



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **COLORADO LEADERS WHO ADVOCATE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HONORED AT ADA ACCESS AWARDS LUNCHEON OCTOBER 5**

DENVER (September 25, 2017) – The Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CDCC), the premier organization in Colorado for advocating for disability rights, has named four Coloradans and one advocacy organization as special honorees at this year's ADA Access Awards luncheon to be held on October 5.

**The luncheon's keynote speaker will be Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman.**

**WHO:** The Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition's ADA Access Awards Luncheon

**WHERE:** The Maglione Hall in the Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, 2201 South Gaylord Street, Denver, CO., 80208

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 5, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Ticket information: Individual tickets for the event are still available at \$40 each. Please call Marlene or Laura at 720-249-2208 or email [info@ccdconline.org](mailto:info@ccdconline.org) for more information.

The five honorees were chosen for their major contributions to advancing social justice for people with all types of disabilities. They are:

- Harry Budisidharta of the Asian Pacific Development Center (APDC)
- Jennifer Brown of the *Denver Post*
- Jeremy Carroll, CEO of River Valley Family Health Center
- Susan Niner, deputy director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' (DOLA), Division of Housing (DOH).
- Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (accepted by Adela Flores-Brennan)

Speaker and honoree information:

**Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman:** Coffman's legal career began more than 25 years ago in the Georgia Attorney General's Office. As a courtroom attorney, she defended the state's juvenile justice system and public health department. Later working as an attorney for the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, she acted as the primary liaison with the victims and their families following the 1996 domestic terror attack in Centennial Olympic Park.

**Harry Budisidharta:** Budisidharta received his bachelor of arts in Political Science from California State University of Los Angeles, and his juris doctor from University of Colorado Law School. As the Chief Executive Officer of Asian Pacific Development Center, Budisidharta works with government officials and community organizations to address health disparities in the refugee and immigrant communities. Due to his extensive experience in nonprofit and government relations, Budisidharta has been quoted by The

*Wall Street Journal, the Denver Post, the Aurora Sentinel, Law Week Colorado, the Colorado Statesman, and Asian Avenue Magazine.*

**Jennifer Brown:** Brown is an investigative reporter for the *Denver Post*, where she has worked since 2005. She has written about the child welfare system, mental health, education, and politics. She previously worked for *The Associated Press*, the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* in Texas, and the *Hungry Horse News* in Montana.

**Jeremy Carroll:** Carroll's business degree and extensive knowledge in real estate rehabbing facilities have been invaluable to River Valley. His strong leadership and management qualities – as well as his commitment to quality of care, innovation, and responsiveness to unmet needs – are widely respected and trusted among residents and healthcare professionals. To ensure that River Valley continues to flourish as a strong FQHC, Carroll participates in various collaboratives, including the San Juan Accountable Care Organization (SJACO); Region 1 Regional Care Collaborative Organization (RCCO); Medicaid PRIME (capitated payment model); and the Accountable Health Communities Model (AHCM); as well as in the communities of Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, and smaller outlying communities in the region Plans.

**Susan Niner:** Niner is the Deputy Director of the Colorado Division of Housing which is within the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Prior to taking this position, Niner was the manager of the Housing Choice Voucher Program within DOH. In this role, Niner managed the state's rental assistance and homeless programs, which provide rental assistance to over 7,000 vulnerable individuals and families, many of whom are persons with disabilities. Niner has been involved in the state's housing programs since April 1998. Prior to joining the DOH, Susan worked for four years as the residential coordinator at Pikes Peak Mental Health Center in Colorado Springs providing direct housing support and case management to housing recipients. Prior to moving to Colorado, she was with The Arc of New Jersey for three years.

**Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (accepted by Adela Flores-Brennan):**

The Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) is a statewide, non-partisan, nonprofit membership organization working so all Coloradans can get affordable, high-quality and equitable health care. CCHI represents over 45 nonprofit organizations – mobilizing well over 500,000 consumers – to shape effective health care policy. CCHI was created in 2000 to be a counterweight to powerful health care interests by building a cohesive consumer voice among health advocacy organizations and their constituents. CCHI works to remove barriers and give Coloradans a voice by:

- Serving as a watchdog for consumer interests in health care.
- Amplifying the consumer voice to make health care work for all Coloradans.
- Navigating a complex health care landscape to help ensure Coloradans can access the health care they need, when they need it.

The annual ADA Access Awards is CCDC's annual signature fundraiser. All proceeds benefit the programs of CCDC all year long.

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**About CCDC:** The Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC) advocates for social justice for people with all types of disabilities. The CCDC is the premier organization in Colorado for advocating for disability rights. We work with individuals, service providers, and governmental agencies to ensure that people with disabilities have equal rights and equal access. We ensure physical structures are compliant and that policies and procedures decrease barriers. We seek compliance with the ADA and help others to accomplish the same.