



## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

1570 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203-1818 • (303) 866-2993 • (303) 866-4411 Fax • (303) 866-3883 TTY  
Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor • Joan Henneberry, Executive Director

February 1, 2007

The Honorable Abel Tapia, Chairman  
Joint Budget Committee  
200 East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Third Floor  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Senator Tapia:

Section 25.5-5-317, C.R.S. (2006) requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (the Department) to report to the Joint Budget Committee of the General Assembly on the effectiveness of the obesity treatment pilot program and to provide an estimate of the fiscal implications generated by the implementation of the pilot program. The Department must report on or before February 1, 2007, and on or before each February 1 thereafter in which the obesity treatment pilot program is in place.

The legislation authorized the Department to develop and implement an obesity treatment pilot program for the purpose of treating Medicaid recipients with a body mass index equal to or greater than thirty and a comorbid condition related to the recipient's obesity. No funds were appropriated for this pilot program for fiscal years 2005-2006 or 2006-2007; however gifts, grants or donations could be used to develop and implement the pilot program.

The Department discussed the pilot program with the potential funder and vendor that had testified in support of the pilot during the legislative process. Neither the funder nor the vendor expressed the desire or capability to participate in the pilot program. The Department discussed the pilot program with two other potential funders, neither of which was interested in funding the pilot. Six potential vendors were identified. None of the vendors had programs with the ability to solicit participants and operate the program statewide. Furthermore, none of the vendors could suggest potential funders. The Department continues to work on identifying potential funders but has not, to date, been successful in this endeavor.

Questions regarding this letter can be addressed to Katie Brookler, Quality Improvement Section Manager, at [katie.brookler@state.co.us](mailto:katie.brookler@state.co.us). Her telephone number is 303.866.6320.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Joan Henneberry'.

Joan Henneberry  
Executive Director

KB:JH

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