

# STATE OF COLORADO



**Colorado Department of Human Services**

*people who help people*



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August 22, 2011

Dear Self-Advocates and Family Members:

The purpose of this correspondence is to share with you information about upcoming changes to Non-Integrated Work Services (NIWS), also known as sheltered workshops. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) does not allow Medicaid to pay for sheltered work. With guidance from CMS, the Department of Human Services/Division for Developmental Disabilities (DHS/DDD) began looking at alternative day service options for individuals who receive Medicaid-funded NIWS. A workgroup was convened in May 2009 to review this issue and to make recommendations. The workgroup focused on making this change with minimal negative impact on individuals who are receiving services. The final report and the response from CDHS are available on DDD's website: [NIWS Final Report](#).

Effective July 1, 2012, Medicaid funding will no longer be available to reimburse NIWS in Colorado. In order to offer as much choice to individuals as possible, a recommendation was made to amend the Home and Community Based Services Supported Living Services (HCBS-SLS) waiver and HCBS for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (HCBS-DD) waiver, to include Prevocational Services as a service option. Once CMS approves this change, Prevocational Services will be a service option in addition to Specialized Habilitation, Supported Community Connections and Supported Employment.

The purpose of Prevocational Services is to teach general skills necessary for future community employment. While Prevocational Services do not replace the services provided in NIWS, persons will continue to receive compensation for any work that is completed as part of skill development. Once CMS approves the waiver amendments, DHS/DDD will finalize the details of Prevocational Services and provide additional information to self-advocates, families, case managers, and providers.

If you or your family member is receiving NIWS, your case manager and the interdisciplinary team (IDT) will discuss with you the impact of this change and other potential service options. You should also discuss this change with the service agency providing NIWS. Many agencies will choose to provide Prevocational Services in addition to other services. DHS/DDD will be providing specific

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instruction to case managers on planning for this change. If you are unsure whether or not this change affects you or your family member, please contact your case manager for information about the services you receive.

DHS/DDD acknowledges this is a significant change and there will be many questions about this change. DHS/DDD is committed to providing as much support and information as possible. In order to help identify the type of information needed, please submit your questions by email to [Candie.Dalton@state.or.us](mailto:Candie.Dalton@state.or.us). Please include NTWS in the subject line. You can also mail your questions to:

Division for Developmental Disabilities  
Attention: Candie Dalton  
4055 South Lowell Boulevard  
Denver, CO 80236

If you have questions about services or the service planning process please contact your case manager. If you would like to speak with DDD staff about this change please call Candie Dalton at 303.866.7904.

Sincerely,



Shari Repinski

Assistant Division Director Program Services

cc: Alliance  
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