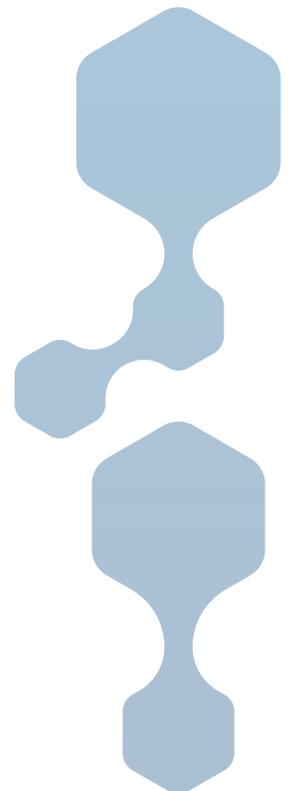




# MENTAL HEALTH COLORADO

## 2019 Legislative Report and Scorecard



Mental Health Colorado is the state's leading advocate in promoting mental health, ending stigma, and ensuring equitable access to mental health and substance use services. Mental Health Colorado is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization and an affiliate of Mental Health America.



## 2019 Mental Health Colorado Legislative Summary:



**\$20 million** increase in spending for mental health and substance use services and supports



**41 times** Mental Health Colorado staff testified



**44 times** advocates testified in committee or met with legislators



**370 emails** sent to legislators advocating for mental health



**88 Coloradans** advocated for suicide prevention at the Capitol



**133 print or broadcast** stories regarding our agenda bills

### We achieved significant policy wins that will:

- Increase the availability of mental health services for children and adolescents
- Strengthen and enforce laws requiring insurance companies to provide equal coverage for mental and physical care
- Ensure people with severe mental illness and substance use disorders receive additional support
- Reduce the suicide rate in Colorado
- Expand mental health and substance use treatment capacity
- Ensure women receive substance use services during and after pregnancy

# INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

## Mental Health Colorado agenda bill: Senate Bill 19-010 Professional Behavioral Health Services for Schools

**Sen. Rhonda Fields (D) | Rep. Barbara McLachlan (D) and Rep. Donald Valdez (D)**

Nearly 70% of Colorado's 178 school districts are unable to meet national ratio recommendations for mental health or health professionals—resulting in nearly a million underserved students in Colorado. SB19-010 updates and improves the School Health Professionals Grant Program and includes an additional \$3 million in time-limited funding to schools to increase the presence of school health professionals to support the behavioral health needs of students.

Other legislative accomplishments:

- **HB19-1017 Kindergarten Through Fifth Grade Social and Emotional Health Act:** Creates a pilot program that dedicates a school mental health professional to each grade kindergarten through fifth grade.
- **SB19-195 Child and Youth Behavioral Health System Enhancements:** Requires the state to select a standardized screening and assessment tool to identify child and youth behavioral health needs. The law establishes comprehensive “wraparound” care coordination services and blends funding across agencies to more comprehensively support behavioral health needs.



## Colorado Schools:

**70%**

of Colorado's 178 school districts are unable to meet national ratio recommendations for mental health or health professionals.

**1 million**

Colorado students are underserved based on nationally recommended ratios.

**19**

school districts have fewer than one full-time school psychologist or social worker.

# STRENGTHEN AND ENFORCE LAWS REQUIRING INSURANCE COMPANIES TO PROVIDE EQUAL COVERAGE FOR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CARE

## Mental Health Colorado agenda bill: House Bill 19-1269 Mental Health Parity Insurance Medicaid

**Rep. Lisa Cutter (D) and Rep. Tom Sullivan (D) | Sen. Joann Ginal (D) and Sen. Bob Gardner (R)**

When you're fighting addiction, depression, or suicidal thoughts, you shouldn't have to fight for coverage too. Every day, Coloradans are denied coverage for mental health or substance use treatment, put on a waitlist for months without care, or forced to pay thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs.

We led the fight for the enforcement of mental health parity this legislative session. House Bill 19-1269 strengthens parity laws, modernizes language, and shifts our system away from expensive, late-stage treatment toward early intervention. It increases consumer protection, holds insurers accountable, and closes loopholes in current law to ensure no more Coloradans fall through the cracks. The law also eliminates prior authorization and harmful step therapy practices for medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorders in private and public insurance.



# ENSURE PEOPLE WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS RECEIVE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

## **Mental Health Colorado agenda bill:**

### **Senate Bill 19-222 Individuals At-Risk of Institutionalization**

**Sen. Pete Lee (D) and Sen. Tammy Story (D) | Rep. Daneya Esgar (D) and Rep. Lois Landgraf (R)**

When we allow our most vulnerable citizens to go to jail because they cannot access treatment, we fail these people, their families, and the taxpayers. Senate Bill 19-222 ensures Colorado will have a behavioral health safety-net system that does not turn people away because they are hard to serve, have a co-occurring condition, or are involved in other systems such as child welfare or the criminal justice system. The legislation increases equity in service access, making civil inpatient beds accessible to residents statewide. It requires the state to implement creative solutions to expand the number of providers who accept Medicaid clients.

## **Mental Health Colorado agenda bill:**

### **Senate Bill 19-223 Actions Related to Competency to Proceed**

**Sen. Pete Lee (D) and Sen. Bob Gardner (R) | Rep. Mike Weissman (D) and Rep. Lois Landgraf (R)**

The legislation overhauls the competency to proceed process in Colorado ensuring that people who are not competent to stand trial due to a mental illness receive treatment sooner. Senate Bill 19-223 is designed to invest the resources needed to prevent people from languishing in jail while waiting for treatment or support for their mental health disorder or intellectual or developmental disability.

## **Mental Health Colorado agenda bill:**

### **House Bill 19-1009 Substance Use Disorders Recovery**

**Rep. Chris Kennedy (D) and Rep. Jonathan Singer (D) | Sen. Brittany Pettersen (D) and Sen. Kevin Priola (R)**

House Bill 19-1009 includes an additional \$1 million to expand the availability of housing and support services for individuals who are homeless and have a substance use disorder. It also creates the opioid crisis recovery fund for money the state receives as settlement or damage awards resulting from opioid-related litigation and establishes consumer safeguards related to recovery residences and sober living homes.

## **Mental Health Colorado agenda bill:**

### **House Bill 19-1044 Advance Behavioral Health Orders Treatment**

**Rep. Tracy Kraft-Tharp (D) and Rep. Lois Landgraf (R) | Sen. Nancy Todd (D) and Sen. Don Coram (R)**

House Bill 19-1044 allows Coloradans to create a psychiatric advance directive to specify their preferred methods of treatment in the event of a mental health crisis that prevents them from making decisions for themselves.

Other legislative accomplishments:

- **SB19-008 Substance Use Disorder in the Criminal Justice System:** Supports the diversion of Coloradans with substance use disorders who encounter the criminal justice system and reduces barriers to medication-assisted treatment for people involved in the criminal justice system.
- **HB19-1160 Mental Health Facility Pilot Program:** Provides residential care and treatment to people with both a mental health diagnosis and a physical health diagnosis.
- **SB19-227 Harm Reduction Substance Use Disorders:** Expands the availability of opioid overdose reversal medications and other harm reduction measures.

## REDUCE THE SUICIDE RATE

### Mental Health Colorado agenda item: Zero Suicide

Colorado ranks in the top ten states in suicide, and suicide is now the leading cause of death for Coloradans aged 10 to 24. We secured \$100,000 to implement Zero Suicide, an evidence-based approach to reducing deaths by suicide among patients in health care settings. Health care systems that have implemented Zero Suicide have seen reductions in suicide deaths by up to 80% among their patients.

Other legislative accomplishments:

- **HB19-1177 Extreme Risk Protection Orders:** Allows a court to issue an extreme risk protection order temporarily removing firearms from a person in crisis who poses a significant risk to self or others.
- **HB19-1120 Youth Mental Health Education and Suicide Prevention:** Allows Coloradans age 12 or older to obtain psychotherapy services without the consent of a parent or guardian. The legislation requires the creation and maintenance of a free mental health education literacy resource bank. It also requires the state board of education to adopt standards related to mental health, including suicide prevention.
- **HB19-1334 Ban Posting Images of a Suicide:** Criminalizes posting or distributing an image of a minor attempting suicide or dying by suicide with the intent to harass, intimidate, or coerce any person and the posting or distribution results in serious emotional distress to any person.

## Suicide in Colorado:

**1,175** Coloradans died by suicide last year.

**85%** increase in suicide rates since 2004 among high school and college-aged Coloradans

**#1** cause of death for Colorado's teenagers



## EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT CAPACITY

### Mental Health Colorado agenda bill: House Bill 19-1287 Treatment for Opioids and Substance Use Disorders

Rep. Daneya Esgar (D) and Rep. Jim Wilson (R) | Sen. Brittany Pettersen (D) and Sen. Kevin Priola (R)

House Bill 19-1287 funds the expansion of substance use treatment capacity in rural and underserved areas of the state, tracks availability of mental health and substance use services for Coloradans in crisis, and funds care navigators to help people access substance use treatment.

Other legislative accomplishments:

- **SB19-001 Expand Medication-Assisted Treatment Pilot Program:** Expands the medication-assisted treatment pilot program to additional counties.
- **HB19-1237 Licensing Behavioral Health Entities:** Reforms the regulatory structure for mental health and substance use facility licensing in the state. It establishes a Behavioral Health Entity license within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment that will streamline licensing for facilities providing different types of services.

## ENSURE WOMEN RECEIVE SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES DURING AND AFTER PREGNANCY

### Mental Health Colorado agenda bill: House Bill 19-1193 Behavioral Health Supports for High-Risk Families

Rep. Leslie Herod (D) Rep. Rod Pelton (R) | Sen. Leroy Garcia (D)

We championed enhancements to an existing state program that supports high-risk pregnant women with substance use disorders. House Bill 19-1193 addresses the fear, stigma, and lack of appropriate treatment options for mothers and their children—and creates a fund using monies that would otherwise go unused to increase the treatment capacity for high-risk women and youth.

Other legislative accomplishments:

- **SB19-228 Substance Use Disorders Prevention Measures:** Supports programs and policies to prevent substance use disorders and funds pilot programs that integrate substance use services and medication-assisted treatment with obstetric and gynecological services.

# HOUSE Legislative Scorecard

REPRESENTATIVE	HB19 1009	HB19 1044	HB19 1193	HB19 1269	HB19 1287	SB19 010	SB19 222	SB19 223	Score
Arndt, Jeni (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Baisley, Mark (R)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	70
Becker, KC (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Beckman, Susan (R)	A	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	75
Benavidez, Adrienne (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Bird, Shannon (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Bockenfeld, Rod (R)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	71
Buck, Perry (R)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	67
Buckner, Janet (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Buentello, Bri (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Caraveo, Yadira (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	100
Carver, Terri (R)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	90
Catlin, Marc (R)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	75
Coleman, James (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Cutter, Lisa (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Duran, Monica (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Esgar, Daneya (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Exum, Tony (D)	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Froelich, Meg (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Galindo, Rochelle, (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Garnett, Alex (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Geitner, Tim (R)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	67
Gonzales-Gutierrez, Serena (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Gray, Matt (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Hansen, Chris (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Herod, Leslie (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Hooton, Edie (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Humphrey, Stephen (D)	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	38
Jackson, Dominique (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Jacquez Lewis, Sonya (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Kennedy, Chris (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Kipp, Cathy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Kraft-Tharp, Tracy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	100
Landgraf, Lois (R)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	82
Larson, Colin (R)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	85

✓ (check mark) is yes, X is no, and A is absent

# HOUSE Legislative Scorecard

REPRESENTATIVE	HB19 1009	HB19 1044	HB19 1193	HB19 1269	HB19 1287	SB19 010	SB19 222	SB19 223	Score
Lewis, Kimmi (R)	A	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	43
Liston, Larry (R)	A	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	66
Lontine, Susan (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
McCluskie, Julie (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
McKean, Hugh (R)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	70
McLachlan, Barbara (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Melton, Jovan (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Michaelson Jenet, Dafna (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Mullica, Kyle (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Neville, Patrick (R)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	63
Pelton, Rod (R)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	53
Ransom, Kim (R)	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	27
Rich, Janice (R)	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	27
Roberts, Dylan (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Saine, Lori (R)	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	38
Sandridge, Shane (R)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	63
Singer, Jonathan (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Sirota, Emily (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Snyder, Marc (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Soper, Matt (R)	X	✓	A	A	A	X	✓	✓	60
Sullivan, Tom (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Tipper, Kerry (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Titone, Brianna (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Valdez, Alex (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Valdez, Donald (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Van Winkle, Kevin (R)	X	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	83
Weissman, Mike (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Will, Perry (R)	X	A	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	78
Williams, Dave (R)	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	38
Wilson, James (R)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	89

✓ (check mark) is yes, X is no, and A is absent

## SENATE Legislative Scorecard

SENATOR	HB19 1009	HB19 1044	HB19 1193	HB19 1269	HB19 1287	SB19 010	SB19 222	SB19 223	Score
Bridges, Jeff (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Cook, John (R )	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	82
Coram, Don (R)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	100
Court, Lois (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Crowder, Larry (R)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	90
Danielson, Jessie (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Donovan, Kerry (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Fenberg, Steven (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Fields, Rhonda (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Foote, Michael (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Garcia, Leroy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Gardner, Bob (R)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	82
Ginal, Joann (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Gonzales, Julie (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Hill, Owen (R)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	44
Hisey, Dennis (R)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80
Holbert, Chris (R)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	63
Lee, Pete (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Lundeen, Paul (R )	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88
Marble, Vicki (R )	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	60
Moreno, Dominick (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Pettersen, Brittany (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Priola, Kevin (R )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	100
Rankin, Bob (R)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	80
Rodriguez, Robert (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Scott, Ray (R )	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	83
Smallwood, Jim (R )	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	69
Sonnenberg, Jerry (R)	X	A	A	X	✓	X	✓	✓	50
Story, Tammy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Tate, Jack (R)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88
Todd, Nancy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Williams, Angela (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Winter, Faith (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100
Woodward, Rob (R)	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	66
Zenzinger, Rachel (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100

✓ (check mark) is yes, X is no, and A is absent



**MENTAL HEALTH  
COLORADO**

**We're working every day to promote mental health, end stigma, and ensure equitable access to mental health and substance use services. Will we succeed? At Mental Health Colorado, our strength hinges on you.**

# **TAKE ACTION TODAY**



**VISIT: [mentalhealthcolorado.org](https://mentalhealthcolorado.org)**



**DONATE: your contribution makes our life-changing work possible**



**SHARE: your mental health or substance use recovery journey**



**JOIN: the Brain Wave—our statewide network of advocates**