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**THE CONSUMER-DIRECTED ATTENDANT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM APPEARS
MORE COSTLY THAN OTHER OPTIONS AND LACKS ADEQUATE CONTROLS**

DENVER— An audit by the Colorado Office of the State Auditor (OSA) has found that the Consumer-Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS) Program run by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) appears more costly than other service delivery options available to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) clients, but the Department has not fully analyzed the cost-effectiveness of the Program. Additionally, the OSA found that the Department lacks adequate controls to ensure that enrollment requirements are consistently met, client funding allocations align with client needs, and case managers adequately monitor clients.

The CDASS Program provides autonomy to disabled adults (clients), allowing them to manage their own care and hire their choice of attendants to provide health maintenance, personal care, and homemaker services. During Fiscal Year 2014 the Department spent \$82.3 million on the Program, which served 3,124 clients.

Auditors found that the average per capita cost for the CDASS program was more than three times higher than the average cost for clients receiving similar services through non-consumer-managed options. The Department's own study conducted in Fiscal Year 2013, reported that on average the total Medicaid and HCBS waiver cost for clients participating in CDASS may be 58 to 86 percent higher than the cost for clients receiving similar services through alternative delivery options. However, the Department reported that the study lacked reliable data to draw definitive conclusions and has not assessed CDASS outcomes such as nursing home placements, hospital admissions, and critical incidents to fully assess the cost-effectiveness of CDASS.

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Additionally, the audit found that CDASS lacked evidence that all enrollment requirements had been followed for 22 of the sample of 30 clients reviewed, including requirements that clients were in stable health or that background checks were conducted on all attendants. Separately, CDASS lacked evidence that case managers conducted required check-ins for 5 of the sample of 15 clients files reviewed.

Of the 30 clients reviewed in the audit, 27 purchased attendant care that varied by more than 10 percent, either higher or lower, from the hours that their case managers determined were needed. Four of the clients in the sample paid for care that was not planned for in their funding while, in contrast, seven did not purchase any care in some categories for which they received funding. These discrepancies between planned and purchased services indicate there are problems with the processes case managers use to assess clients' needs, allocate funds, and monitor clients.

Among the audit's four recommendations, the OSA recommends that the Department conduct a comprehensive analysis of CDASS to assess its benefits, outcomes achieved, and costs compared to other service delivery options, and report the results to policymakers.

The full report is available electronically on the OSA's website, <http://www.leg.state.co.us/OSA/coauditor1.nsf/Home?openform>, via the link called "OSA Audit Reports."

Under the direction of the state auditor, the OSA is the state's nonpartisan, independent external auditor with broad authority to audit state agencies, departments, institutions of higher education, and the Judicial and Legislative Branches. The OSA's professional staff serve the people of Colorado by addressing relevant public issues through high-quality, objective audits and reviews that promote accountability and positive change in government. Performance audits address whether programs operate in compliance with laws and regulations and in a manner that accomplishes intended program goals. Financial audits include annual audits of the state's basic financial statements and federal grants on a statewide level. IT audits review procedures and technology to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the state's critical computer systems and taxpayer data. The OSA also tracks about 4,000 Colorado local governments for compliance with the Local Government Audit Law.