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John E. Meeker -Executive Director

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Dear Families and Friends,

The potential for conflicts of interests has long been a topic of debate in the Colorado developmental disabilities system, particularly where case management and direct services are provided by the same organization, as is the case with Pathways. The issue has been studied multiple times over the past thirty-five years, and the State has adopted many regulatory safeguards designed to address such potential conflicts of interests. Recently the Colorado Departments of Human Services and Health Care Policy and Financing convened another task force to re-examine conflict of interest issues and recommend solutions. I serve as a member of this Conflict of Interest (COI) Task Force along with more than twenty others representing families, advocacy groups, providers, CCBs, and the State.

The Task Force has met six times to date, and is still in the process of gathering information and analyzing options. The Task Force agreed that it would be beneficial to seek broader input on the issues as we proceed, and a Public Comment opportunity has been scheduled for next Tuesday, June 1st (details are included in the attached Request for Public Comment). Also attached are two important documents that will provide context, a study from the University of Southern Maine and a report by the Colorado Legislative Audit Committee. Other documents relating to the Task Force, including Task Force meeting minutes, are available on the home page of the Division for Developmental Disabilities at [www.cdhs.state.co.us/ddd/](http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/ddd/).

We know that our families will be interested in how any proposed system changes might affect them, but the Task Force has not yet reached any conclusions or recommendations so there is little information to provide at this time beyond the documents noted above. As options and recommendations are developed by the Task Force there should be additional opportunities to provide feedback, and you are encouraged to follow the work of the Task Force on the DDD website. Pathways will also follow up with additional information and analysis as recommendations emerge.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

John Meeker, CEO