COLORADO CROSS-DISABILITY COALITION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT
“Nothing about us, without us...ever!”
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC) is made up of people with disabilities, so we know first-hand the obstacles to getting the right healthcare, rewarding jobs and reliable, affordable transportation to get around our towns and state.

We empower people with disabilities to use our voices to improve our own lives and advocate for real systems solutions to ensure people with disabilities have the same opportunities as other Coloradans.

**CCDC’s mission is to advocate for social justice for people with all types of disabilities.**

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2017 ANNUAL REPORT
In 2017, deepening divisions – urban v. rural, political party, race, culture and more – made many groups, including people with disabilities, feel anxious and under attack. For those of us who rely on Medicaid for our freedom and very survival, it was terrifying to hear Congressional proposals to “end Medicaid as we know it.” This came perilously close to happening and it was only a few brave U.S. Senators who saved the lives of millions of disabled Americans.

Panic aside, it was amazing to participate in the magic of our community coming together in Colorado and across the country. Our amazing ADAPT warriors occupied Senator Cory Gardner’s office for almost 60 hours, followed by more than 30 hours in jail, garnering much well-deserved media and public attention for our campaign to save Medicaid.

Then ADAPT activists visited Senator Gardner in Denver and in D.C. — Dawn Russell got Senator Gardner on video, viewed 12,000 times on Facebook. Just when it looked like The Affordable Care Act and Medicaid were on the ropes, ADAPT took over Senate Leader Mitch McConnell’s office focusing on the country’s attention on the real life and death consequences to our community, changing the tone of the discussion.

Suddenly, we were seen as people who deserved the right to life and liberty. While people called this the #SummerOfADAPT, it was the result of nearly 40 years of ADAPT activism and our civil rights movement. This summer my community pride swelled even more as the national and local media covered our amazing history and movement.

While sweeping legislation to change Medicaid as we know it no longer appears imminent, the Trump administration has announced they will issue state waivers to impose work requirements, a backdoor way to dismantle Medicaid. These waivers will push many of us off the healthcare insurer we depend on, and threaten our benefits during the sure-to-be-lengthy appeal process for those who can’t work, yet are deemed “able-bodied.” That’s why CCDC is spearheading a #Vote4Medicaid campaign to educate voters on where the Governor and other candidates stand on preserving (and improving) Medicaid on a state level.

#Vote4Medicaid will also alert candidates to the large and diverse group of voters that care about Medicaid. Watch for opportunities to join this campaign to help organizations and businesses throughout the state come together on messaging for Medicaid and then Get Out The Vote (GOTV) in the November election. We don’t care who you vote for— but we desperately care that you get involved with and vote for candidates who speak to your values. It is only when we are seen as an important and engaged population, that we will no longer live in fear of losing life-sustaining services.
With more than 50 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 addressed more than 1,200 issues 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. CCDC also started our social enterprise Probate Power to serve people who need wills, Medicaid trusts, ABLE accounts and other probate-related needs. And CCDC tripled the number of graduates from our stellar advocacy training program as compared to 2016.

We were not the only group under attack in 2017, so CCDC continued our racial justice work internally and as an ally, developing relationships with other organizations including the Asian Pacific Development Center, Montbello Organizing Committee and our rural partners like the Northwest and Southwest Centers for Independence. **We speak out when we see oppression against others. We are working to change the narrative about disability.** Look for videos and other tools to help you participate in this essential change.

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 have stepped up repeatedly – and especially in 2017. 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) is real in Colorado.

To quote Mahatma Gandhi, “You may never know what results come of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no results.” **Together we will create a Colorado where the ADA dream of full integration of people with all types of disabilities is reality**…a Colorado that opens doors and sees the benefit of full inclusion in schools, workplaces, communities and government. Onward!

*Julie Reiskin*

Julie Reiskin

CCDC Executive Director
From the Board Co-Chairs

We are both very proud to not only co-chair the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition board of directors, but also to share the outstanding 2017 successes of this very effective disability rights organization.

Josh – who lives with both life-long and acquired disabilities – was named the co-chair of the board in 2017. Born with a disability affecting his legs, Josh underwent six surgeries in 10 years – while difficult, it made it possible for him to walk with only a slight limp. While his school PE class participation was modified, he normalized his disability as a teen, working around his family’s farm, riding horses, zooming around on dirt bikes and driving with regular foot pedals. In high school, Josh rolled his Jeep – his friend died and he broke his neck. After three weeks in the ICU, Josh came to Craig Hospital for four months of rehab. Finding Denver to be one of the most accessible cities in the world, he stayed to earn a BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering from CU Denver, worked as an engineer for a NASCAR team and immersed himself in the disability rights movement. Josh is the founder of Cripple Concepts, a start-up company that designs and produces devices for people with disabilities.

As a parent of a teenager with Down Syndrome, Lloyd places a high priority on protecting the rights of people with disabilities – he is committed to helping create a strong community for his son to join as he grows up and becomes an adult. Lloyd is the CEO of arc Thrift Stores of Colorado, one of the largest employers of people with developmental disabilities – so he is thrilled that our CCDC strategic plan has a specific emphasis on increasing the abysmal employment rates of people with disabilities. As a businessperson, Lloyd has found that including people with disabilities in the workforce helps that bottom line; as a dad, he is determined that job prospects will continue to improve for his son and all people with disabilities.

CCDC is an organization with strong values and a clear mission—to advocate for social justice on behalf of people with all types of disabilities. As we continue to grow, improve and respond to the needs of our communities, we never will stray from our values. All of us on the Board of Directors feel honored and humbled by the responsibility to lead this important organization and are committed to all of the best practices in nonprofit governance. Most importantly, we’re always looking for ways to better serve our membership and community. Thank all of you for your CCDC membership and support for everything we do.

Lloyd Lewis

Lloyd Lewis
CCDC Board Co-Chair

Josh Winkler

Josh Winkler
CCDC Board Co-Chair
### Improved Lives in 2017

| 1,257 | Information/referral problems solved |
| 246  | Life or liberty cases advocated |
| 191  | People helped to get or keep insurance, including Medicaid buy-in |
| 180  | People helped to get or keep health care services |
| 67   | 9-week Basic Advocacy Training graduates |
| 45   | Durable medical equipment problems solved |
| 28   | People connected to job opportunities |

**Individual Advocacy.** CCDC’s trained peer advocates solved problems like Medicaid buy-in enrollment glitches, Medicaid denials and service animal hassles. For example, one advocate helped Brielle – an eight year-old girl with severe autism – who requires at-home care to bathe, dress, eat and stay safe as she whirls, jumps and runs through her world. When Medicaid tried to cut this care, our advocate convinced an administrative law judge to reverse the decision so Brielle gets the care she needs and can stay at home with her family.

**Advocacy Training.** In 2017, CCDC fully implemented an online version of our 9-week Basic 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. It now includes government agency videos, discussion forums and other online materials. The online expansion allowed us to triple the number of graduates this year.

“Probate Power has given us the peace of mind of knowing our family has a strong estate plan in place so we can focus on our active boys as they ride their bikes, jump on the trampoline, climb on the playground and act out scenes from their favorite movies and TV shows. It’s a load off our minds.” - Jeff & Corey

With twin five-year-olds with disabilities – Gavin with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Bryce with Oppositional Defiant Disorder – Jeff and Corey Jacobson were worried about their boys’ financial and legal future. Probate Power – CCDC’s social enterprise legal program – helped the couple explore their estate planning options. The Littleton high school sweethearts visited Probate Power’s Chris Brock and got to know Chris, finding him knowledgeable, patient, honest and fair. Jeff and Corey moved ahead to set up two special needs trusts for the boys to protect their Medicaid benefits if they receive life insurance or other funds that would not be enough to meet their needs, but would be enough to cause them to lose life-sustaining supports absent these trusts. Now the parents know that their children will be provided for in the future, no matter what.
Improved Systems in 2017

12,000
Facebook views of the D.C. Congressional meeting video

5,000+
Emails and phone calls generated to elected officials on Medicaid

50+
Advocates serving on important boards and commissions

30+
Hours activists spent in jail for Sen. Gardner office civil disobedience

60
Hours activists occupied Sen. Gardner’s office during Medicaid campaign

10
Meetings held with Congressional offices on Medicaid

Employment
People with disabilities should be able to live a self-sufficient life. CCDC is working to connect us with the education and training we need to secure good jobs and break down barriers, including advocating for the Medicaid Buy-In program for people with disabilities so we now can enter the workforce, save money and keep our healthcare.

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 mobilized to save Medicaid when it was threatened. Our citizen-activists lobbied elected officials in Colorado and Washington, setting up in-person meetings and generating thousands of emails and phone calls to Congressional offices. We supported ADAPT who effectively shut down the office of Senator Cory Gardner to save Medicaid. We organized hundreds to rally outside of Senator Gardner’s office.

As part of The Colorado Trust’s Health Equity Advocacy project, CCDC is one of 17 organizations working together to build a strong and diverse partnership of health advocates in the state to increase health equity across the state.

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 31 transportation problems for members, advocating for affordable fares, fighting for adequate transit stops and promoting fully accessible transit facilities. Our legal program negotiated to ensure that light rail cars are accessible for those with mobility devices and our advocates worked to increase pay for Access-A-Ride drivers and make other policy improvements.
#SummerOfADAPT

The 2017 #SummerOfADAPT was sparked by the proposal to “end Medicaid as we know it” as part as the attempt to get rid of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Changes in Medicaid funding would have threatened the services and care that our community needs to sustain our lives and liberty. As the debate raged on, it was clear that NO ONE was paying attention to our long-term care needs.

That all changed on June 22nd when National ADAPT activists occupied the offices of U.S. Senate Leader Mitch McConnell, pivoting the nation’s attention to the plight of people with disabilities.

CCDC member Curt Wolff travelled to Washington D.C. to participate in a Congressional Briefing, and ADAPT events in cities around the country echoed the D.C. action to save Medicaid. In Colorado, nine Atlantis ADAPTERs including CCDC staff member Dawn Howard, took over Senator Gardner’s Denver office and refused to leave for almost 60 hours, when they were arrested and held in the Denver jail for another 30 hours. A week later, CCDC organized a rally with partners that attracted 400 activists to Skyline Park. We held or supported events attended by hundreds in Pueblo, Fort Morgan and Yuma. Statewide, our phonebanks reached over 1,000 people directly, and more than 80 organizations signed letters of support to work in coalition with organizations inside and outside the disability community. All the #SummerOfADAPT activities in Denver generated intense media coverage and plenty of goodwill as we protected Medicaid from harmful cuts.

As Representative Dave Young said, “We owe our friends from ADAPT a debt of gratitude for forcing this into the eyes of the public.” We couldn’t agree more!

**Impact Story: Basic Advocacy Course**

Stacy Yusim moved to Denver after 13 years working as a manager for The Training Institute on Disability in Chicago. She graduated from our summer 2017 Basic Advocacy Class and quickly put her skills as a CCDC certified non-attorney advocate to work, representing CCDC on three committees. She helped the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Office of Health Equity create an outreach piece on community wellness data for health providers. She also serves on the Prime Health Safety Net Advisory Board and was a member of the Paid Sick Days Exploratory Committee.

Stacy’s volunteer work at CCDC helped land her job coordinating a Center for Public Health Practice behavioral health crisis training for first responders. As a person with a disability – lupus – herself, she is proud to be part of the strong advocacy community in her new home in Colorado.
2017 Board of Directors

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Colorado ACCESS

Colorado Children’s Campaign
Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing
Colorado Department of Human Services
The Colorado Trust
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Denver Office of Disability Rights
Craig Hospital
Cripple Concepts.com
Disability Law Colorado
Consumer Direct Care Network Colorado
DRCOG Area Agency on Aging
The Independence Center
JFK Partners

Killmer Lane Newman, LLP
Morning Sun Financial Management Services
Numotion
PASCO
PCG Public Partnerships
PhRMA
Ride Designs, a division of Aspen Seating
Rocky Mountain Health Plans
Rocky Mountain Medical Equipment
THINK + change
We Work for Health Colorado

CCDC ADA Access Award Recipients 2017

Harry Budisidharta
Jennifer Brown
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI)

Jeremy Carroll
Susan Niner

Foundation Supporters

Caring for Colorado Foundation
The Colorado Health Foundation
The Colorado Trust
Colorado Bar Foundation
Rose Community Foundation
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The Anschutz Foundation

The Anschutz Family Foundation
Mile High Connects
The Denver Foundation
Virginia Hill Charitable Foundation
Mabel Y. Hughes Charitable Trust
John G. Duncan Charitable Trust
CCDC Memorial Award Recipients

- Robbie Roppolo
- Jeff Shart
- Lyvia Karnadi
- Caitlin Brady (posthumously)
- Dawn Russell
- Larimer County Bridging Communications
- Jed Ziegenhagen
- Claire Dickson and CCLP
- Kelly Stahlman and Family
- Jason Ragsdale
- Kay McCanless Award for Community Building
- Ken Gordon Memorial Award for Ethics in Legislation
- Juli Stewart Memorial Award for Caregiving
- Cappi Award
- Jerry Urban David and Goliath Award
- Kathy Vincent Award for Effective Communication
- David Hayes Award for Community Transition
- Peter Robertson Award
- Brady Goguen Family Support Award
- Ron Halsey Award for Rural Advocacy

Financials

Our financial position is strong – and our growth would not have been possible without our supporters!

CCDC 2017 Financial Standing

- $1,139,086 in total income
- $1,120,906 in total expenses
- $905,316 in net assets start of year
- $923,496 in net assets end of year

Financial Standing

- In-kind: $95,935
- Program fees and settlement revenues: $545,875
- Corporate and individual contributions: $65,162
- Event sponsorships and donations: $59,509
- Foundation contributions: $349,196
- Other: $3,389

2017 Expenses

- Advocacy: $617,201
- Probate Power: $73,732
- Outreach: $51,272
- Legal: $261,142
- Management and general: $93,249
- Fundraising: $24,310