

# Important Meeting for all Families in Supported Living Services

## Changes in Supported Living Services

By Sherry Price and Kristie Braaten, MDS

The State of Colorado has been instructed by the federal Medicaid agency to make changes to the Medicaid funded "waivers" in Colorado, including the Supported Living Services Medicaid Waiver. There are several changes that became effective July 1, 2009 that may impact the amount and type of service people in SLS can receive.

The funding available for each person will now be based on scores from Supports Intensity Scale (SIS), a standardized assessment tool. In some cases these changes will affect the amount of services available to each individual and in others it will not. The state has also established standard pay rates to providers, added caps on hours of service and eliminated some services. Previously we were able to negotiate rates with providers.

These changes may affect how services will be delivered and service plans may need to be rewritten. Several meetings were held in the past several weeks to discuss these changes with families in an effort to minimize any potential negative impact to each individual as we move forward with these changes. The following meeting is an opportunity to discuss these changes with people from the state office for people with developmental disabilities:

**"If you or your loved one is served in the Supported Living Services (SLS) Program, you may have had a change in services recently. Please join us for a unique opportunity to have a personal conversation with employees from the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division for Developmental Disabilities. State staff will be available to answer your questions and hear feedback from individuals in services, parents, guardians and other interested people. Any one is welcome to attend but discussions will primarily be related to the SLS waiver.**

**Monday, August 10th • MDS, 950 Grand Avenue  
• 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

**Please RSVP for this important event to:  
Keith Larsen, ARC of Mesa County, [ARCMESA@aol.com](mailto:ARCMESA@aol.com)**



The Colorado Division of Developmental Disabilities is pursuing an effort to downsize the Grand Junction Regional Center, which in essence means that an estimated 20 people could be transitioned into community-based services over the next 12 to 18 months. Those who choose to move will have the option of receiving services from one of the eight local providers or the 100 plus providers throughout the state.

In close partnership with the Grand Junctional Regional Center staff, local provider agencies are preparing for service expansion, and creating new opportunities for these individuals to make new friends, and experience a new level of social and personal growth.

Parents or guardians of those considering a move should contact Annette Abeyta, the local Director of Admissions and Quality Assurance, for assistance in selecting a provider - 256-8652.

# Mosaic is Expanding Services to Seniors

By Cheryl Wicks  
Mosaic Direct Support Coordinator

Mosaic, and legacy organizations Bethphage and Martin Luther Homes, has been providing services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 100 years. Now, Mosaic is expanding to create Mosaic Life Assistance Solutions, designed to provide a range of services and supports for seniors wishing to stay at home.



Provided by trained and caring staff, these services are being offered to support seniors when family members or friends aren't always able or available to help. Mosaic's goal for Life Assistance Solutions is to help seniors by providing non-medical home care services, allowing them to remain independent and in their own homes.

Mosaic Life Assistance Solutions (LAS) is not Assisted Living. These are supports given to seniors who are no longer able to perform routine tasks around the house, but who are not in need of medical assistance or constant care.

The variety of non-medical services provided is extensive, and can be customized to include activities and supports unique to seniors' circumstances. Services offered include:

- ✦ Light Housecleaning
- ✦ Meal Preparation
- ✦ Companionship
- ✦ Assist with laundry and ironing
- ✦ Change linens/Make beds
- ✦ Drop off and pick up dry cleaning
- ✦ Pick up prescriptions

- ✦ Assist with basic pet care
- ✦ Shop for groceries and supplies
- ✦ Escort to appointments
- ✦ Accompany to lunch or dinner
- ✦ Escort for shopping and errands
- ✦ Accompany to plays and concerts
- ✦ Organize and clean closets
- ✦ Escort to religious services
- ✦ Accompany to meetings/events

Services through Mosaic Life Assistance Solutions are paid directly by seniors to Mosaic, similar to private pay.

If these services are of interest to you or a loved one, you may contact Mosaic at 970.245.0519 ext 19.

## Family Voices Colorado Looking for Stories

By Simone Herrera  
Special Needs Parent Resource,  
PEAK/HCP/Resource Group/Family  
Voices Colorado

I just joined a group called Family Voices Colorado which is located in Denver Colorado. My first "task" with the group is to ask families who are on the waiting list for the Medicaid waiver to tell their story.

Why?

Family Voices Colorado is working to have your voice heard by our legislators, and your family's photos and story are the most powerful persuader. Our organization is sponsoring a committee this summer to study the issues, suggest solutions, and draft legislation to help families with children on the waiting list.

Sooo, if your child is on the wait list OR you know someone who has a child on the wait list, PLEASE get the story told. You can do this easily via the Family Voices website at <http://www.familyvoicesco.org/yourvoice-medicaid.htm> to get started.

I appreciate your help!  
Take care of you.  
Simone

## Changes in Human Rights Committee

In the interest of creating a more holistic approach to the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities, Mesa Developmental Services has combined the efforts of two Human Rights Committees (HRC) into one committee. For several years there have been dual committees with separate focus; one dealing strictly with psychotropic medications and the other to address MANE (mistreatment, abuse, neglect and exploitation) allegations and rights suspensions. The volunteer committee includes a physician, a pharmacist, a nurse, parents, guardians, people who specialize in behavioral supports and Case Management Director Kristie Braaten.

According to Braaten, it is more efficient and sensible to have one group review all aspects of a person's rights and well being. The first combined meeting was held in May and subsequent meetings of the diverse group with unique perspectives have supported the decision.