

PASCO News

June 2020

PASCO will CONTINUE to fight for equality

The last few days has offered a very real glimpse into the American experience, and how our shared history is often one of implicit bias and systemic oppression. We, as a community, must realize our own privilege and speak out against these racial disparities. Black Lives Matter.

It is important to reflect that equality is not just for one race, physical ability, creed, or orientation but for all intersections of marginalized people. PASCO's core was built upon the foundation that everyone should have the same access and rights without prejudice, embodied by founder Barry Rosenberg. Peaceful protests and civil disobedience were used by the [Gang of 19](#) to bring change to public transportation in the 1970s. Current PASCO alum participated in the Capitol Crawl to demonstrate unequal rights and the need for the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Without these powerful actions by brave and fed-up individuals, many freedoms and accesses might not be enjoyed today.

While we have always and will always value diversity and inclusion, holding the mirror shows that PASCO can use this moment to grow as well. The last ten days have allowed us to reflect on actions we can take as an agency. PASCO has committed to form a Diversity and Inclusion team that will focus on education, training, and strategies to not just fight inequality, wherever we see it — but to become a truly inclusive company.

There is popular Chinese proverb, that says; "The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago...The second-best time is now." Today we plant those seeds, where through hard work, dedication and persistence a forest will flourish.

We can do better.

Medicaid Eligibility During COVID-19

Do I need to worry about losing my coverage during this time?

According to Health First Colorado as of May 21, 2020 "If you had coverage on March 18, 2020, we will keep your benefits active until the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency. That means that you will have health care benefits until the end of the COVID-19 crisis."

We are aware that some clients are receiving letters about service authorizations ending June 30, 2020.

Please contact PASCO if you receive this letter so that we can coordinate with you on next steps.

To Manage your Benefits or to Apply for Coverage

Please Visit: CO.gov/PEAK



Colorado Access Long-term Services & Supports Update

As of July 1, 2020 Colorado Access will no longer be the Single Entry Point (SEP) for Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Elbert Counties. The new (SEP) for this area will be Rocky Mountain Human Services.

Please contact Rocky Mountain Human Services for more information: rmhumanservices.org

Virtual Community Events connection for the community



Starting the Conversation

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Relationships

This presentation will provide parents and guardians of youth with disabilities the knowledge and skills to address healthy sexual development at home.

June 16 2020 Online
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Roadmap to Care Key Transition Milestones

Erika Swanson (from PASCO) will discuss the roadmap of care for your special needs child. Topics will include: navigating the transition to adult medicaid waivers, SSI, key transition milestones, and more.

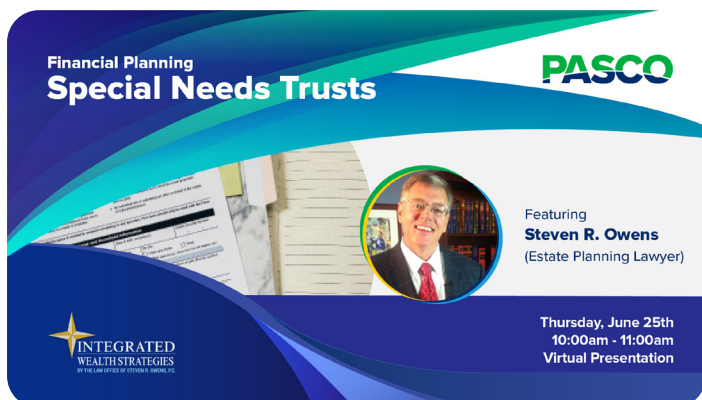
June 24 2020 Online
10:00 am - 12:30 pm



Special Needs Trust

Presenter Steven Owens, an attorney who practices extensively in the area of special needs planning, will demonstrate how you can ensure that there will be sufficient resources to care for your child for his or her entire life.

June 25 2020 Online
10:00 am - 11:00 am



Let's Connect! RSVP for your preferred events at: pascohh.com/community-events/



To the artists that created these amazing pieces, thank you.

Advocacy Corner by David Bolin



State of Colorado Advocacy Update

The Colorado Legislature started meeting again May 25th and they must pass two bills before June 30, 2020. The Long Bill (Colorado's 20-21 Budget bill) and the Education Act. Both are mandated by the Colorado Constitution to be passed and to the Governor by June 30th each year.

The Long Bill is developed by the Joint Budget Committee each year. This year has been unlike any year in Colorado's history. The committee was basically done with the budget and Long Bill in March before the pandemic hit the state. The pandemic has caused a massive reduction in tax revenue to the state and combined with the bottom dropping out of the oil and gas market, the state is facing over a \$3 billion revenue shortfall.

The JBC started meeting in mid-May to determine what they had to do to balance the state's budget as required. Listening to their discussions and having talked with many of the members, we could hear their anguish in doing the work they had to do to reach a balance budget. We heard lots of discussion and frustration on the members' part as they cut programs that they really liked.

Every department in the state took cuts. State employees won't get a raise that had originally been budgeted, the committee cut money that was to go to close the gap in the state pension program (PERA), a prison will be closed, providers (like PASCO) will have a rate decrease of 1%, higher education and K-12 education took big cuts, and there were many cuts that had to be done due to the loss of tax revenue. Many of you will feel these cuts because you have children or grandchildren in our public-school system, and they will have some struggles with their budgets. We will continue, as we have in the past, to look towards the long-term in balancing funding challenges at the state with taking care of our caregivers.

National Advocacy Update

Nationally, we have been advocating with Congress to provide assistance to Medicaid providers across the country that are providing services like PASCO. Agencies like ours have kept the people we serve in their own homes, which is exactly what we were formed to do. **Congress needs to learn that our employees are essential workers who keep consumers safe in their homes and they need to appreciate the work that you do every day!**



A message from PASCO Chairman Ryan Zeiger regarding COVID.

Watch a video from PASCO Operating Chairman Ryan Zeiger about how we have weathered many storms together and we will weather this one too.

Watch here: <https://vimeo.com/414875508/5cd4ac1b6b>

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