

# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

### PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

#### MISSION AND FUNCTIONS

It is the policy of CCI that the health of the public be protected and promoted to the greatest extent possible through the public health system while respecting individual rights to dignity, health information privacy, nondiscrimination, due process, and other legally protected interests.

CCI supports the mission of state and local public health agencies to provide leadership and protect and promote the public's health by: (1) Promoting healthy conditions; (2) Providing or promoting the provision of essential public health services and functions that are appropriate for the populations being served; (3) Encouraging collaboration among public and private sector partners in the public health system; and (4) Seeking adequate funding to provide essential public health services and functions or accomplish public health goals through public or private sources.

This policy statement shall not be construed to require an individual or agency within the public health system to provide specific health services or to mandate local public health agencies to implement unfunded programs. CCI supports increasing state funding for local public health. CCI advocates for a stable, long-term, state funding source. CCI supports licensing, inspection, quality improvement, and health protection functions and an equitable system allowing counties to recoup their costs.

CCI acknowledges public health's core functions to assess the community's health and recommend policies to improve the public's health identified by the center for disease control, national association of county health officers, and the American Public Health Association.

CCI recognizes the following as essential public health roles: (1) Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems; (2) Investigate and diagnose health problems and health hazards in the community; (3) Inform, educate, and empower individuals about health issues; (4) Mobilize public and private sector to identify and solve health problems; (5) Develop policies, plans, and programs that support individual and community health efforts; (6) Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety; (7) Link individuals to needed personal health services; (8) Continue to provide or work toward the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable; (9) Encourage a competent public health workforce; (10) Evaluate personal and population-based health services; and (11) Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

#### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CCI supports state and local government's responsibility for assuring that the health system accomplishes the mission of public health as long as adequate resources are available to do so. While certain public health functions must be performed by state and local public health agencies, these agencies may also collaborate with public and private sector partners within the public health system. The provision of essential public health services and functions are shared goals of the public health system to achieve the mission of public health.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH POWERS

CCI recognizes that local public health agencies should be authorized to provide or implement local public health services and functions consistent with the needs of each county, and therefore must retain and expand local control by local elected leaders held accountable by local voters. This includes the following essential public health services and functions: (1) Provision of public health information, programs, or messages to the public that promote healthy behaviors or lifestyles or educate individuals about health issues; (2) Promotion of efforts among public and private sector partners to develop and fund programs or initiatives that identify and ameliorate health problems; (3) Provision or endorsement of performance management standards for the public health system; (4) Development and provision of certification, credentialing, or effective training for members of the public health workforce; (5) Development, adoption, and implementation of public health plans that guide or support community public health efforts; (6) Establishment of formal or informal relationships with private sector partners within the public health system; (7) Enforcement of existing laws and administrative regulations (including emergency regulations), and proposal of new laws, amendments to existing laws, or administrative regulations that may serve as tools to protect the public's health; (8) Identification, assessment, prevention, and amelioration of conditions of public health importance through surveillance, epidemiological tracking, program evaluation, and monitoring and screening programs; treatment; abatement of public health nuisances; administrative inspections or other techniques; (9) Promotion of the availability, affordability and accessibility of quality health care services through health care facilities or providers; (10) Promotion of the availability of and access to preventive and primary health care when not otherwise available through the private sector, including acute and episodic care, prenatal and postpartum care, evidence based home visitation programs, child health, family planning, school health, chronic disease prevention, child and adult immunizations, testing, and screening services, dental health, nutrition, and health education and promotion services; and (11) Systematic and regular review of the public health system to recommend modifications to improve public health outcomes.

CCI supports initiatives that provide comprehensive local and state solutions; that focus on preventive, cost-effective and locally flexible approaches; and that manage, fairly distribute and leverage resources. CCI opposes the preemption or elimination of local health and environmental rules and policies. Any Medicaid managed care system should address access to quality care.

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY**

CCI supports an enhanced state focus on and adequate state and federal funding to provide locally based efficient and effective behavioral health services. CCI supports implementation of exemplary local programs through state-funded incentives. CCI supports removal of funding barriers to evidence-based practices.

CCI supports collaboration among state and county departments of human services, law enforcement, judicial, mental health centers and substance abuse providers on all behavioral health issues that are of mutual interest. CCI supports efforts to structure state departments to facilitate collaboration. Placing mental health and substance abuse treatment and funding under various departments discourages effective treatment for individuals with co-occurring disorders. Mental illness and substance abuse diagnosis and treatment services should be consolidated so people with co-occurring disorders can achieve recovery.

CCI is in support of legislation that promotes effective and coordinated mental health and substance abuse treatment through the appropriate sharing of information.

CCI supports training of law enforcement officers to more effectively recognize and take appropriate action with offenders who have mental health and/or substance abuse disorders.

Appropriate diversion for mental illness and substance abuse is extremely important. These critical services should be available before, during and after incarceration.

## **FUNDING**

The state shall reimburse counties for all locally administered state public and environmental health programs. CCI opposes any local public and environmental health mandates without adequate funding. CCI opposes shifting responsibility and liability from the private sector or other levels of government to county government. CCI opposes any requirement for county financial support for Medicaid services. CCI advocates a stable, long-term state funding source for statewide poison control information services. CCI supports full state funding of the negative effects of the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act.

## **MEDICAID SERVICES**

CCI supports improvements to the Medicaid delivery system and supports programs, policies and laws that encourage full enrollment for Medicaid and CHP+.

CCI advocates counties continuing to have a significant role in the improvement and expansion of Medicaid.

CCI advocates a local application site in each county at the option of local government.

CCI opposes any requirement for county financial support for Medicaid services.

CCI advocates 100 percent reimbursement from the state to each county to administer the food stamp, Medicaid and other adult assistance programs.

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

CCI advocates local administration of the social services system in order to maximize the flexibility and responsiveness of the system to local needs, while ensuring efficient management and local control. CCI opposes any effort that has as its objective centralization of human services. CCI supports flexibility at the county level in providing benefits and services to best meet local needs without shifting costs to counties and negatively impacting county government.

CCI supports county exercise of the choice of federal options to counties. CCI supports a clear, fair and streamlined process for county waivers.

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

CCI supports county control of personnel matters consistent with applicable federal law. CCI supports immunity for social services personnel and social services delivery agencies and state support of defense and liability.

## **HUMAN SERVICES FINANCING**

CCI supports county input into a state budget management process to avoid supplemental appropriations requests for foreseeable circumstances. CCI supports the continued mitigation of excessive county tax burdens including but not limited to the county tax base relief fund. CCI supports changes in the maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements to allow flexible funding for

social services programs and to minimize or avoid increasing and to more equitably distribute fiscal responsibility of counties.

CCI advocates 100 percent reimbursement from the state to each county to administer the food stamp, Medicaid and other adult assistance programs.

## **WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT IMPLEMENTATION**

The federal “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014” (WIOA) requires increased local input in developing the state plan for workforce development centers and allows increased local control over the implementation of such plan. The purposes of WIOA are to establish a central, coordinated delivery of services at the local or regional level providing job training, adult education and literacy programs and services through a more streamlined and flexible workforce development system. WIOA allows local governments increased responsibility for the administration of the workforce program.

Further, CCI recognizes and fully supports the major purpose and goal of WIOA, which is to facilitate and promote partnerships with the private sector and employers who play a primary role in the successful implementation of WIOA.

In order to achieve successful implementation of WIOA in Colorado, CCI supports the following:

- The local elected official (LEO) shall maintain a strong role in all phases and levels of WIOA implementation;
- The elimination of the current fragmentation of programs and coordination of such programs at the state and local level;
- The establishment of a local delivery model with local flexibility in delivering and operating employment and training services; and
- Delivery of such services within local areas developed by and at the option of local governments.

CCI supports a workforce system under WIOA in Colorado that provides counties with the maximum flexibility in meeting WIOA requirements and assures decision-making at the local level. CCI supports a workforce system allowing for the creation of local workforce boards to oversee the network.

CCI supports local control throughout the establishment and implementation WIOA.

## **CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT**

CCI supports effective child support enforcement practices and holding parents responsible for the support of their minor children.

## **FOSTER CARE/OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT**

The counties and other entities involved with out-of-home placements should have the option to negotiate rates and resolve differences on placement decisions at the local level.

## **COLORADO CHILDREN’S CODE**

CCI recognizes the primary responsibility for children lies with parents, and governmental intervention is only appropriate in those circumstances where the physical, mental or emotional health of the child or the safety of the community is threatened. CCI supports the rights of children

to reside in a safe environment and to be free from physical, mental and emotional harm, and that all actions taken be in the best interests of the child. The ultimate decision-making authority under any administrative grievance process under the Children’s Code must rest with an entity or person(s) under the control and direction of the county commissioners.

CCI does not support revisions in their entirety to the Children’s Code. Any revisions, partial or whole re-writes or updates to the Children’s Code must rest with an entity or person(s) under the control and direction of the county commissioners.

## **HARDSHIP EXEMPTIONS**

CCI supports county input into developing fair and objective criteria for hardship exemptions for needy families exceeding the 60-month lifetime limit for receipt of assistance set forth in federal law.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION**

CCI recognizes the importance of excellent early childhood development for all the children of Colorado so that they may grow up to be good citizens, good neighbors and successful participants in the economic life of our communities. CCI also recognizes a role for the organization and its member counties in promoting excellent early childhood development.

Excellent early childhood development addresses the needs of children for strong families, proper nutrition, good health, and high-quality early care and education.

Therefore, CCI supports programs, policies and laws that support the healthy development of children, including high quality childcare, nutrition, health, and recognition of parents as a child’s primary teacher in a secure loving environment, all in ways that are consistent with CCI’s commitment to local control and decision-making in order to assure services, programs, costs, and policies fit the local needs of its member counties.

CCI advocates for a safe, healthy, and quality childcare environment through consultation with local childcare providers by local public health nurses and environmental health specialists.

CCI recognizes the importance of early childhood care and education as a workforce issue and as an important early development tool while respecting parental choice. CCI supports locally controlled, quality, accessible and affordable childcare for all families.

CCI advocates local control of income eligibility requirements, parental co-pays, and provider reimbursement rates.

## **VETERAN SERVICES**

CCI supports sustainable funding for veteran services in Colorado.