STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Department of Human Services
people who help people

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To: Individuals in Supported Living Services (SLS) Waiver
Parents, Family Members and Guardians of Individuals In SLS
SLS Service Providers

From: Fred DeCrescentis, Director
Division for Developmental Disabilities

Subject: Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) Assessments

Date October 25, 2007

I'm writing to tell you about a new assessment that will be completed for everyone in the Medicaid Supported Living Services (SLS) Waiver during the next year.

A federal agency told the Colorado Division for Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) that we must have a more consistent way to decide how much money will be used to provide services to people served in the Medicaid Waiver programs. After much research Colorado picked the Supports Intensity Scale, which is an assessment tool that evaluates the practical support requirements of a person with an intellectual disability. This new assessment, along with other information, will be used to determine funding levels for people being served in the Supported Living Services (HCBS-SLS) and Comprehensive (HCBS-DD) Medicaid Waivers. The State has contracted with an independent consulting firm to help match funding levels with support needs based on the SIS information and other factors.

The SIS is a standardized assessment. It was developed by the American Association on Mental Retardation (now the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities or AAIDD).

The SIS is completed through an interview process. The interview should include the person in SLS (unless they do not want to participate) and at least two people (respondents) who know the person well. Guardians should always be invited and parents should be invited unless the person in services does not want them to attend. The typical interview lasts about two hours.

During the next year your CCB will be scheduling appointments with every individual who is being served through the Medicaid Supported Living Services Waiver. We've enclosed additional information about the SIS, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, and a document written by a parent's group (PAD-CO) about the SIS.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your case manager or Gail Bernstein at our office. Her email is Gail.Berstein@state.co.us and phone is 303-866-7143.

Cc: CCB Directors