



# PASCO Picayune

SERVING COLORADO'S DISABILITY COMMUNITY

The Newsletter That Serves its Readers



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## Introducing The Therapy Center

We're thrilled to welcome The Therapy Center to our family! Together, we're enhancing independence, enriching lives, and improving health outcomes for our community.

### The Therapy Center offers crucial services like:

- **Child & Family Therapy**
  - o Play Therapy
  - o Teen/Adult Therapy
  - o Grief/Loss Therapy
  - o Chronic Illness Therapy
- **Music Therapy**
- **Massage Therapy**

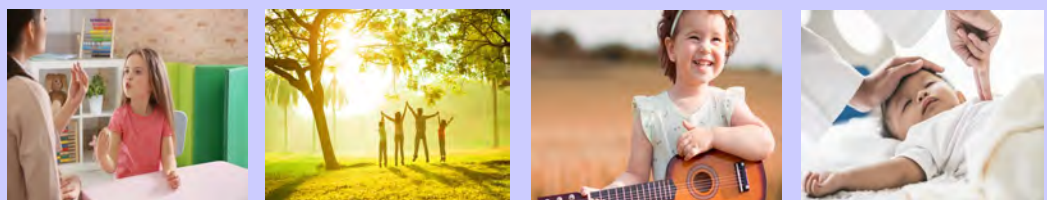


We are committed to enhancing family well-being through compassionate care and inclusive practices by fostering a supportive environment that honors diverse backgrounds, guiding care to meet unique needs. Our goal is for everyone—clients, caregivers, and staff—to feel valued, respected, and empowered. At our heart, we are a family, dedicated to caring with reliability, empathy, and compassion.

## Partnering For the Future

In 2025, Colorado will see transformative changes in disability services with the introduction of Community First Choice (see page 12), expanding access to countless individuals, and the new [Children with Complex Health Needs Waiver \(CwCHN\)](#). Together, PASCO and The Therapy Center are at the forefront of these advancements, combining decades of advocacy to ensure families thrive. For over 15 years, PASCO has fought to make In-Home Support Services accessible at the Medicaid State Plan level, eliminating the CNA licensure barriers that disproportionately affected non-native English speakers and caregivers unable to commit to extensive training programs.

Meanwhile, The Therapy Center championed the removal of the heart-wrenching Physician Statement of Life-Limiting Illness requirement, which once demanded families and physicians confirm a grim prognosis to access services—an emotional and unnecessary obstacle. Together, PASCO and The Therapy Center are poised to deliver even greater support and expanded services for families across Colorado, and are ready to embrace the opportunities these state-level changes will bring.



### Save the Date!

You're invited to the **PASCO Northern Colorado Town Hall!**

**Location:** Avery's Modern Tea House  
5685 McWhinney Blvd, Loveland, CO 80538

**Date:** Thursday, February 20  
**Time:** 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (Feel free to join us earlier or linger longer!)

Meet our new CEO, Jeff Daignault, and Senior Director of Engagement, Damian Rosenberg. This event provides a valuable opportunity to engage with leadership, discuss our goals, and contribute your insights.

Make sure to mark your calendars—we're excited to see you!

**For any inquiries, please contact:** Damian Rosenberg.

### What's your story- how did you end up as the leader at PASCO?

Well, I grew up in Canada, graduated college in Vancouver BC and found my way to California. Once settled in LA, I started as a home care scheduler for a company called 24 Hour Home Care. For the next 10+ years I worked my way up and learned the ins and outs of the home care industry. I've always been ambitious and enjoyed leadership. 24 Hour Home Care is PASCO's sister company (in California), and I was fortunate enough to be selected as CEO in September of 2024. It is an honor and a privilege to sit in this seat at PASCO

### With your fresh eyes- what piqued your interest in PASCO?

The legacy of PASCO, its humble beginnings and the deep desire to advocate for the disability community. I hear stories every day of how our staff goes above and beyond to help families in need.

### What sorts of initiatives and changes are you looking forward to bringing to the organization?

We just went through our annual planning sessions and have identified several focus areas for 2025:

- Preparing for the *Community First Choice* transition beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>  
Providing best-in-class phone and email support to our clients and caregivers
- Launching client and caregiver town halls

### In your humble estimate- what does PASCO do well? Where can we improve?

#### Where do we excel?

- Advocating for our clients (from policy to day-to-day needs)
- Medicaid expertise and identifying program opportunities

#### Where can we improve?

- We're constantly trying to increase our onboarding speed for clients and caregivers
- Collecting feedback from our clients and caregivers on how PASCO can best support them (a big focus in 2025)



**Jeff Daignault**  
PASCO CEO

### With 3 plus months in being at PASCO- what are you most excited about? Least excited about?

- Most Excited: The people and the mission
- Least Excited: State & federal politics

### Where do you see PASCO one year in the future? Five years? 10 years?

- Increasing our impact in the community. Sustainably serving more clients throughout all of Colorado
- Evolving our program offerings and service delivery model to meet the needs of our clients

### We've heard from numerous staff and clients – that in a relatively short amount of time- PASCO has had three CEOs with many people feeling that leadership has been distant and not forward facing- how do you plan to reengage with PASCO's dynamic community?

To truly run an organization like PASCO, I strongly believe you need to be in touch with your clients and employees at all levels of the organization. That means being accessible (my cell phone (213) 458-9350) and being deliberate about spending time with our clients and caregivers to understand what's working/what's not working. I also believe that clear, honest and authentic communication is critical in building trust.

### How would you describe your leadership style?

I'm a passionate, action orientated leader. Setting a clear vision for the organization and sharing how we are going to achieve our goals is an important leadership quality. I also believe my role is to help remove barriers to maximize my team's effectiveness. I also like to have fun and not take myself too seriously.

### What do you do for fun? Where are you from? Family?

I'm happily married with two boys, Finn (7) and Theo (3) and in my spare time enjoy skiing, camping, fly fishing and working with my hands (I have an old truck I enjoy tinkering with). I was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada and raised in Oakville, Ontario Canada

### Something unique about yourself?

I started beekeeping in 2024 and harvested 20lbs of delicious honey.

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**Leadership Directory**



**\*\*Introducing Damian Rosenberg: PASCO’s New Senior Director of Engagement\*\***

PASCO is thrilled to announce Damian Rosenberg as our new Senior Director of Engagement. With nearly 19 years of experience working within PASCO, Damian is set to lead the way in building stronger connections both within the company and throughout our communities.

Damian's story is deeply connected to PASCO's origins, thanks to his father's pivotal role in founding the company. This history gives him a unique insight into our core values and a dedicated passion for driving our company forward with innovation and growth.

In his new role, Damian will utilize his extensive knowledge of PASCO's internal workings and community dynamics to enhance our engagement efforts. His goal is to enrich our internal culture while simultaneously reaching out to the communities we serve.

Under Damian’s leadership, we aim to foster an environment of collaboration, diversity, and inclusivity. His vision includes implementing fresh, innovative strategies that not only reinforce our commitment to clients and employees but also deepen our community ties. With plans to host monthly gatherings, we’re excited to invite more people to be part of our growing PASCO family. This includes expanding activities beyond Denver to places like Northern Colorado, Colorado Springs, and Longmont.

Starting in February, Damian will dedicate two days a week for community interactions, whether virtually or over a coffee in person. He’s keen to hear your thoughts on resources, challenges, and ideas. Feel free to book a chat to discuss ways we can continue to grow and improve together.



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

**\*\*Engagement Initiatives:\*\***

- Strengthening connections with key community partners
- Enhancing client and caregiver engagement through training and presentations
- Monthly birthday celebrations and regular office hours
- Forming a Client/Caregiver Advisory Committee to address concerns
- Hosting PASCO Town Halls to update on our progress and plans

Join us in welcoming Damian to his new role and stay tuned for the positive changes he will bring to PASCO. Together, we are excited to build a future that emphasizes meaningful connections and community engagement.

We’re looking forward to a bright and collaborative journey with Damian at the helm, embodying the values that PASCO continues to stand for.

# Free Virtual Dementia Tour Training

The Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT) is an immersive, experiential learning program that simulates the challenges of living with dementia

**Seniors Resource Center ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**

**Friday, January 31, 2025**

Location:  
Seniors Resource Center  
3227 Chase St.  
Wheat Ridge Co 80212

Time:  
Morning: 11AM-3 PM

Registration required at  
<https://forms.gle/kXK7rd9kU1ZtnvbA7>

**Free Parking on site**

Let's Start!

Register to reserve your spot. Limited walk in space may be available, but not guaranteed

To learn more about dementia visit: [TalkAboutDementia.com](http://TalkAboutDementia.com) and [alz.org/co](http://alz.org/co)



## NOW CASTING

Northern Pictures is looking for participants for the Emmy Award winning

# Love on the Spectrum

We are looking for SINGLE people living in the United States, who are on the autism spectrum and are interested in dating.

You may have no history of dating, or you might be an experienced dater – either way feel free to get in touch and say hello.

We are hoping to represent the great diversity of the autism spectrum, and are keen to hear from a range of people.

As with the previous series, we aim to make an honest, sensitive and insightful documentary.

If you or someone you know might be interested in speaking with us, please send an email with a brief description of yourself (and a photo) to: [production@northernpictures.com.au](mailto:production@northernpictures.com.au)

## A Beacon of Hope: Brenda Mosby's Journey and Mosby Employment Services

At the age of 40, Brenda Mosby's world changed forever when she lost her eyesight. Overwhelmed by this sudden life transformation, she fell into a deep depression that lasted for over four years. However, with the guidance of compassionate individuals and a determination to reclaim her life, Brenda discovered the power to transform from within.

One pivotal figure in Brenda's journey was a retired vocational rehabilitation counselor who introduced her to the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Through DVR's services, Brenda learned how to navigate the world as a person with blindness. She gained crucial skills, such as traveling safely using buses, trains, and streets, as well as learning computer literacy. These new abilities paved the way for Brenda to pursue higher education.

Fueled by a desire to make a difference, Brenda earned her undergraduate degree in Human Services from Metropolitan State University and later obtained her master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from New York University. With her newfound confidence and skills, she set out to give back to her community.

In 2005, Brenda founded Mosby Employment Services, a company dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities find meaningful employment and independence. As a vendor for DVR, Brenda offers various services that empower her clients, including:

- **Benefits Counseling:** Helping individuals understand how returning to work will impact their Social Security benefits and other government assistance.
- **Personal Development Through Emotional Intelligence Course:** Brenda's signature three-month program is a personal triumph. Based on her own experiences, the course teaches participants how to harness the power within themselves to create a life of joy, success, and prosperity. By understanding and managing their emotions, individuals can rewrite their stories and achieve their dreams.

### These services are free through DVR

Brenda calls DVR a "hidden gem," a lifeline that helped her regain her independence and discover her purpose. Today, she strives to be a light for others, guiding them on their paths to success. Through Mosby Employment Services, Brenda embodies the spirit of resilience, empowerment, and hope.

These services are pivotal to anyone considering employment.

If you or someone you know is ready to take the next step toward a brighter future, connect with Brenda Mosby and receive a free 30 minute coaching session.

Services are offered through conference call and Zoom.

<https://brendamosby.com/>

(303)319-6955

Email: [blm@mosbyservices.com](mailto:blm@mosbyservices.com)

We work with adults 18 and older.




Every child wants to play with friends, throw a ball, share their success with family, and to know that they belong.

*What does every child with an intellectual or developmental disability want?*

***The exact same thing!***


Young Athletes is a sport and play program for children ages 2 to 7 with and without intellectual disabilities. Our focus is on fun activities that are important to mental and physical growth to develop motor skills like balance, flexibility, strength, and coordination.

Special Olympics Colorado offers year-round "Learn to" sport activities, clinics, summer camp, and special events.

Learn more and get involved by visiting:  
**[SPECIALOLYMPICSCO.ORG/YOUNGATHLETES](https://SPECIALOLYMPICSCO.ORG/YOUNGATHLETES)**





**Young Athletes**



# SENSORY-FRIENDLY STORYTELLING

Immerse yourself in a world of fantastical creatures, epic quests, and timeless lessons, as our storyteller weaves spellbinding tales.




**ALL AGES**  
ONLINE AND IN PERSON

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Person Centered
- Movement Based
- All Ages

WITH OUR STORYTELLER  
**THOMAS R WILSON**

MULTIPLE PAYMENT OPTIONS



Find more information about storytelling at [ndttrpg@gmail.com](mailto:ndttrpg@gmail.com)



# HORIZON

## Neuropsychological Services

Horizon Neuropsychological Services (HNS) sees patients ages 3-90+ and accepts most major commercial insurance carriers. HNS was founded in 2020, and our team of doctors conducts neuropsychological evaluations for children, teens, adults, and older adults with the intention of providing diagnostic clarification and informing treatment planning. Our practice operates out of 2 locations in Littleton and Boulder, Colorado. We currently employ 6 full-time board-eligible neuropsychologists, 3 postdoctoral fellows, 1 advanced practicum student, and 1 faculty affiliate. We have some exciting updates to share with our community.

In September 2024, HNS founded our Concussion Clinic, which emphasizes the importance of early intervention: the sooner patients receive management and treatment for concussions, the quicker they can return to their normal activities, such as sports, school, and work. We proudly serve the Denver metro area and Boulder through in-person visits, and the entire state of Colorado through virtual visits. For more information about the concussion clinic.

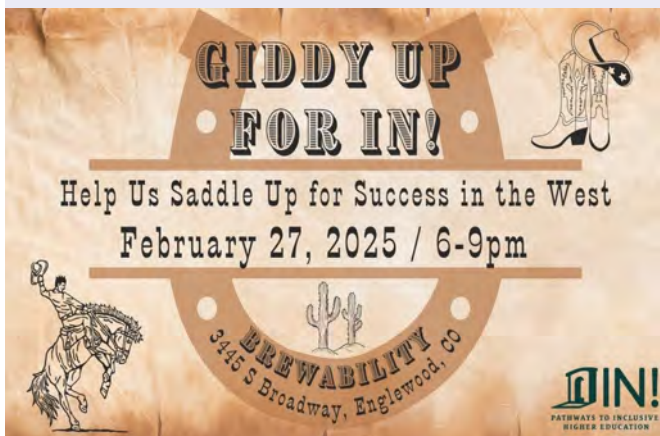
You can contact Dr. Alison Datoc at [datoc@horizonneuro.com](mailto:datoc@horizonneuro.com).

Moreover, HNS is thrilled to announce that we are offering (2) 2-year pediatric postdoctoral fellowship positions and (2) 2-year adult postdoctoral fellowship positions for the 2025-2027 cycle. Our postdoctoral programs offer advanced training in clinical neuropsychology and adhere to the Houston Conference guidelines for specialty training. Pediatric fellows will work with a broad range of neurological, neurodevelopmental, and psychological disorders in children and young adults. Adult fellows will focus on adult patients with various neurological and psychological disorders. For more information about the pediatric fellowship, you can contact Dr. Ramya Rangamannar at [rangamannar@horizonneuro.com](mailto:rangamannar@horizonneuro.com). For more information about the adult fellowship, you can contact Dr. Meghan Lechuga at [lechuga@horizonneuro.com](mailto:lechuga@horizonneuro.com).

[horizonneuro.com](http://horizonneuro.com)

Call us: (720) 242-7533

7720 S Broadway Suite 300 Littleton, CO 80122      3000 Center Green Dr Suite 230 Boulder, CO 80301



**GIDDY UP FOR IN!**

Help Us Saddle Up for Success in the West  
February 27, 2025 / 6-9pm

3445 S Broadway, Englewood, CO

**IN!**  
PATHWAYS TO INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION

## Confident Connections

An evidence-informed 7-part series for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families and providers



Explore topics of sexuality, communication, social media, intimacy, consent, relationships and LGBTQ+ issues in a safe and welcoming environment

This session is focused for people with I/DD. Future sessions will be focused for families and providers.

### ELEVATUS TRAINING



Come learn and explore with our Certified Sexuality Educator and Trainer!

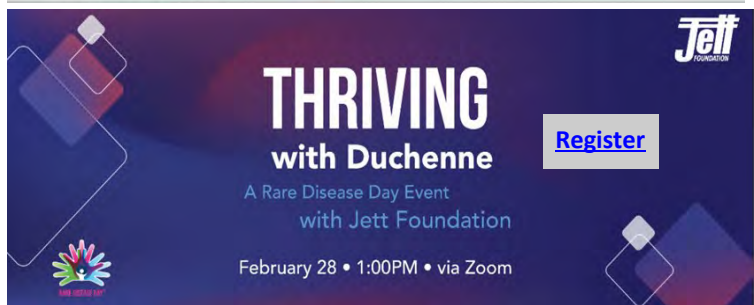
Elevatus Training is a national leader in the field of sexuality and intellectual developmental disabilities and autism [elevatustraining.com](http://elevatustraining.com)



DDRC - 11177 W 8th Ave, Lakewood

Dates of class TBD

Questions? Interested? or to register: [employmentfirst@ddrcco.com](mailto:employmentfirst@ddrcco.com) (720)544-8122



## THRIVING with Duchenne


A Rare Disease Day Event with Jett Foundation

February 28 • 1:00PM • via Zoom

[Register](#)

### Ski for NSCD presented by The North Face

Winter Park Resort | Winter Park, CO  
March 22nd 2025



**HIT THE SLOPES FOR A GOOD CAUSE!**

Calling all skiers and snowboarders of any level and all abilities! Join us on Saturday, March 22nd at 9am at the top of the Gondola for a day spent on the slopes at Winter Park Resort to support the National Sports Center for the Disabled's (NSCD) adaptive outdoor programs for youth and adults with disabilities. Begin loading the Gondola as early as 8:30am.

Ski solo or join a team for an impactful day on the mountain. With a \$75 registration fee and a \$150 fundraising minimum per person — funded by you, your friends, or family — you can compete in fun competitions including a ride every lift challenge, scavenger hunt, spring skiing costume contests, and more — **100% of event proceeds support the NSCD's year-round outdoor programs.**

[Information](#)





# DISABILITY LAW COLORADO

## PROTECTING RIGHTS, ADVANCING EQUITY



### HISTORY

#### OUR STORY

For nearly 50 years, Disability Law Colorado (DLC) has improved the lives of Coloradans with disabilities through legal representation, education and advocacy. Founded in 1976 as The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People, the nonprofit organization became Colorado's Protection and Advocacy System in 1977.

Since its founding, DLC has represented more than 35,000 individuals with disabilities, reached over 100,000 Coloradans through education programs and publications and provided technical assistance for an estimated 130,000 people.

#### WHAT WE DO

##### AREAS OF ADVOCACY

- **Community-Based Services:** We help people access services and self-advocate.
- **Educational Advocacy:** We ensure that students with disabilities get the accommodations they need for free, quality education.
- **Employment Support:** We promote vocational training and remove barriers.
- **Affordable Housing:** We address housing discrimination and advocate for accessible, affordable options.
- **Facility Monitoring:** Our investigators check on prisons and other care facilities to ensure fair treatment of people with disabilities.
- **Incarcerated Individuals:** We monitor correctional facilities – ensuring that incarcerated individuals with disabilities receive necessary services and support.
- **Guardianship:** We assist people with disabilities in modifying or terminating guardianships, providing legal support and self-advocacy tools.

### MISSION AND VISION

DLC strives to ensure that Coloradans with disabilities have equal opportunities, can live independently and with dignity, and are empowered to advocate for themselves. We provide free legal services and resources to individuals whose rights have been violated – empowering them to navigate complex systems and dismantle barriers.

Addressing challenges in education, housing, employment, healthcare, and accessibility, we work to make Colorado the best state for people with disabilities to live and work. Our staff also investigates and monitors facilities, services, and correctional settings to ensure disabled Coloradans receive appropriate care, access, and legal protections.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2025

- Ensuring Coloradans with disabilities are free from abuse and neglect
- Preventing unnecessary school removal, bullying, and seclusion
- Assuring access to appropriate health care
- Combating housing discrimination and securing affordable, accessible housing
- Supporting workplace accommodations without harassment
- Promoting independent living in the least restrictive settings
- Advocating for decision-making autonomy with alternatives to guardianship
- Enhancing access to vocational rehabilitation
- Improving transportation accessibility

303-722-0300

@disabilitylawco

www.disabilitylawco.org

## HELP US GROW OUR MISSION



Though much of our work is supported by federal grants, DLC seeks to diversify funding sources and enhance communication to strengthen operations and outreach. Here's how you can support us:

**Grants:** We seek strategic funding opportunities for operational support, program initiatives, capacity building, research, and advocacy efforts.

**Sponsorships:** We offer tiered financial opportunities for businesses and individuals in exchange for promotional benefits, enhancing brand visibility through various initiatives.

**Donations:** Contribute financially to support our advocacy services through organized fundraising campaigns or simply giving through our online portal, by mailing a check or inquiring directly.

**Events:** Participate in our events to raise awareness on disability issues in Colorado.

**In-Kind Support:** Provide resources or expertise to enhance our programs.

### ENGAGE WITH US

Development Inquiries: [bmook@disabilitylawco.org](mailto:bmook@disabilitylawco.org)

General Inquiries: [dlicmail@disabilitylawco.org](mailto:dlicmail@disabilitylawco.org)

Visit: [disabilitylawco.org](http://disabilitylawco.org)

Follow:

LinkedIn: @disabilitylawcolorado

YouTube: @disabilitylawcolorado9285

Facebook: @disabilitylawco

Instagram: @disabilitylawco



Disability Law Colorado  
455 Sherman St., Suite 130,  
Denver, CO 80203  
303-722-0300



# Show + Tell

## HELPING YOUR CHILD MAKE FRIENDS

#### What You'll Learn

- Examine your own friendships
- Creative tools for building true friendships for students with disabilities
- Recognize natural opportunities for friendship
- Provide appropriate accommodations

#### When and Where

Thursday January 30th  
6-8pm  
3855 S Alicia Pkwy,  
Aurora, CO 80013

#### Registration

[Click Here or Scan to Register](#)



#### Contact Us

303-632-6840  
[coco@weshowandtell.org](mailto:coco@weshowandtell.org)  
[www.weshowandtell.org](http://www.weshowandtell.org)



## INSPIRING FUTURES COLLEGE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Students with ID can go to college too! By participating in our college mentorship program, students can learn about college directly from inclusive higher education students.

Weekly meeting schedule and topics:

- **Feb 4** - Week 1: Get to know you & general mentor/mentee connection
- **Feb 11** - Week 2: Campus & social life in college
- **Feb 18** - Week 3: Academics in college
- **Feb 25** - Week 4: Career exploration
- **Mar 4** - Week 5: Independence & self-determination
- **Mar 11** - Week 6: Celebration & Concluding Q&A (parents & teachers welcome!)



Scan to learn more and apply!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:  
**IN! PROGRAM COORDINATOR, ELISE KRAMER**  
[ELISE@INCLUSIVEHIGHERED.ORG](mailto:ELISE@INCLUSIVEHIGHERED.ORG) / (720) 675-9139



# Introducing the Empowering Parents Program™



Do you feel lost navigating your neurodivergent child's needs?

Is it hard to meet others with similar experiences?

Parenting a neurodivergent child can be isolating and exhausting. The Empowering Parents Program™ is here to provide the guidance, compassion, and community you need to feel less alone and more empowered.

**Parent Connection Group:**  
Build friendships with those who understand.

**Parent Playbooks:**  
Comprehensive interactive guides to help you with your journey.

**Ask The Expert:**  
Get advice directly from the experts.

**Parent Power Hour:**  
Monthly parent check-ins for guidance, support and recommendations.

Empower your journey!



You Don't Have to Take This Journey Alone.

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



## AtlantisReady



### Monthly Workshop Addressing Planning for Disasters and other Emergencies.

We all have needs like food and water. For those of us with disabilities our needs might be more complex like needing access to life sustaining medical equipment or support services which enable us to live independently in our community of choice. A disaster may make it impossible for these needs to be met unless we have a plan. We cannot assume the "system" will provide for all of our needs. This may be especially true during a major disaster. Each of us must have personal plans in place to insure we maintain our health and independence. We also must advocate for our communities to have "systems" in place to meet our needs. AtlantisReady will address the "must dos and how tos" of personal preparedness and system advocacy.

**In Person:** Last Wednesday of each month from 6:00-7:00 PM in the Atlantis Apartments Community Room, 201 S. Cherokee Street, Denver, Co 80223

**Virtual Zoom Meeting:** Last Tuesday of each month from 2-3pm You must pre-register at least 48 hours in advance of each monthly workshop by emailing [Curtis@atlantiscommunity.org](mailto:Curtis@atlantiscommunity.org) in order to receive the Zoom link.

"We strive to ensure inclusive, accessible meetings that enable all individuals to engage fully. To request any accommodation(ex. ASL Interpreter) or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact us at [peersupport@atlantiscommunity.org](mailto:peersupport@atlantiscommunity.org) or 303-733-9324 48 hours prior to the meeting in order to have enough time to fill the request.

# Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)



Feb. 25 - March 7  
Tues. & Thur. 4 - 8 PM

**Details:**

- 5-week non-credit course
- Prepares you to pass the RBT Competency Assessment
- Prepares you to pass the certification exam through the Behavior Analyst Certification Board



**ENROLL NOW**



More Information:  
[apprenticeships@arapahoe.edu](mailto:apprenticeships@arapahoe.edu)



## Holistic Therapies

Colorado's Medicaid Complimentary Integrative Health Waiver offers coverage for massage, acupuncture, and chiropractic care?

This waiver is designed to help eligible individuals access non-traditional therapies that promote healing, pain management, and overall well-being.

**Who Qualifies?**

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Have a qualifying condition of spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, brain injury, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, or cerebral palsy
- Have been determined to have an inability for independent ambulation
- Have been determined to be financially eligible

**How to Apply**

If you are already enrolled in Colorado's Medicaid Program, contact your local Case Management Agency (CMA) or assigned Case Manager to start the waiver application process. If you are not yet enrolled in Colorado's Medicaid Program, apply first.



(303) 286-0918 | [INFO@NEUABILITY.ORG](mailto:INFO@NEUABILITY.ORG) | 866 E 78TH AVE, DENVER CO 80223

WARNER BROS/DISCOVERY presents

# JACK AND THE BEANSTALK



DIRECTED BY Regan Linton | SCREENPLAY BY Regan Linton & Jeremy Palmer

NOW STREAMING ON **FX** REFRAMED: NEXT GEN NARRATIVES series!

Denver portrayed on HBO-Max Great local actors. Check it out!



## Colorado Intentional Communities Research Project

Help influence housing policy by joining the Colorado Intentional Communities Research Project! By sharing your thoughts in upcoming focus groups, you'll improve emerging neuro-inclusive housing opportunities and support the rights of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This project will:

- Look at intentional communities across the country for best practices.
- Estimate the needed number of housing units per county in Colorado.
- Capture feedback from people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
- Provide policy recommendations for future intentional community development in Colorado.

[Join A Focus Group](#)



The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Grant No. 2401COSCDD totaling \$1,778,610.00, 100% from federal funding. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

**SAVE THE DATE  
MARCH 6TH!**

**D-RAD 2025  
DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCACY DAY**

**Colorado State Capitol  
200 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80203**

D-RAD is a day of disability rights advocacy at the CO State Capitol. Coloradans with disabilities & stakeholders come to the Capitol to:

- Share & learn about legislation
- Observe legislative process
- Meet with lawmakers & their staff

The GOAL of D-RAD is to lift-up the voices of Coloradans with disabilities & raise awareness by sharing real-life stories with elected officials & decision-makers that will help them to support disability rights during the 2025 legislative session.

**We hope to see YOU at the Capitol on Thursday, March 6th!**

Interested in Sponsoring this event? Email [dradcolorado@gmail.com](mailto:dradcolorado@gmail.com)

Our hearts go out to all our friends and family in Los Angeles who are currently facing the devastation of the fires. With that in mind, PASCO will match donations up to \$1,000.

1. **\*\*American Red Cross Los Angeles Region\*\*** - Provides emergency assistance, disaster relief, and education in the region.
2. **\*\*California Community Foundation's Wildfire Relief Fund\*\*** - Supports intermediate and long-term recovery efforts for those affected by the wildfires.
3. **\*\*Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation\*\*** - Supports firefighters and paramedics in Los Angeles, helping with resources and training.

Other reputable organizations:

American Red Cross  
Baby2Baby  
California Community Foundation  
California Fire Foundation  
Center for Disaster Philanthropy  
Convoy of Hope  
Core (Community Organized Relief Effort)  
Direct Relief  
Entertainment Industry Foundation  
Global Empowerment Mission Inc.  
GlobalGiving  
Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation  
Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank  
Pasadena Humane  
United Way of Ventura County  
Ventura County Community Foundation

**Individuals interested in contributing can donate to one of these organizations and email the receipt to PASCO as part of the matching initiative. [dami-an.rosenberg@pascohh.com](mailto:dami-an.rosenberg@pascohh.com) Appreciate your effort in spreading this important message.**





I am writing to ask you to take what will likely be the first of many actions against federal cuts to Medicaid. Late yesterday, someone leaked a list of potential Medicaid cuts to the news outlet Politico ([here](#) is the Politico story\*\* on the leak and [here](#) is the full list of what is under consideration for cuts). As expected, the list includes:

- Per capita caps, which would limit both the amount of care and number of people who could access Medicaid benefits at any one time (essentially meaning the state would have to institute caps on things like waivers)
- Reducing the FMAP floor, which would reduce the amount of federal money Colorado receives to help run our Medicaid program. The state is not in a position to make up the federal loss and would likely have to make cuts or institute caps on things like waivers
- Instituting Medicaid work requirements. While we want everyone who wants to work to be able to work, we recognize that being able to work regularly may not be a reality for everyone. Work requirements also cost a lot to administer and don't lead to any appreciable cost savings. They neither save money nor make Medicaid more efficient.

Doing away with the 90% federal match for the Medicaid expansion that was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. While most of us are not on Medicaid through the expansion, many of our caregivers and family members are.

It is important to emphasize that none of these ideas are yet in an introduced bill and we are early on in both the new Congress and the year BUT we believe that it is important to come out in strong opposition to all of these things early on in the process. The more headwind we create now for members of Congress, the harder it will be for them to actually introduce and pass devastating cuts.

### **We need you to take action, but not panic.**

In addition to the list of potential cuts being circulated by House members, Senator Hickenlooper signed onto a [letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader Thune indicating his openness to working on a set of bipartisan budget cuts.

We are asking you to take two actions (which will require two separate clicks):

Email Senator Hickenlooper asking him to reject any compromise that includes harmful cuts to Medicaid. We've created [this handy action form](#) to make it easy to email and/or call him. The form is editable, so feel free to add your own story if you have one!

Email the rest of Colorado's Congressional delegation asking them to stand on the side of the disability community by rejecting any cuts to Medicaid. We've created [this, second, handy action form](#) for the rest of the delegation (the message is slightly different since no one else in the delegation signed onto the letter to Majority Leader Thune).

Protecting Medicaid at both the state and federal level is going to require sustained, ongoing action from our community. This is likely the first of many asks we will be making over the next several months. We know it's a lot to ask, but Medicaid is in very real danger for the first time in almost a decade. It is only people like us who rely on it and care about it who have the power to save it. **We are now and will continue to make taking action as simple as possible, but it's imperative that you do what you can when you can to voice and show your support for Medicaid.**

~ Hillary, Co Executive Director

\*\*While we know that some of our members have strong views on Politico, we are linking to them because 1. they were the first to break the story and 2. their content is not behind a pay wall, so the article is available for everyone to read. This is not an endorsement of the views of Politico's owners or editorial team.

P.S. - If this email was forwarded to you and you'd like to receive alerts and information delivered to your own inbox, [become a member!](#) It's free!



## **Key Medicaid Talking Points**

### **What's Medicaid?**



Medicaid is one of the biggest health care programs in the country. It helps millions of people in the U.S. get health care. This includes people with disabilities, seniors, low-income adults, pregnant women, and children. It also helps millions of people with disabilities access long-term supports and services so they can live at home in their community. Medicaid often has different names in different states. You can find yours [here](#).

Medicaid is a federal program that has nationwide requirements. Congress sets baseline rules around eligibility and financing that states must follow. Each state can add to what Congress does as it administers and runs its programs.

Both the federal government and state government pay for Medicaid services. Each state is entitled to federal funds to pay for Medicaid based on its [federal medical assistance percentage \(FMAP\)](#), which can vary from 50% in the wealthiest states to 75% in poorer states. As a federally protected entitlement, the federal government **must** pay its part of the services for eligible people if the state follows all federal laws and regulations.

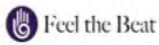
States pay their part of Medicaid services in many ways. They may pay through general revenue, taxes, or county payments. The federal government can make changes about what is acceptable for states to use to match the federal money.

### **How does Medicaid help people with disabilities?**

Medicaid helps people with disabilities throughout their lifetime—to get the care they need to protect their health and well-being and live with dignity. It is extremely important to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities because Medicaid:

- Covers essential health services needed by nearly one half of all children with disabilities or other special health care needs.
- Is the largest payor of essential developmental services for infants and toddlers, enabling them to enter school ready to learn.
- Finances school-based health and mental health services for students with disabilities.
- Often covers things that private insurance does not adequately cover, such as complex wheelchairs, prosthetics, affordable prescription drugs, and technologies that help people communicate and live in the community.
- Helps people with disabilities work by providing a means to continue to [receive](#) health care, personal assistance services, and other Medicaid provided supports while working.
- Is the largest federal payor of long-term services and supports (LTSS) needed by more than 10 million children and adults with disabilities. LTSS means assistance with essential tasks, such as feeding, dressing, bathing, and walking. It can also include activities like managing finances, shopping, meal preparation, and housecleaning.
- For many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), Medicaid is their **only** source of funding for LTSS to enable them to live in the community.

Continued "Medicaid" Page 11



Free Event!

# POSSABILITIES EXPO

Connecting the disability community with recreation and resources.

## FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

Drop In • Adaptive Sports Demos & Equipment • Fun Activities



Explore a wide variety of vendors, resources and services for different abilities, including therapeutic recreation, adaptive sports, health care, funding sources, transportation and more!

Feb. 1, 2025 | 10:30–11 a.m. • 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Sensory-Friendly Time Block

General Admission

Charles Whitlock Recreation Center  
1555 Dover St., Lakewood

Lakewood.org/PossAbilitiesExpo

# Leading the Way

BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE



Thursday, March 13, 2025

7:30 am	REGISTRATION + BREAKFAST
8:00 – 8:15 am	OPENING REMARKS
KEYNOTE 8:15 – 9:15 am	<b>Navigating the Intersections of Brain Injury and the Legal System</b> <i>Russha Knauer, MA</i>
KEYNOTE 9:15 – 10:15 am	<b>Housing Instability and Brain Injury: Understanding the Connection and Opportunities to Address the Needs of Unhoused Individuals Living with Brain Injury</b> <i>Caitlin Synovec, OTD, OTR/L, BCMH</i>
10:15 – 10:30 am	BREAK
KEYNOTE 10:30 – 11:30 am	<b>Neuroinclusive Practices in the Workplace: Supporting Individuals with Brain Injury</b> <i>Dr. Amanda Kelly, Ph.D, D.Psych</i>
KEYNOTE 11:30 am – 12:30 pm	<b>Clinical Considerations for Brain Injury Survivors</b> <i>Jack Storti, CAS, CBIS &amp; Jennifer Bramstedt, LCSW, LAC</i>
12:30 – 1:30 pm	LUNCH
KEYNOTE 1:30 – 2:15 pm	<b>Survivor Story; Rebuilding Minds: Brain Injury &amp; Legal Complications</b> <i>Nikki Mitchell &amp; Marchell Taylor</i>
2:15 – 2:30 pm	BREAK
KEYNOTE 2:30 – 3:30 pm	<b>Treatment for Clients with Traumatic Brain Injury</b> <i>CDR Selena Babula, PT, DPT, NCS, OCS, CDR, Steven Spoonemore Jr., PT, DPT, DSc, OCS, FAAOMPT, LT, Devon Barbieri, OTR/L &amp; Caitlyn Razzano, MA, ATR-P</i>
KEYNOTE 3:30 – 4:30 pm	<b>Brain Injury and Behavioral Health: Inextricably Linked</b> <i>Judy Dettmer, BSW</i>
4:30 – 6:30 pm	NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR

BIAColorado.org

Indicates class is worth one Continuing Education credit.

This program includes six CE. The University of Denver, Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. GSPP maintains responsibility for this program and its content.



## What is CFC (Community First Choice)?



### Access

A Medicaid state plan option to increase access to home and community-based services (HCBS).



### Independence

Promotes independence and community integration for individuals needing long-term care while empowers participants to choose caregivers and manage their own care.



### Expansion

Open to Medicaid enrollees meeting institutional level of care criteria and expands availability of HCBS for recipients.



### Improves Quality of Life

Provides personalized care that enhances well-being and community participation.





### Why is Medicaid at risk in 2025?

In 2025, Congress and the incoming Administration are expected to debate the size and scope of the federal government. This will include a review of the Medicaid program. The stakes for people with disabilities are very high.

Some cuts that could be considered are:

- Work requirements, which would add more steps to eligibility and would make people prove they cannot work due to illness or disability. The goal for adding this would be to reduce the number of people who could take part in the program. It also makes it harder for people to complete paperwork to stay in the program.
- Limits on provider taxes or ways that states can meet their match of the federal money, with an aim at lowering federal money in the program.  
Block grants or per capita caps, which often underestimate population growth or need.
- Eliminating Medicaid expansion, a policy that allows states to expand Medicaid coverage to a larger portion of their low-income populations.  
Changes to the federal funding formula to provide less funding to states.
- [Check here](#) for other options being considered.

To make up for federal cuts, states would face tough choices. They would need to either raise taxes, shift funding from other parts of the state budget, or change the Medicaid program in their state by removing services provided, adding waitlists, lowering reimbursements for providers, or assessing needs with lower service hours.

The Arc knows the Medicaid program already is underfunded to the detriment of hundreds of thousands of children and adults with disabilities. Over **710,000** people have been on waiting lists to receive the services they need, in many cases, for a decade or more. Many live segregated in the institutions that still exist in **33** states. Direct support professionals (DSPs), the workers who help people with disabilities participate in their communities, are also in crisis. Lack of adequate Medicaid funding has meant low wages for their skilled labor, often less than what people can earn in fast food or retail jobs. DSP turnover rates are as high as about **40%**.

### What does all this mean?

Instead of discussing how we can make Medicaid stronger, by investing in the workforce and expanding access to services, there are a growing number of proposals that would cut Medicaid.

The stakes are so high for millions of people with disabilities and their families. We believe that everyone deserves to live in their communities, among their family and friends, with the services they need to thrive. The **ONLY** way we can make that possible is if we lift our voices and work together.

- Of five tested forage sources, rye silage resulted in the greatest back-fat thickness among Hanwoo steers.
- Albatross struggle to find food in very stormy weather.
- Cool LED headlights are more disruptive to moth flight than warm ones.
- Solitary chicks emit fewer anxious peeps if given a mirror for company.

**Registration is Now Open for the Spring 2025 Session!**

**GiGi's Playhouse Denver Programs Offered**

<b>INFANTS/TODDLERS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIGIFIT INFANT</li> <li>• GIGIFIT PRESCHOOLER</li> <li>• LMNOP</li> </ul>	<b>ALL AGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ART EXPLOSION</li> <li>• DESTINATION DISCOVERY</li> <li>• OPEN PLAY</li> </ul>
<b>SCHOOL AGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIGI'S KITCHEN KIDS</li> <li>• DANCE</li> <li>• ADULTS</li> </ul>	<b>TEENS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIGIFIT TEEN</li> <li>• GIGI'S KITCHEN</li> <li>• DANCE</li> <li>• TEEN TASTIC</li> </ul>
<b>ADULTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIGIFIT</li> <li>• GIGI'S KITCHEN</li> <li>• DANCE</li> <li>• FANTASTIC FRIENDS</li> </ul>	



### PASCO Miscellanea

Kaylee Jeffrey, LCSW  
*Clinical Director/Child & Family Therapist*  
[kaylee.jeffrey@pascotherapy.com](mailto:kaylee.jeffrey@pascotherapy.com)

Lexie Tilson, MM, MT-BC, NMT  
*Services Director / Music Therapist*  
[lexie.tilson@pascotherapy.com](mailto:lexie.tilson@pascotherapy.com)



- There will be additional Town Halls in Denver and Colorado Springs-March 2025 Dates/Sites TBD. Translation services will be provided at all meetings.
- Please pay attention to PASCO [Events](#)--for upcoming community happenings . If wanting to add an event please email.

What does it mean to care for a loved one 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year? To be immersed in daily joy, sadness, and struggle? Only caregivers themselves can tell us. During the fall and winter of 2024, [Access Gallery](#) and PASCO collaborated with six families caring for loved ones with significant disabilities giving them the tools to exercise their voice behind a lens. We wanted to give the creative voice to the families rather than an outsider. Access Gallery provided photography instruction, cameras, and mentoring to caregivers as they documented their day-to-day experiences into a collaborative creative experience. The result? Candid, day in the life photographs of good times, bad times, and occasionally ugly times—the layered reality of caregiving. Part of Month of Photography Denver, **Labor of Love** is a homage to these families and their daily experiences.

#### MAIN GALLERY - Labor of Love:

**First Friday Art Walk: March 7, 2025, from 6 PM - 9 PM**

**Meet the Artists: Friday, March 21, 2025 from 6 PM - 8 PM**

**On View: March 7 through March 30, 2025**

**Free and open to the public.**

### Customer Access and Accessibility Engagement Survey

[RTD's Civil Rights Division](#) is conducting this survey with customers to understand their experiences and to ensure meaningful access to RTD's programs and services. There are no right or wrong answers; we simply want your opinion. The results of this survey will help RTD understand how we can better serve our customers. We anticipate this survey will take about 15 minutes to complete. All responses are completely confidential, and data will be reported in group form only. **Should you have any questions or if you would like to complete the survey in an alternative format, please contact RTD ADA Office at [ada@rtd-denver.com](mailto:ada@rtd-denver.com).**

**[Complete the entire survey](#) by February 28th, 2025 to be entered into a drawing for one of twenty \$25 King Soopers gift cards! To take this survey, you must be at least 18 years old OR under 18 with parental consent to participate.**



PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES OF COLORADO

**PASCO Lakewood**

**3900 S Wadsworth Blvd #225 Lakewood, CO 80235**

**(303)233-3122 | info@pascohh.com**

**PASCO Colorado Springs**

**6385 Corporate Drive Suite 303**

**Colorado Springs, CO 80919**

**(719) 960-4995 | info@pascohh.com**

# Next Steps Neurodiversity Expos



### Free Admission

- LONGMONT, COLORADO
- Sunday, January 26, 2025
- 10 AM to 3 PM
- Boulder County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall
- 9595 Nelson Rd, Longmont, CO 80501

### Free Admission

- CASTLE ROCK, COLORADO
- Saturday, February 22, 2025
- 10 AM to 3 PM
- Douglas County Fairgrounds, Events Center
- 500 Fairgrounds Rd, Castle Rock, CO 80140

### Explore 75+ Vendors

Resources for all ages:

- Diagnostic and therapeutic solutions (SLP, OT, ABA)
- Mental health resources, educational programs, and advocacy support
- Life coaching, career exploration, and community establishments
- Creative programs to celebrate and empower neurodiverse talents
- Food trucks + giveaways

### Event Highlights

- Free Admission & Parking
- Tote Bags for the First 200 Registrants

### Sensory-Friendly

- A Sensory Break Area will be available for those who need a calm and quiet space to recharge.

### Register at:

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

Join us on 1/26/25 or 2/22/25

Expo Sponsors:



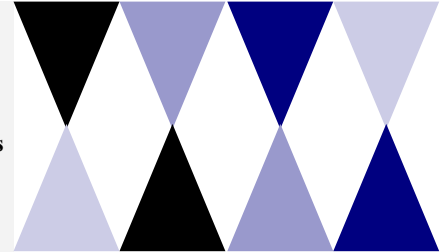
**P**ASCO (Personal Assistance Services of Colorado) is certified under Medicare, Medicaid, and the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) program to provide personal assistance services to children and adults with severe disabilities. PASCO was incorporated in 1991 and began providing services to persons with disabilities on January 1, 1992. PASCO's mission is to provide personal assistance services, promoting independence and safety to clients and/or their families. PASCO continuously strives for client and employee satisfaction. The foundation of PASCO is CHOICE. To the maximum extent possible, PASCO works to accommodate the needs and wants of each client.

### Our Service Area

PASCO proudly serves the following counties:

#### Class A, Class B, and PASA Services

- Adams County
- Arapahoe County
- Boulder County
- Broomfield County
- Clear Creek County
- Denver County
- Douglas County
- El Paso County
- Elbert County
- Gilpin County
- Jefferson County



*Reference in this Newsletter to any specific product, service, or company does not constitute a recommendation by PASCO (although we do our best to support community friendly organizations)*

- Larimer County
- Morgan County
- Park County
- Pueblo County
- Teller County
- Weld County



**Home BUILDERS FOUNDATION**  
*Building Independence. Elevating Lives.*

**IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!**



HBF offers accessible home modifications to improve mobility, safety, and independence. We work in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, and Jefferson Counties.



Let's work together to create a home that fits your needs!

**Please note:** we don't provide general home repairs, elevators, or walk-in tubs.

**APPLY TODAY AT**  
[HBFDENVER.ORG/APPLY-FOR-ASSISTANCE](http://HBFDENVER.ORG/APPLY-FOR-ASSISTANCE)



**New PASCO Lakewood Office Coming January 21st!**

*Together We Thrive*

**Our new address: 3900 South Wadsworth Blvd, Suite 225 Lakewood, CO 80235**

This new, fully-accessible space will allow us to provide enhanced services, host community events, and better meet your needs. Thank you for your patience during this transition and we cannot wait to show you our new home!