchair and completely dependent for all his needs. As part of the journey to find an explanation for his motor loss, we started to experiment with his diet in an attempt to manage some of his symptoms (weight loss, gastrointestinal discomfort, eczema, neurological discomfort/posturing). In researching various options, we settled on a Paleo diet, an anti-inflammatory approach loaded with traditional saturated fats like coconut oil, cod liver oil, lard and grass-fed butter. With-

in several months, we saw many of the above-mentioned secondary symptoms decrease and gradually disappear. What we assumed then and later confirmed with the NIH was that the anti-inflammatory



foods he was eating decreased the in-

flammation levels in his body which were (and continue to be) the primary cause of his neurological issues.

We started Jackson's Honest because we learned firsthand that there are fats that heal and

fats that harm. Our visits to various health food stores and natural grocers across the country always ended in frustration when we couldn't find a "better for you" potato chip cooked in a healthy oil like coconut oil. So, we decided to make them ourselves and share Jackson's story in a positive way.

Jackson's Honest offers Sea Salt, Salt + Vinegar, Sweet Potato and Purple Heirloom potato chips and Blue Corn, Yellow Corn and Salsa Fresca tortilla chips at all Whole Foods and Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage. A portion of the proceeds of sales gets donated to Children's Hospital and other child-health initiatives.

*(Along with being the owner of Jackson's Honest Chips—Megan Reamer is a PASCO mom)*

## Assisted Cycling Tours

SEPTEMBER

Crested Butte trip - 4 day trip from **Sep 12-15**. We'll be enjoying some time in Crested Butte, riding bikes before the snow starts falling. Each day will consist of an optional bike ride, with some time each day to just hang out and enjoy the scenery doing whatever you'd like. Price will be coming shortly, but will include food, lodging and adaptive tandems or hand cycles, should you need

them. The entire family is welcome!

Strider Camp Fort Collins - **September 19th** 9am-12pm. Join us for a Strider learn to balance camp. The program will be a series of balance bike skills with sufficient breaks for the kids to be able to absorb the course. Each attendee will receive their own Strider Bike as a part of the class and families will receive the course curriculum in order to continue the drills at home with their chil-

dren. Open to kids of ALL abilities, we strive for an inclusive environment for all. Scholarships are available as well.

This is currently the schedule. I'll have more information on these shortly and get it back to you. You call me or email me via our 303 578-2281 number or via [info@assistedcyclingtours.org](mailto:info@assistedcyclingtours.org).

Thanks for any help you can offer.

Bob Matter

## Autism Society of Colorado Connecting Families with Autism- Mentoring

The goal of the Connecting Families with Autism (CFA) is to strategically develop mentoring relationships between individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder with people who are on the same journey. The program is open to parents and family members of individuals with autism who are interested in sharing their experiences, receiving emotional support, and learning about

autism-related resources. Once a mentoring relationship is established, participants receive numerous benefits including:

- \* Regular feedback and support from their mentor.
- \* Presentations and guided conversations by experts on autism-related topics.
- \* Learning strategies to support loved ones with autism.

\* An inclusive community of individuals and families affected by autism.

\* Connections to resources, professionals, and tools to navigate autism-related organizations in Colorado.

Please contact Erica deDufour (720) 214-0794 or email [erica@autismcolorado.org](mailto:erica@autismcolorado.org) for more information.

## Message from PASCO CEO-- Ryan Zeiger

I hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready for the start of school and fall weather.



*As always, the entire team in the central office and I are here to serve all of you so if you ever need anything please don't hesitate to contact us at 303-233-3122 or contact me at [ryan.zeiger@pascoh.com](mailto:ryan.zeiger@pascoh.com). Thank you*



**PASCO Hires Chief Operating Officer** –In August we were excited to welcome Adam Steinbrunner as PASCO's Chief Operating Officer. In this role he will oversee many of the central administrative functions including Finance and HR that support both PASCO home health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability services. Adam brings many years of strategic HR, business intelligence, and operational experience to his new role at PASCO. He will focus on ensuring both the services to our clients and the support for our employees is reliable, high quality, and effective. Adam graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelors in Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences in 2000, and earned his MBA from the Thunderbird School of Management in 2009. Adam can be reached at [adam.steinbrunner@pascoh.com](mailto:adam.steinbrunner@pascoh.com).

Ryan Zeiger will continue as Chief Executive Officer and oversee all PASCO operations, but will now have more time to focus on advocacy, community outreach, and new initiatives. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Ryan, at [ryan.zeiger@pascoh.com](mailto:ryan.zeiger@pascoh.com).

**In-Home Support Services (IHSS) Legislation** – As I noted in the November letter, we were extremely excited to work with the disability community to pass two pieces of legislation to improve this consumer directed service delivery option: One bill to renew the IHSS program (Sunset Review Legislation), and the 2<sup>nd</sup> bill to improve the program. The renewal bill that was passed, extended the program for another 5 years. And the 2<sup>nd</sup> bill improved IHSS by:

- Allowing spouses to provide services
- Allowing services outside the home in the community
- Eliminating the 8.5 hour per week relative personal care limit and increasing it to approx. 40 hours a week.
- Providing guidance to regulators to allow for

increased consumer direction

- Requiring the Medicaid state agency to develop a plan to launch IHSS as a service delivery option in additional waivers (plan is due by 3/1/15, implementation timeline TBD).
- **PLEASE NOTE: Currently you can only access IHSS through the Elderly Blind and Disabled (EBD) waiver or the Children's Home and Community Based Service (C-HCBS) waiver.**

### August IHSS Update:

- Please note that while the original implementation for these changes to IHSS were planned for 3/1/2015, we received notice from the state Medicaid agency that these changes would be delayed due to continued process issues with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (the feds). As of August the state Medicaid agency believes they have resolved the process issues and have re-initiated the submission for the changes. While we are dismayed that these changes have been delayed we are excited that they are now moving again through the process.
- In April, the state Medicaid agency did release a plan for expanding the IHSS service delivery option into additional Medicaid waiver programs to the legislature. CLASP and other advocates have been working with the state Medicaid agency to review and understand the plan. In July 2015, the state Medicaid agency provided responses to clarifying questions submitted by CLASP and other advocates. Based on our current understanding we will need to advance additional legislation in the 2016 legislative session to fund the move of IHSS into the additional Medicaid waivers. We will keep you updated as this progresses, but may need

people receiving services interested in the expansion of IHSS to provide support in the legislative process.

### Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services (I/DD):

We continued to have strong interest in our I/DD services from our existing client base. We are making progress in meeting client needs, but appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to ramp-up our capabilities. The entire PASCO team has been working hard to contribute to the launch of this program. To continue to improve our capabilities, we have added the following staff specifically for PASCO I/DD Services:

- To inquire about I/DD services at PASCO please contact Andrea Peralta, Manager of I/DD services at [andrea.peralta@pascoh.com](mailto:andrea.peralta@pascoh.com).
- We were excited in June to welcome Danielle Miller, our new I/DD Case Manager, who will be working with all existing I/DD clients to ensure they receive high quality services. Danielle can be reached at [Danielle.miller@pascoh.com](mailto:Danielle.miller@pascoh.com).
- Later this month we are excited Lauren Jobe will join PASCO as the I/DD Lead Intake Coordinator. Lauren will ensure our clients have an excellent experience throughout the new client intake process.

**HIRING:** We are ALWAYS looking for good Personal Care Providers, Direct Services Providers, CNAs, LPNS and Registered Nurses. We have streamlined our application and hiring process by launching an online job application page on our website at: <http://www.pascoh.com/jobs/>. Please let us know if you have any friends or colleagues that are looking for employment. Contact [chris.lauer@pascoh.com](mailto:chris.lauer@pascoh.com) with any questions or referrals.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the picnic.

Ryan



**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**  
WASHINGTON, DC

## Research Opportunity: Disability and Disasters

The George Washington University is conducting research about how adults with physical disabilities think about and prepare for disasters.

To take part in the study, adults must:

- Be 18 years or older
- Live in the United States
- Self-identify as a person with a physical disability (limitations with physical functioning, mobility, dexterity or stamina; this includes difficulty walking, moving limbs, etc.)

Participants are invited to complete a survey online or by telephone.

The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes when completed online and approximately 40 minutes when completed by telephone. Participants will receive a \$10.00 gift card (from Amazon, iTunes, or Target) for their time and effort.

Please email [emergencyprepstudy@gmail.com](mailto:emergencyprepstudy@gmail.com) or call (202) 994-1887 for more information!



**SENIORS' RESOURCE  
CENTER**



## Care Management EOC Bill Pay

Seniors' Resource Center's care management program has funds to help older adults with their past due utility payments through

September 30, 2015.

- Seniors' Resource Center can help clients age 60+ in the following counties:
  - Adams
  - Jefferson
  - Clear Creek
  - Gilpin
- These funds can pay for overdue utility bills, firewood, and propane.
- Help with past due energy bills, must be one day in arrears. The bills do not need to be in a disconnect notice status.
- Note: bills can only be paid up \$1,000.
- Clients can be served with these funds once during the 12 month grant cycle from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

### Contact:

For Adams County and urban  
Jefferson County

303-235-6923

This generous funding is provided through an Energy Outreach Colorado grant.

Seniors' Resource Center • 3227 Chase Street Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80212 •

303.238.8151 • [www.srccolorado.org](http://www.srccolorado.org)

For Gilpin, Clear Creek and the  
Evergreen/Kittredge/Conifer area:

303-674-2843

## Putting a Face with the Name—Andrea Peralta

As the new I/DD program has blossomed from a seed to a beautiful program, much praise is owed to Andrea Peralta, the Manager of I/DD services. One drawback, it has been nearly impossible to sit her down for as few minutes to do a "Putting a Face with the Name" piece for the *Picayune*. This month, we decided to mail it in...email that is.

**What do you do for PASCO?** I am the Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) Services Program Manager. I am building a team devoted to providing excellent service delivery to children who receive services and supports from the Children's Extensive Services (CES) Waiver and to adults who receive services and supports from either the Supported Living Services (SLS) or Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waivers. I oversee referrals, intakes, enrollments and service coordination. I also provide training to Direct Service Providers who work in the homes with our children and adults receiving services.

**Where did you come to PASCO from?** Prior to joining the team at PASCO, I was a Manager in the Child and Family Programs Department at Rocky Mountain Human Services for over four years. Previous to that, I was a Manager in the Early Intervention Department at Developmental Pathways for four years. I

developed and managed the training program at both agencies as well as overseeing service coordination and provider services for children from birth to eighteen years old and their families

**How did you initially get involved with the neuro diverse population?** I am a parent of a sixteen year old who has significant intellectual disabilities and medical needs. My prior professional life was that of a Marriage, Child and Family Therapist. Facing the challenges and obstacles that my family faced during the first three years of my son's life taught me that I needed to utilize my knowledge and skills to support other parents and their children. Consequently, I have worked in the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities field now for thirteen years.

**Best parts of setting up the I/DD program for PASCO?** I have greatly enjoyed the creativity involved with developing exciting new services for the individuals receiving services from PASCO. I love to develop systems, to train and mentor staff, and to assure that we strive every day to provide excellent service delivery to every individual receiving services and their families/caregivers.

**Worst parts?** Developing a program requires time to build systems and teams. This means that we have not been able to enroll as many individuals as we would like to enroll as quickly as we would like.

**Thoughts on PASCO thus far?** PASCO is an amazing organization built on a foundation that prioritizes advocacy for and serving others. All of the staff care deeply for individuals receiving services and strive to support every person in need of support. The leadership of PASCO is amazing, caring not only for the individuals receiving services and their families/caregivers, but also for every single employee!

**When you're not working (your 150 hours a week), how do you spend your time?** I love to spending time with my husband, my son, my daughter and our three Shih Tzu's. I love taking walks as a family and exploring this beautiful state whenever possible. I also love to travel and wish I could not only visit every state in the United States but every country in Europe.

**Tips for people to fully access benefits?** Not every agency and person in the field provide detailed information and supports. It is important that every person understands that their needs and questions have value. Ask questions and reach out to other families and community organizations. Call us in I/DD Services- we would love to help each and every person in regards to services, supports, information and resources.



*"we need allies who are every bit as passionate as we are about employment rights for people with disabilities. Beyond our community, we need allies who see our humanity, our competence and our commitment to social change and social justice."*

## Too Cool for School 2015: Elementary School Edition



*Seppie De Smet is a Belgian based internationally renowned Trend-Spotter™. When not spotting the worlds hottest new fads, Seppie is a self-described vlogger, amateur detective, ironic caricaturist, pen pal, rickshaw designer and cereal enthusiast. De Smet has also dabbled in candle-dripping, "Silly Embroidery", and local Ghent politics.*

The *Picayune* was lucky to catch up with Mr. De Smet (via email) to ask him about what all the elementary school age kids in America will be longing for come the beginning of the new year-- his answer was simple and brief:

Left-Handed Scissors

You heard it hear first.

## Million Gimp March Ask For Assistance

The Million Gimp March (MGM) is a March planned for October 14, 2016 in Washington, DC to bring awareness of the staggering unemployment rate among people with disabilities. It is the inaugural project of the Million Gimp Employment Rights Fund, Inc. (MGERF).

MGM/MGERF was formed in September, 2015 by individuals with disabilities. These individuals come from various parts of the country. All have multiple disabilities, including mobility disabilities.

### Our name

Now, a word about the use of the term, "Gimp". The word simply means "one who limps or walks in a halting manner". While the word can be and has been used in disparaging ways by some, it is a term that many of us in the disability community use for self-identification, whether our specific disability is a mobility impairment or not. We have taken back the word for ourselves. Why did we decide to use "Gimp" in our name? Frankly, it was to reflect the "in-your-face nature" of discrimination toward, and marginalization of our community and our anger over it. Also, we knew that a more tame or ordinary name would easily be forgotten, but no one would forget the "Million Gimp March"!

Despite the name seeming to imply that only those with mobility related disabilities are involved or represented, we solemnly pledge that the Million Gimp March is for ALL members of the disability community, regardless of the nature of their disability.

### What we need to be successful

Our team has managed to do a lot in the time that we have been organizing for the March, but there are four main areas that we need help in: outreach, fundraising, marketing ourselves and people. We hope

that you or your organization will be able to help us out or give us ideas in those areas.

### Outreach



We need to reach out to potential allies within the disability community, but also outside of it. Within the disability community, we need allies who are every bit as passionate as we are about employment rights for people with disabilities. Beyond our community, we need allies who see our humanity, our competence and our commitment to social change and social justice. We want those people to see us and our passion and say, "What can we do to help out"? "How can we join you"? If you know of anyone or any group that fits the bill, I am more than willing to go to meetings or talk to people about MGM.

### Fundraising

Although we have raised a few hundred dollars, obviously, we'll have to raise thousands of dollars to put on this March. We'll need all kinds of fundraisers to raise money. Our team has put forth ideas about spaghetti dinners and pancake breakfasts. Currently, we have been organizing a monthly fundraising event in conjunction with Buffalo Wild Wings called Eat Wings, Raise Funds. We also have our t-shirts, which are made by a company in Ohio. We have a GoFundMe

page, as well, but only \$30 in donations.

What we really need are grants and large donations, both of money, but also materials and in-kind donations. We need people and companies to invest, if you will, in us and our vision. We already have a fundraising letter that's included. If potential funders prefer an interview, I'll be most happy to do that.

### Marketing

We need to get the name, idea and concept of the Million Gimp March out there! We have a website, Facebook page and Twitter account, but we need to go beyond social media. We need to have a buzz going on about us so that the March can be a rousing success. We need to be on calendars, in newsletters and on tv, even if it's public access tv.

### People

Finally, we need people to do the day-to-day organizing of the March. We have six organizers but they are spread around the country. Denver is a large enough city that we should be able to have a team of people to help out at fundraisers such as our monthly Eat Wings, Raise Funds event at Buffalo Wild Wings. They can help organize events or pass out flyers at events or any number of things. So, that's where we are now. If you are interested or have questions, please feel free to contact me at [anitacameron007@gmail.com](mailto:anitacameron007@gmail.com) or at 720-413-9064.

Also, if you know of anyone who may be interested, please feel free to forward this email to them.

Here is the link to the website: <http://www.milliongimpmarch.com/home.html>

Thank you so much for your support!

Anita Cameron  
Million Gimp March

# Ombudsmen Services



**COLORADO**  
Office of Community  
Access & Independence  
Division of Aging & Adult Services



Dear Stake Holders in Aging and Disabilities:

I would like to make all of you aware of a new and valuable resource for individuals enrolled in the Dual Eligible Demonstration Project.

As you know the Demonstration Project began last year and automatically enrolled individuals receiving both Medicare and Medicaid into a Regional Care Collaborative Organization (RCCO) to manage their health benefits unless the individual requested not to be enrolled.

In order to ensure that these individuals were not adversely affected by the change the State received additional funding to provide Ombudsman

services to individuals receiving both Medicare and Medicaid benefits under a RCCO. In May 2015, Disability Law Colorado (DLC), under a grant administered by the SUA, established a new program Advocacy for Medicare & Medicaid to provide advocacy for recipients who are having difficulty with accessing or receiving needed services. This Program is currently headed by lead advocate Julie Bansch-Wickert. Julie's role is to provide advocacy and resource assistance to any recipient under the Demonstration Project.

I would like to ask all of you to assist us in making eligible consumers aware of this service and to pass on this information to anyone needing assistance with obtaining benefits

under the Medicare/Medicaid Demonstration Project. Also, if you would like to reach out to Julie for information, please feel free to do so. Julie's contact information is:

**Julie Bansch-Wickert, MSW, LCSW**

Medicare/Medicaid Ombudsman

Disability Law Colorado

(303)722-0511

[jbanschwick-ert@disabilitylawco.org](mailto:jbanschwick-ert@disabilitylawco.org)

We sincerely appreciate your help in passing this information along.



**Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council (CDDC)**

**Local Leadership Development Project**

## Coming soon!

### Leadership Training for:

Fifteen (15) adults with disabilities and/or family members of children with disabilities ages birth to 21.

Individuals from counties in the Denver Metro area: Arapahoe, Adams, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson

- Become an active civic leader!
- Learn about the disability rights movement, the legislative process, technology, advocacy, community building and so much more!
- Must commit to a total of seven meetings in addition to a Friday/Saturday weekend in March.
- Must commit to doing interesting learning activities between sessions.
- Attendance and participation are required for the success of the leadership development program.

### Seven Thursday Evening Sessions:

2015: Sept, 17, Oct 15, Nov 19;

Dec 17

2016: Jan 21; Feb 18; April 21

In addition to one Legislative and Public Policy Session on a Friday and Saturday in March, 2016



Dinner will be provided at 5:30 for participants and the Session will begin at 6:00 pm every evening, ending at 9 pm.

Location: Developmental Pathways, 11111 E Mississippi Avenue, Aurora 80012

To request additional information and apply, contact:

Lori Parker, Project Coordinator,  
(303) 632-6840 or [lori@thrivectr.org](mailto:lori@thrivectr.org)

Childcare and Spanish Translation will be provided when requested in advance.

Deadline for applications, childcare requests, and Spanish translation requests: September 1st, 2015



**Become the leader you have always wanted to be!**

## Family Leadership TRAINING INSTITUTE

Valued at \$2,500, but due to grant funding, FREE to first 30 registrants.

One night per week - 20 sessions of learning, connecting and making a difference.

Childcare provided.



The Family Leadership Training Institute will:

- Help you develop leadership skills.
- Empower and inspire you.
- Provide opportunities for changes in your life, your family and your community.
- Help you take your ideas for community change and make them a reality.
- Provide you with tools for civic engagement required for successful community changes.

And you'll earn a prestigious Certificate of Completion!

**REGISTER NOW for the JANUARY 2016 class!**

For more information and to apply:

Contact Eileen Forlenza: 303-692-2794 or complete an application online at

[www.coloradofamilyleadership.com](http://www.coloradofamilyleadership.com)



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Department of Public  
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