



Mental Health / Point of Contact Through Jail Release Task Force

**Final Recommendations Presentation
FY17-MH#01 to FY17-MH#04**

Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice
January 13, 2017

Mental Health/Jails Task Force

MEMBERS

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Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council

Officer of Behavioral Health

Colorado Jail Association

Colorado Health Partnerships

Mental Health Partners

Dept. of Health Care Policy & Financing

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Community Reach Centers



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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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TASK FORCE MISSION

Divert individuals with mental and behavioral health problems out of the criminal justice system while recognizing that some individuals with acute mental/behavioral health problems will need to be incarcerated and so effective response options should be available.

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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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Complementary Efforts

- Mental Health Holds Task Force (*attendees handout*)
- Equitas Course Corrections (*attendees handout*)

Partners in Collaboration

- Colorado Department of Human Services – 27/65 Rules and Standards Board
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Healthcare Policy and Finance
- Governor’s Office
- Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
- Colorado Jail Association
- Peer outreach

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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](#), C.R.S. 27-60-103 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.
- Crises 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

Review and include the Mental Health First Aid® curriculum for Peace Officer In-service Training through POST

- 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 for inclusion in the 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?