

March 1, 2010

Dr. Sharon Jacksi  
Colorado Department of Human Services  
Division for Developmental Disabilities  
4055 South Lowell Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80236

Ms. Barbara Prehmus  
Department of Health Care Policy & Financing  
1570 Grant Street  
Denver, CO 80203

Ms. Jenise May  
Colorado Department of Human Services  
1575 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Dr. Jacksi, Ms. Prehmus and Ms. May;

Jim Disney, the president of the Foothills Gateway Inc (FGI) Operating Board reported on his attendance at the Community Centered Board (CCB) Executive Director meeting with staff of Colorado Departments of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Division for Developmental Disabilities. The board raised concerns regarding discussions at the meeting, specifically, the proposal to separate case management and service provision within CCBs. The board finds it necessary to share our thoughts regarding any changes in CCB structure which may effect our goal to provide a wide range of quality services to clients.

Our board is comprised of volunteer community members from diverse walks of life, professions, clients, and parents of clients. Over the past two years the board, with support for FGI staff, has been diligently working to ensure we continue serving our clients within the strictures of state and federal law and reduced budgets. We are accomplishing this through:

- Developing a strategic plan and decision matrix with criteria for project selection. Criteria include but not limited to:
  - Meeting the Foothills Gateway mission;
  - Addressing Foothills Gateway principals;
  - Number of clients served;
  - Urgency;
  - and Economic Efficiencies.
- Obtaining a breadth of knowledge about program delivery through program briefings and updates from staff at Foothills Gateway.
- Developing an accessibility report and recommendations to improve our informational accessibility to the public, clients and families.
- Conducting a board self evaluation to assess strengths and weaknesses.
- Developing a comprehensive report and recommendations on Conflict of Interest with the assistance of our Program Approved Services Agencies parents, and advocacy.
- Providing a of public forum at each board meeting to obtain information from constituents and the community.

Through this process, we recognize the challenges you face in administering a complex program bound by federal and state regulations. Balancing the needs of clients and administrative requirements is not easy. However, it is not clear that a major restructuring or elimination of CCBs is the answer. At Foothills Gateway, we are working to address challenges in the system such as: strategic planning, accessibility, conflict of interest and the waiting list. We identify a potential challenge, study and develop recommendations for addressing the challenge and implement the recommendations. The Conflict of Interest report and recommendations we recently completed may be of particular interest to you and stakeholders. Foothills Gateway's Executive Director, Tim O'Neill, is available to brief you on our process, report and recommendations.

We believe system improvement will most effectively and efficiently be obtained through rigorous assessment of the problem and adoption of appropriate policies. Complete restructuring will create additional administrative burdens with unforeseen costs and negligible benefit to clients. Additionally, we are concerned that expensive structural changes will impact our ability to address our strategic goals.

The board invites you to attend one of our monthly board meetings where we can engage in further dialogue about how to improve the system to better meet clients' growing needs.

Best Regards,

Foothills Gateway, Inc. Board of Directors

Brinna Allen

John Haley

Heather Schichtel

Carol Ward

Jim Disney

Kendra Kettler

Gregg Seebohm

Doris Whitely

Linda Drees

Paul Rodgers

Romie Tobin

Mark Durand

BJ Russell

Steve Tool