



Mental Health / Point of Contact Through Jail Release Task Force

Preliminary Recommendations Presentation to the
Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

December 9, 2016

Mental Health/Jails Task Force

MEMBERS

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Officer of Behavioral Health

Colorado Jail Association

Colorado Health Partnerships

Mental Health Partners

Health Care Policy and Financing

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Community Reach Center



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BACKGROUND

- Task Force began in June, 2016
- Met 7 times in 2016
- Four working groups were originally created, two subgroups emerged
 - Groups met regularly via phone and in person.
- Four recommendations have been developed and will be presented today
- These recommendations were approved unanimously by the Task Force

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The focus of the work:

1. Bolstering resources to enhance a community's ability to respond to a behavioral health crisis and increase access to crisis services
2. M1 cases (emergency mental health holds)
3. Expanding training opportunities for law enforcement officers
4. Joint efforts involving law enforcement and behavioral health



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Recommendation FY17 - MH #01

Strengthening a Community-Based Crisis Response

- Colorado Crisis Services System should provide comprehensive responses to behavioral health emergencies in ALL Colorado communities.
 - Provide an effective alternative to the utilization of correctional facilities.
 - Enhance and connect existing resources to ensure an appropriate health care response to behavioral health crises.



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Recommendation FY17 - MH #01 (cont.)

Strengthening a Community-Based Crisis Response

- Consider amendments to [SB13-266](#) to clarify the intent of the crisis system in statute and formally introduce the responsibilities of being the first response to behavioral Health crises across the state, and engaging in relationships that facilitate that response.
- Crisis System contracting and regulatory reform should specify the operational components necessary to achieve these responsibilities.
- The General Assembly should dedicate funds to incentivize the development and expansion of an adequate crisis services provider network.

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Recommendation FY17 - MH #02

Changes to Emergency Mental Health Commitment Statute

Amend Title 27 of Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S), section 65-105, to remove jails and correctional facilities as a placement option for individuals on an M1 (emergency mental health) hold. Introduce language that allows intervening professionals to transport individuals to an outpatient facility for immediate evaluation for treatment based on evidence of need.

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Recommendation FY17 - MH #03

Include Mental Health First Aid[®] Curriculum in POST-In-service Training

- Officials from the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) will work with staff from the Colorado Behavioral Health Council (CBHC) to review and include Mental Health First Aid[®] training through POST.
- Train up to 200 officers per month on this topic.
- Training to begin in the spring of 2017.

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Recommendation FY17 - MH #04

Introduce Mental Health First Aid[®] Curriculum in POST-Basic Academy

Officials from the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) will work with staff from the Colorado Behavioral Health Council (CBHC) to review the Mental Health First Aid[®] curriculum, and modify when possible, for inclusion in the POST basic academy standard curriculum.





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Questions?