



Memo RE: The Developmental Pathways Intake and Service Provider Process

Generally, to be eligible for intellectual and developmental disability services in Colorado, an individual must have a cognitive IQ of 70 or less or adaptive behaviors (daily living skills) equivalent to having an IQ of 70 or less, as shown by standardized testing. The disability must manifest before the age of 21. Developmental Pathways does the intake and eligibility determinations for Arapahoe and Douglas county and the City of Aurora. There are strict timelines and procedures required by the state and the process usually takes 30-60 days. Schools records are primarily relied upon in making the determination.

There are currently waitlists for the Medicaid Developmental Disability (DD- 24/7 Residential) Waiver, the Family Support program, the Medicaid Children with Autism Waiver (CWA), and the State Supported Living Services (SLS) program. Entry into the DD waiver is reserved for emergencies – homelessness, abuse and neglect, danger to self and others, foster care age outs, Children’s Extensive Services (CES) age-outs. The Family Support and State SLS programs are entirely state funded and a waitlist is maintained because state funding is not sufficient. There are no longer waitlists for the Medicaid Supported Living Services (SLS) or the Children’s Extensive Services (CES) waivers.

Following enrollment, individuals and families create an individual service plan which is updated annually. The service plan sets forth the services and budget for the plan year. Individuals and families then choose service providers to deliver the services. They may choose providers they already know or request a Request for Proposal (RFP) be sent to all providers to see who is interested in serving an individual. After meeting with providers, individuals or their families choose who they want to work with. There are almost 200 approved providers for our area. The time required in finding a provider for services varies greatly from a couple of weeks to months. Factors that play a role are: an individual’s needs, locations, services desired, personal preferences, overall system provider capacity, and rates paid to the provider.

Providers are approved by the State Medicaid office to provide services. Provider rates are established by the state. Individual spending limits for services are established by the state. Pathways does not contract directly with providers, except for a limited number of public vendors – homemaker and transportation are examples. Several years ago, Pathways determined that for financial, regulatory, and liability reasons, it did not have the ability to continue to hire independent contractors.