



The Honorable Randy Baumgardner
Chair, Capital Development Committee
200 East Colfax
Denver, Colorado 80203

December 9, 2016

Dear Senator Baumgardner:

The Colorado Department of Human Services, in response to requirements of Senate Bill 16-178, respectfully submits a plan for the disposition of the Grand Junction Regional Center. The plan is spelled out in the attached report created by the Grand Junction Regional Center Advisory Group.

Senate Bill 16-178 required the Department to submit a plan for relocating services provided on the Grand Junction Regional Center campus, and for selling the campus. The Advisory Group was convened in accordance with the bill. Along with recommendations for facilities, the group identified a need for additional planning and evaluation prior to being able to fully articulate such a plan. This letter outlines the process for moving forward with additional planning and evaluation requested by the Advisory Group.

Along with their recommendations, CDHS would add that additional analysis around the cost of this option still needs to be conducted. Furthermore, the Department would be open to providing additional options if that is what the Capital Development Committee desires.

Senate Bill 16-178 required the Department to convene an Advisory Group, composed of no more than seven members to help the Department formulate a plan and budget requests to vacate the Grand Junction Regional Center campus by July 1, 2018. The Department appointed the Advisory Group members in July 2016 and convened the group. Over the last several months, with the assistance of Singleton Strategies (a third-party facilitator), the group developed recommendations for moving forward with the process of relocating services for individuals currently receiving Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) services on the campus.

Additionally, Senate Bill 16-178 directed the Department to ensure that service selection and resident choice were considered when developing a plan for vacating the Grand Junction Campus. The Department coordinated with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to provide Grand Junction ICF residents and their guardians the opportunity to identify their future service preference and location. The service selection process conducted by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, through a consultant, is now complete and a total of 22 of the current residents served in the Grand Junction ICF



program wish to continue receiving ICF services in the Grand Junction area, provided by the Grand Junction Regional Center.

The Advisory Group submitted its final report to the Department on November 30, 2016. We have attached this report for your review and consideration. The report identifies the service desires and preferences of the group. Serving the 22 individuals who have elected to continue receiving ICF services in Grand Junction will require the planning and construction of new residential facilities.

The Advisory Group received input from the Office of the State Architect to describe the planning steps and timeline for constructing new state facilities, which include the development of an operational program plan and a facility program plan. Then, architectural and engineering work, as well as construction of the facilities, would be necessary. Additionally, the Advisory Group recommended that a cost comparison of different service location options be conducted to evaluate the potential benefits of remaining on a portion of the existing campus versus vacating the campus entirely and moving to new site.

Based on these considerations, the Advisory Group has requested that the Department continue working with the Advisory Group to undertake a robust and thoughtful planning process for relocating the 22 individuals currently receiving ICF services provided on the Grand Junction campus. The timeline for the planning steps and construction described in the Advisory Group report would exceed the timeline of vacating the campus by July 1, 2018.

The Department agrees with the Advisory Group that a robust and thoughtful planning process will yield results that best meet the needs of those we serve in Grand Junction, as well as ensure fiscal and programmatic sustainability for services offered by the Grand Junction Regional Center. As such, upon review of the Advisory Group’s proposed timeline for planning, the Department and Singleton Strategies engaged the Department of Personnel, Office of the State Architect to review and validate the proposed timeline to ensure it was realistic and feasible for implementing Senate Bill 16-178. The timeline includes key planning processes that are needed to accomplish this effort, as well as the timing of associated budget requests to support the effort.

Based on this timeline, the Department anticipates the ability to relocate the 22 individuals currently served on the campus, as well as administrative and auxiliary services by November 2019. The timeline agreed on by the Advisory Group, Department and Office of the State Architect is shown in Table 1 below, and a chart of the key steps and budget processes is included in Attachment A.

Table 1: Grand Junction Regional Center Planning Process Timeline for Implementing Senate Bill 16-178		
Planning/Implementation Step	Timeline	Purpose
Develop Operational Program Plan <i>Budget Action: FY 2016-17 Budget Amendment request for Planning Funds and funds to purchase land (funding for land could be reverted or repurposed to site development on the campus if the optimal location is determined to be a smaller footprint of campus).</i>	December 2016 - March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required by SB 15-270 Determines expected capacity for ICF service in Grand Junction Identifies Programmatic Plans for residential, vocational, day program, and administrative services Identifies how facilities may be used over time.
Develop Facility Program Plan	April - October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required by SB 15-270 Incorporates expert-driven facility



	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> design Identifies location and site configuration for facilities Details cost estimates and financing options
Select and Purchase Land that complies with Facility Program Plan Requirements <i>Budget Action FY 2017-18 Construction Request.</i>	June - September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procure site for development of facilities.
Architectural Design and Site Development <i>Budget Action Budget Amendment request for Planning Funds and funds to purchase land (can be reverted if Facility Program Plan identifies location to be on smaller footprint of campus).</i>	November 2017 - August 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site specific design of facilities to meet requirements of Facility Program Plan Prepares detailed cost and timeline for construction
Construction <i>Budget Action FY 2018-19 Funding request for costs of moving residents.</i>	September 2018 - August 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procure construction contractor Construct facilities Certify and License the facilities
Equip the Facility and Train Staff	January 2019 - August 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Furnish and Equip the new facilities Train staff on use of new equipment and facilities
Move Residents to New Facilities	September 2019 - November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move residents from current Grand Junction Regional Center Campus to new facilities.
Vacate and Transfer Campus	December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department transfers Grand Junction campus to Department of Personnel and Administration

Source: Grand Junction Regional Center Advisory Group report.

We appreciate the opportunity to evaluate the location of services provided by the Grand Junction Regional Center, and the ability to work with the Advisory Group during the process. The Department recognizes the plan outlined is one of many potential relocation strategies and configurations and looks forward to working with the General Assembly to ensure a thoughtful transition of the residents receiving services on the Campus that can occur in a timely and fiscally responsible fashion.



If you have any questions, please contact Tony Gherardini, Director of the Office of Administrative Solutions at 303-866-5725.

Sincerely,



Tony Gherardini
Director of the Office of Administrative Solutions, CDHS



Larry Friedberg
Colorado State Architect

cc: Senator John Kefalas, Capital Development Committee
Senator Jerry Sonnenberg, Capital Development Committee
Representative K C Becker, Capital Development Committee
Representative J. Paul Brown, Capital Development Committee
Representative Daneya Esgar, Capital Development Committee
Kori Donaldson, Capital Development Committee Staff
Henry Sobanet, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Anne Renaud, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Alice Wheel, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Nikki Hatch, Deputy Executive Director of Operations, Department of Human Services
Alicia Caldwell, Deputy Executive Director of Legislative Affairs and Communication, Department of Human Services
Mark Wester, Director, Office of Community Access and Independence, Department of Human Services
Sarah Sills, Director of Budget and Policy, Department of Human Services
Tony Gherardini, Director, Office of Administrative Solutions
Department of Human Services
Sarah Wager, Deputy Director, Office of Administrative Solutions
Department of Human Services
Laura Morsch-Babu, Communications Director, Department of Human Services
Riley Kitts, Legislative Liaison, Department of Human Services
Molly Otto, State Librarian

