

REAL Colorado

Responsive, Efficient, Accountable Human Services System delivered through a Local – state partnership

Friday, January 13th
9:00 am – 10:30 am
CCI's Conference Room

- **Update on Mandate Reform**
 - Lynn Johnson - Phase I: Federal Regulations Review
 - Herb Covey – Phase II: Mandate Review
 - Child Protection Review Team – Legislative Idea for 2013
- **CDHS' Audit Alignment Group**
 - Jay Morein, CDHS
- **Discussion re: REAL Task Force**
- **Future Meetings?**
- **Other Business**

To join by conference call, dial 1-218-862-1300 and then dial 171009 when prompted for your passcode.

REAL Colorado Meeting- November 4, 2011, CCI

Upcoming Meetings at CCI

January 13th - 9:30am – 11:30am

Phase I: Federal Funding Review

- Lynn Johnson explained that the federal funding review that was scheduled for November 2nd was canceled due to the snow storm. However, counties and advocates have 'claimed' different categories (i.e. LEAP, Child Care, IVE Child Welfare, etc.) of federal rules for review and that work is being done.
- Lynn indicated that many federal laws tie federal funding to 1.) meeting explicit requirements listed in the federal law and 2.) adherence to whatever is included in the state plan.
- The goal is to complete the federal funding review by January 2012

Phase II: Mandate Review

- Herb Covey updated the group on the status of the mandate review for Phase II. He indicated that county staffs (Metro Directors Public Assistance Administrators) on behalf of REAL Colorado are looking at four mandates. The counties have asked the state to join these workgroups.
- The child welfare Phase II workgroups report making progress on all of the high priority mandates. The state is participating in these workgroups and rule packages are being drafted.
- Herb suggested that REAL Colorado might want to meet with the Legislative Audit Committee to discuss audit recommendations, unfunded mandates, and the costs of implementing audit recommendations. Some audit recommendations have inherent costs to counties that are unfunded mandates.

CDHS's Rule Review

- REAL Colorado members agreed that the letter that was sent in mid October to Governor Hickenlooper and Executive Director Bicha was sufficient for showing support for the department's rule repeal efforts. CDHS hopes to complete their rule repeal process by June 2012. Since rules that have been flagged for revision are more complex, no date has been set for when those will be made.
- Counties, through the sub-PAC and PAC processes have been reviewing the proposed CDHS rule reductions. So, counties have been at the table and actively participating in CDHS's rule reduction efforts.
- Commissioner Kirkmeyer, Commissioner Beckman, Lynn Johnson and Herb Covey will appear before the Board of Human Services on Friday, December 2nd at 9:15am to present on REAL Colorado

Interest from other organizations in REAL Colorado

- Other entities and states have expressed an interest in replicating REAL Colorado. A general discussion was had on this and the following two sentiments were expressed:
 - If REAL Colorado is adopted by others, it must be adopted in its entirety and nothing should be changed on the bookmark. If changes are made to the bookmark, then it is not REAL Colorado.
 - Before other organizations (CML, SDA, CASE, etc.) join our effort, we need to permeate REAL Colorado in our own organization.

Future of REAL Colorado

- Commissioner Kirkmeyer explained that CCI's Board of Directors has been talking about how to elevate REAL Colorado at CCI. The goal is to have REAL Colorado – and its goals – be integrated throughout CCI's 8 steering committees.
- Among other goals, REAL Colorado is about paying for outcomes...not paying for compliance. The 'system change' that we're striving for must be defined by data-driven outcomes.
- There was a lot of brainstorming but no firm recommendation. Ultimately, CCI's Board of Directors and Membership need to decide 1.) if there is a REAL Colorado standing committee/taskforce/etc what is the makeup (steering committee chairs and/or vice chairs? Open to anyone who is interested, etc.) and 2.) What does this standing committee/task force/etc do?

Mary McGhee, CDHS

- Mary McGhee joined the group and explained that the department intends to do a review of agency letters. This review hasn't started yet because the department is in the midst of repealing and revising their rules but it will be done.
- Mary also indicated that CDHS has an audit alignment group. This group is looking at how the number of county programmatic audits can be reduced and/or how audits can be accomplished more efficiently. The audit alignment group will be invited to the next REAL Colorado meeting.

REAL COLORADO

An initiative of Colorado Counties, Inc.

Key questions when considering legislation, rule or regulation:

RESPONSIVE

- Is it required by state or federal law?
- Was comprehensive data used to define the problem and desired outcomes?
- Were experts who administer the affected programs engaged?

EFFICIENT

- Will it streamline or add layers of bureaucracy?
- Is it redundant or inefficient?
- Are current staffing levels sufficient to comply with additional requirements?

ACCOUNTABLE

- Are there measurable outcomes to be achieved by this change?
- Is there adequate state funding to pay for all direct local costs?
- Are there models in existence that may provide better outcomes?

LOCAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP

- Have local elected officials been consulted?
- Has there been collaboration between state agencies?
- Does it limit flexibility to be responsive to community needs?

REAL COLORADO

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**Responsive, Efficient, Accountable services
delivered through Local-State Partnership**

REAL Colorado is an initiative of Colorado Counties, Inc. that aims to lead a collaborative, strategic reform of state and local government systems.

REAL Colorado represents the unified voice of Colorado's 64 counties calling for improved government services delivered through local-state partnership that are more responsive, efficient and accountable.

REAL Colorado collaborative reform involves: driving decisions based on data and measurable outcomes, reducing unnecessary and un-funded mandates and streamlining processes.

REAL Colorado strives to increase transparency and fiscal responsibility. It aims to safeguard the flexibility required for local governments to define innovative solutions for the communities they serve.

Throughout these efforts, a strong focus on outcomes will enhance the quality of services, reduce costs and help Colorado's state and local governments to meet the needs of our citizens.

November 21, 2011 Email
Hi everybody,

Attached is a revised version of the REAL Colorado bookmark. This version is generic (not HHS specific) so that it's applicable to all of CCI's steering committees. CCI's steering committees will be asked to review and approve this revised version during the January Steering Committee meetings. In advance of those meetings, we thought we'd share this revised version with all of you.

To help you see what has and has not changed, here's the bookmark's text:

On the question side of the bookmark

REAL Colorado

An initiative of Colorado Counties, Inc. ~~Health and Human Services Steering Committee~~

Key questions when considering legislation, rule or regulation impacting human services:

Responsive

- Is it required by state or federal law?
- Was comprehensive data used to define the problem and desired outcomes?
- Were experts who administer the affected programs engaged?

Efficient

- Will it streamline or add layers of bureaucracy?
- Is it redundant or inefficient?
- Are current staffing levels sufficient to comply with additional requirements?

Accountable

- Are there measurable outcomes to be achieved by this change?
- Is there adequate state funding to pay for all direct local costs?
- Are there models in existence that may provide better outcomes?

Local-State Partnership

- Have local elected officials been consulted?
- Has there been collaboration between state agencies?
- Does it limit flexibility to be responsive to community needs?

On the other side of the bookmark

REAL Colorado

An initiative of Colorado Counties, Inc. ~~Health and Human Services Steering Committee~~

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REAL Colorado is an initiative of the Colorado Counties Inc. ~~Health and Human Services Steering Committee~~ that aims to lead a collaborative, strategic reform of ~~our human services system~~ STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS.

REAL Colorado represents the unified voice of Colorado's 64 counties calling for a ~~human services system~~ IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES delivered through the local-state partnership that is ARE more responsive, efficient and accountable.

REAL Colorado collaborative reform involves: driving decisions based on data and measurable outcomes, reducing unnecessary and un-funded mandates and streamlining processes.

REAL Colorado strives to increase transparency and fiscal responsibility. ~~The reform will~~ IT AIMS TO safeguard THE flexibility REQUIRED for local governments to define innovative solutions for the ~~community~~ COMMUNITIES they serve.

Throughout these efforts, a strong focus on the ~~clients'~~ outcomes will enhance the quality of services, REDUCE COSTS and help the ~~system~~ COLORADO'S STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS ~~deliver on its commitments to protect children, at-risk adults and families in need.~~

Colorado
Association
of School
Executives

REAL COLORADO

Key questions School Boards and school district officials should ask when considering legislation, rule or regulation impacting K-12 public education:

RESPONSIVE

- **Is this required by state or federal law?**
- **Was comprehensive data used to define the problem and desired outcomes?**
- **Were experts and school officials who administer the affected programs engaged?**

EFFICIENT

- **Will it streamline or add layers of bureaucracy?**
- **Is it redundant or inefficient?**
- **Are current staffing levels sufficient to comply with additional requirements?**

ACCOUNTABLE

- **Are there measurable outcomes to be achieved by this change?**
- **Is there adequate state funding to pay for all direct local costs?**
- **Are there models in existence that may provide better outcomes?**

LOCAL-STATE PARTNERSHIPS

- **Have local officials in school districts been consulted?**
- **Has there been collaboration between districts and state agencies?**
- **Does it limit flexibility to be responsive to community, student, and family needs?**

REAL COLORADO

Key facts about the impact of legislation on K-12 public education:

- **Colorado's public schools educate more than 818,000 students in grades K-12.**
- **On average, about 80 bills are introduced each Legislative Session that stand to affect K-12 education while state funding to K-12 education continues to decline.**
- **The most recent data (2006) shows that school districts must currently comply with more than 500 state-level reporting requirements each year as a result of state law and regulation. There are even more requirements at the federal level.**



Taken from the REAL Colorado initiative of
Colorado Counties, Inc.
Prepared by Littleton Public Schools, Nov. 2011

REAL Colorado Task Force

Draft Proposal

**Goals: To integrate REAL Colorado throughout CCI;
To encourage others to adopt REAL Colorado principles**

Task Force Structure

- Vice Chairs of CCI's 8 Steering Committees
- 1 CCI Board Member
- Current Commissioner/Councilmember Members of REAL Colorado's Committee
- Open to participation by all CCI members

Missions

- Ensure that REAL Colorado principles are familiar to all members and committees.
- Develop and enhance working relationships with state agencies.
- Monitor the compliance of state departments with legal requirements.
- React to departmental actions that result in unfunded mandates and/or may not result in the desired outcomes.
- At a steering committee's request, the task force may perform analysis or other tasks to facilitate the implementation of REAL Colorado principles.
- Facilitate the adoption/use of REAL Colorado principles by other entities and groups interested in public policy.

- REAL Colorado will NOT be assigned bills or take positions on legislation.
- REAL Colorado will NOT have the power to bind CCI or any subsection thereof to policy positions or principles.

Miscellaneous

- Meetings at least quarterly, more frequently if needed.
- Meeting staffing and coordination to be provided within existing resources; project staffing/costs may require supplemental resources and approval by the CCI Board.
- Any tasks approved by the task force that require additional CCI resources will be subject to review and approval by the Board.