

ANNUAL REPORT | 2018



COLORADO
CROSS-DISABILITY
COALITION

“Nothing about us, without us...ever!”

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COLORADO CROSS-DISABILITY COALITION

Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition is led and run by people with disabilities, so we know first-hand the obstacles to getting the right healthcare, jobs, housing, and transportation – in other words, the obstacles to equity, inclusion and access.

We advocate for social justice for people with all types of disabilities. We work collectively with our many partners to develop and implement systems solutions to ensure people with disabilities have the same opportunities as other Coloradans. Our solutions work better, not only for people with disabilities but for all Coloradans.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on our accomplishments in 2018, it's hard to believe we are now entering the last year of a very tumultuous decade in civil rights. In one more year, both CCDC and the ADA will turn 30. We are taking ideas now for what we should do to celebrate this occasion.

Among the highlights of 2018 is the CCDC Listening Tour we conducted around the state during the summer, with 13 stops ranging from Aurora to Glenwood Springs to Pueblo. Based on the report of this Listening Tour, our legislative priorities focused on housing, but we will, of course, continue to work on health care, especially mental health care, and other social justice issues. The disability community presented our organizations and priorities to the new Joint Budget Committee on December 11, 2018. Throughout 2018, we continued our very active engagement with Phase Three (2017-19) of the Health Equity Advocacy Cohort of the Colorado Trust. CCDC's commitment to racial equity preceded our involvement in this great process and will continue after it ends. We have been pleased to have resources to increase our efforts over the past several years.

We are very excited to begin a four-year grant awarded to CCDC in December from The Colorado Health Access Fund, housed at The Denver Foundation, to dedicate specific resources to mental health policy advocacy, which we have always done and can now do better. We continue to work with the Accountable Care Collaborative 2.0 especially the part about integrating mental health into the Regional Accountable Entities and promoting stronger client involvement in this important part of the health care infrastructure.





We were also lucky to get a new grant from the Adams County Foundation in fall 2018 to provide outreach and individual advocacy services to Adams County residents. We reached over 450 people and hope to be able to get continued funding to keep up this work now that we have made so many great contacts. We are excited to work with the Community Foundation of Boulder County to do some targeted outreach to underrepresented immigrants and refugees with disabilities in the greater Boulder area.

With more than 60 CCDC advocates serving on important housing, transportation, health care, long-term services, civil rights, and other boards and committees, we have a seat at the policy-making tables that matter for people with disabilities. We served 708 people through our individual advocacy program, preserving benefits, helping people access services and obtaining reasonable accommodations in housing, court settings, and jobs. Our legal program continued to enforce our civil rights assuring access to transportation. We are proud to say our social enterprise, Probate Power, is thriving. Every day more Coloradans hear about the great work Managing Attorney Chris Brock is doing to serve people who need wills, Medicaid trusts, ABLE accounts and other probate-related needs.

Of course, none of this could happen without an incredibly dedicated staff and pool of volunteers who are fully committed to social justice and disability rights, putting their heart and soul into their work every day. We are led by an equally stellar Board of Directors, a diverse and extremely talented group that guides the organization with integrity. The staff, volunteers, and board live the values of CCDC every day.

We have amazing foundation partners who step up – over and over again. We are grateful for all of our support, but notably for the general operating support that enabled us to be nimble, responsive, more efficient and better able to focus on specific projects. But it is you – our members – who make CCDC who and what we are. Your support, advice, participation and yes, donations, keep us on a path of continual improvement. So thank you – it is working!

Nevertheless, we have a long way to go, so we are counting on your continued and increased involvement. You came when we needed your help during the 2017 Medicaid crisis – and we hope you will continue to heed our calls to action to advance our founding mission to ensure that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became real in Colorado. We are committed to helping enact and change laws and regulations, along with enforcing policies that say every person matters.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Reiskin".

Julie Reiskin
CCDC Executive Director



2018 BY THE NUMBERS

In 2018, 708 people were considered individual advocacy clients in our new ADORE custom database. As of December, we had 112 active open cases. "Cases" are hands-on assistance typically addressing an issue of life or liberty.

Case Advocacy. CCDC's trained peer advocates solved problems like Medicaid buy-in enrollment glitches, Medicaid denials and service animal hassles.

Advocacy Training. 2018 was Year Two of the roll-out of the online version of our 9-week Basic Disability Advocacy Training course to include people unable to come to a live class due to disability, medical or employment reasons and those living in rural areas. We expanded the curriculum to teach everyday people how to be a champion for themselves, others and the community, so that it now includes government agency videos, discussion forums and other online materials.

1,047

Information/referral problems solved

87

People helped to get or keep health care services

91

People helped to get or keep health care insurance, including Medicaid buy-in

33

Durable medical equipment problems solved

35

People connected to job opportunities

55

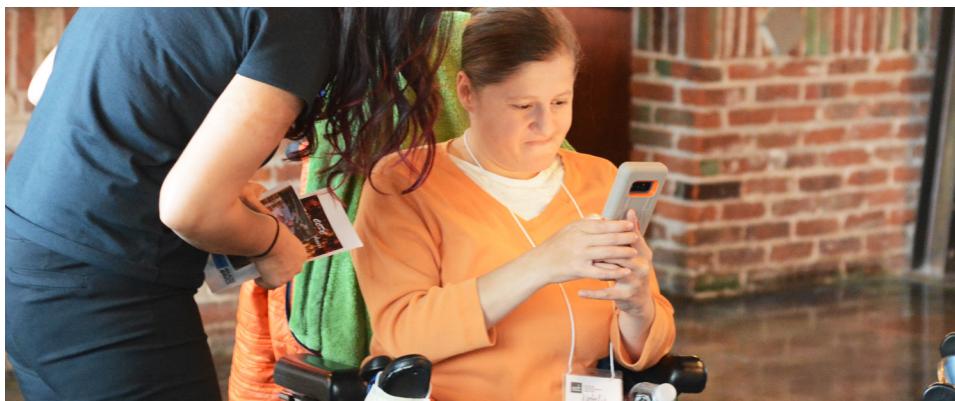
9-week Basic Disability Advocacy Class graduates

2018 BY THE NUMBERS



Healthcare and Long-Term Services:

Because many people with disabilities rely on Medicaid as the only national funding source for healthcare and long-term services that support independence CCDC continued to mobilize to protect Medicaid. In 2018, with BBC Research, we conducted an online bulletin board and in-person focus groups. We asked people more about why the word, "Medicaid" causes negativity. We also launched a new messaging platform with cool tools – and the tagline: People are the Purpose, in order to change the narrative in our state. Check it out at vote4medicaid.org government and provider agencies who have been the target of advocacy.



Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND) Program:

CCDC is very appreciative to the Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP) for their work on the 2018 rule change for Colorado's Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND) program. This rule change will strengthen the program in many substantial ways. CCDC was happy to participate in this effort led by CCLP. The rule change will benefit many CCDC members and other people with disabilities in Colorado. The new rule will give clients more time to prove that they have a disability instead of just ten days, now the rule increases its timeline to thirty days. It will also allow clients to receive AND payments while they apply for SSI/SSDI and expands who can verify a client's disability.





Annual State Meeting for CCDC Advocates and Allies:

In September, CCDC held our annual planning and training State meeting we had over 51 CCDC Advocates and leaders from partner advocacy organizations from across the state gather for 2.5 days. We focused on 21st Century Advocacy, seeking to become clear as a group about what quality Advocacy looks like and how to work together to achieve it using a combination of small and large group discussions.

We discussed innovative, more integrated national models that combine different kinds of advocacy (individual, systemic, organizing, impact litigation and so forth, yet focus on one issue, such as housing. Allison Neswood of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP) presented on using Appeals as an Advocacy Strategy. We also had presentations from the ACLU Colorado and heard from people who work in government and provider agencies who have been the target of advocacy.



Electronic Visit Verification (EVV): This is a mandate from the 21st Century Cures Act, a broad law with many parts whose prime sponsor was U.S. Representative Diana DeGette. This Act was signed into law at the end of 2016. This will require electronic verification of all home health, personal care, and homemaker visits. This was created to solve a perceived problem with fraud (mostly based on a “dog whistle” political narrative about the workforce which is primarily women of color). The mandate focuses on what agencies must do but does not properly account for consumer direction, even though consumer-directed services are included in this broad, overreaching mandate. The disability community was not aware of this bill and was blindsided by the devastating effects of this legislation. Because the primary sponsor is from Colorado, CCDC took the lead on pushing this elected official to be part of the solution. CCDC and others in the disability community fought for and obtained a congressional bill to delay implementation for one year. The bill also required the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMMS) to reach out to the disability community. The one year delay bill passed. We have four advocates working on helping the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) shape how the EVV mandate will be fulfilled in Colorado.

2018 Legislative Session: CCDC had a few wins but lots of losses as well. We were unable to pass some key pieces of legislation, such as basic fire safety protection for those who live in host homes, renters' protections, and the right to rest for those experiencing homelessness. Like many bills, these all died in the final days of the session in the Senate State Affairs Committee, known informally as the “kill committee.”

AN ISSUE WE ADVOCATED ON

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The nursing home transition program, became permanent (no longer a pilot). Transportation funding included transit (not just roads) and we were able to stop some very bad bills as well such as a Medicaid “work requirement.” The session ended on a positive note with a beautiful tribute offered by Representative Jessie Danielson to the Gang of 19. About 40 of us joined her for this celebration and members of Atlantis ADAPT were invited on the house floor.

ON A POSITIVE NOTE

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We had some successes in the budget including funds for closed captioning of the general assembly, funds to study the interpreter needs throughout the state and placing some interpreters around the state to ease the shortage in rural Colorado. This year too, the Family Preservation for Parents With Disability Act (HB 18-1104) was put forward and signed into law on April 25 by Gov. Hickenlooper. The now-law, sponsored by Representative Jessie Danielson and strongly supported by CCDC, establishes safeguards for parents and prospective parents with disabilities—which “are critical to family preservation and the best interests of the children of Colorado.”

Community Organizing: CCDC provides training and supports people with lived experience to assure that the direct voice is at all policymaking tables. This involves health care, housing, income security, and transportation. Our advocates then engage others as is necessary and we “turn out” as needed. We also do organizing for GOTV and work with other organizations on turn out for their issues. Our model is complex as we blend grassroots organizing with policy advocacy supporting the people directly affected to act as policy advocates. This is consistent with our tagline “nothing about us without us.”

Outreach: CCDC had 2018 booths at Black Arts Festival in July, International Festival, Finding Health sponsored by Arc of Aurora and THINK+change, as well as a resource fair sponsored by the Denver Asian-Pacific American Commission. We desire to make our existence and services known to individuals of different ethnicities. The first step in building trust is going into their communities.



Get Out the Vote (GOTV): In particular because 2018 was a Mid-Term Election Year, CCDC recognized the importance of helping people with disabilities understand the imperative of voting. Thanks to VAN data provided to CCDC by the Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable that invited us to become members in 2018, we learned that in past elections, that some CCDC members are registered to vote but do not turn in their ballots. We had success in addressing that these past several weeks through during the virtual phone bank and disseminating American Association for People with Disabilities (AAPD) REVUP voter mobilization materials and resources. As of the Monday before Election Day, only 104 of our Members in the VAN database had not yet voted. All of the CCDC Members in the VAN database received phone calls from our Lead Community Organizer and our Advocates reminding our Members to vote.



Accessible Transportation: Because public transportation can be the key to living an independent life, CCDC sat at policy-making tables with The Denver Regional Mobility & Access Council (DRMAC) and Mile High Connects. We improved the ability of people with disabilities to get where we need to go by resolving 50 transportation problems for members, advocating for affordable fares, fighting for adequate transit stops and promoting fully accessible transit facilities.

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lloyd Lewis • Co-Chair
 Joshua Winkler • Co-Chair
 Peter Konrad • Outgoing Treasurer
 Brian Mackowick • Incoming Treasurer
 Brenda Mosby • Secretary
 Jeanie Benfield
 Michael Fairhurst
 David Henninger
 Dr. Kimberley Jackson, D.O.
 Lori Jones
 Ashlee Lewis
 Patrick Mahncke
 Scott Markham
 Dr. Phil Mitchell, M.D.
 Emily Quinn
 Damian Rosenberg

2018 STAFF

- ▶ Julie Reiskin
Executive Director
- ▶ Gabrielle Angelico
- ▶ Joe Beaver
- ▶ Chris Brock
- ▶ Dale Buterbaugh
- ▶ Tom Carter
- ▶ Kristen Castor
- ▶ Laura Gabbay
- ▶ Tram Ha
- ▶ Dawn Howard
- ▶ Ron Hutter
- ▶ Sheryle Hutter
- ▶ Jaime Lewis
- ▶ Michelle McHenry-Edrington
- ▶ Andrew Montoya
- ▶ Heather Morrow
- ▶ Marlene Murillo
- ▶ Angela Nevin
- ▶ Lucinda Rowe
- ▶ Donna Sablan
- ▶ Shannon Secrest
- ▶ Jose Torres-Vega
- ▶ Kevin Williams
- ▶ Stacy Yusim
- ▶ Intern Nicole Bishop





ADA ACCESS AWARDS 2018 CORPORATE SPONSORS

- ▶ ACESS Financial Management Services
- ▶ ACLU Colorado
- ▶ The Arc of Aurora
- ▶ The Arc of Colorado
- ▶ Arc Thrift Stores
- ▶ AOI Home Care
- ▶ Avocet Communications
- ▶ BBC Research
- ▶ Caring for Colorado Foundation
- ▶ Catering by Design
- ▶ Colorado Housing and Finance Authority
- ▶ Citywide Banks
- ▶ Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center (CREEC)
- ▶ Colorado ACCESS
- ▶ Colorado Children's Campaign
- ▶ Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- ▶ Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing
- ▶ Colorado Department of Human Services
- ▶ The Colorado Trust
- ▶ David Henninger
- ▶ Craig Hospital
- ▶ Cripple Concepts.com
- ▶ Disability Law Colorado
- ▶ Consumer Direct Care Network Colorado
- ▶ The Independence Center
- ▶ JFK Partners
- ▶ Killmer Lane Newman, LLP
- ▶ Morning Sun Financial Management Services
- ▶ Numotion
- ▶ PASCO
- ▶ PCG Public Partnerships
- ▶ PhRMA
- ▶ Progressive Promotions
- ▶ Ride Designs, a division of Aspen Seating
- ▶ Rocky Mountain Health Plans
- ▶ Rocky Mountain Medical Equipment
- ▶ THINK + change
- ▶ Wipfli LLP, Consultants and CPAs
- ▶ We Work for Health Colorado

FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

- ▶ Caring for Colorado Foundation
- ▶ The Colorado Health Foundation
- ▶ The Colorado Trust
- ▶ Colorado Bar Foundation
- ▶ Community Foundation of Boulder County
- ▶ Rose Community Foundation
- ▶ Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Colorado
- ▶ The Anschutz Foundation
- ▶ The Anschutz Family Foundation
- ▶ Mile High Connects
- ▶ The Denver Foundation
- ▶ The Colorado Health Access Fund
(housed at The Denver Foundation)
- ▶ New Venture Fund
- ▶ Virginia Hill Charitable Foundation



CCDC ADA ACCESS AWARD RECIPIENTS 2018

- ▶ Joe Beaver • Lifetime Achievement Award
- ▶ Allison Neswood • Colorado Center on Law and Policy
- ▶ Peter Roper • The Pueblo Chieftain
- ▶ Timothy O'Brien • Denver City Auditor

CCDC MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS 2018

- ▶ Shannon Secrest
George Roberts/Jeanette Klimach Foot Soldier Award
- ▶ Cynda Murrow
Kyle Frohne Inclusion Award
- ▶ Mary Wallace
Kathy Vincent Communication Award
- ▶ Angela Nevin
Kay McCandless Community Building Award
- ▶ Carl Kingsbury
Juli Stewart Caregiver Award



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CO-CHAIRS

We are honored to serve as the Co-Chairs of the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition Board of Directors. We went to a co-chair model last year to practice what we preach in terms of people with and without disabilities governing together as equals, and to assure that we had the widest possible skill set supporting the leadership of this great organization.

Lloyd Lewis says “I provide the business acumen and support to the Executive Director. I know this organization does fantastic advocacy and as a parent of a teen with Down syndrome, I want to make sure that this organization continues to develop the strong infrastructure and financial wherewithal to sustain it into the future. As the CEO of Arc Thrift Stores, I leverage my significant fiscal and management expertise. I have been pleased to be able to help CCDC with marked improvement in the financial and strategic planning arenas.”

Josh Winkler says “While I am also a numbers guy, I focus more on the policy end (think Medicaid budgets). It is important to have a Board member involved in at least some of the important public policy work that CCDC does. This shows that the commitment is for much more than a few meetings a year and that this board really has skin in the

game. Not only do I provide my expertise to the organization doing policy work, I share with the Board what I see every day as I interact with our talented advocates on Capitol Hill and at meetings about Medicaid, housing and disability employment issues. I always share how I got involved because I did not want to stop working forever at age 30 but as a quadriplegic I will always need Medicaid. I learned through my own self-advocacy, that community and peer advocacy is really what we need and I see CCDC doing this every day.”

We are thrilled to have a diverse and talented and growing Board. Each member brings something unique and important to the work and discussions. As you read this report, or peruse our website, you will see that CCDC is a successful, hardworking, and growing organization. On behalf of our amazing Board, we want to thank our members, donors, and partners for your support.

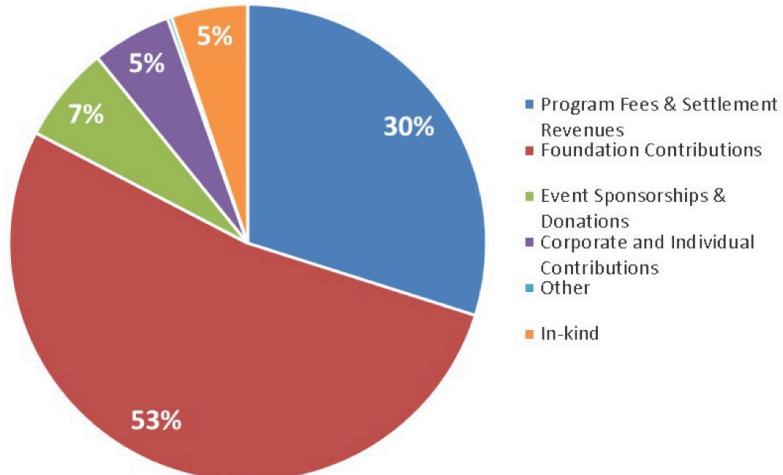
A handwritten signature of Lloyd Lewis in black ink.

Lloyd Lewis
CCDC Board Co-Chair

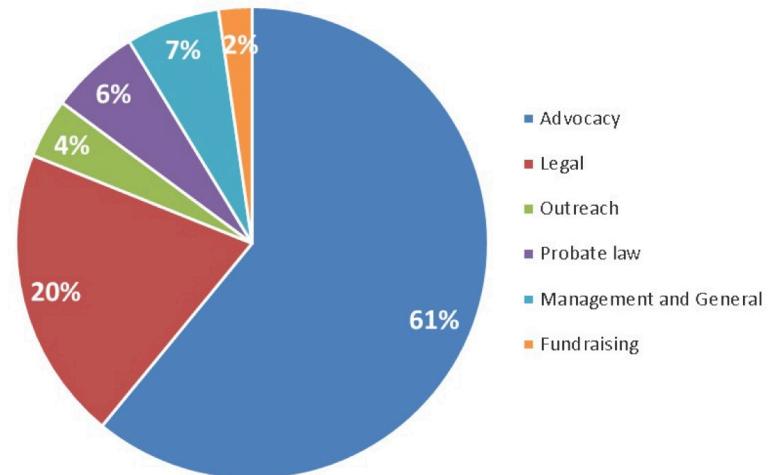
A handwritten signature of Josh Winkler in black ink.

Josh Winkler
CCDC Board Co-Chair

2018 INCOME



2018 EXPENSES



CCDC 2018 FINANCIAL STANDING





COLORADO CROSS-DISABILITY COALITION

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