

Support HB19-1287: Treatment for Behavioral Health Disorders

Reps. Esgar and Wilson | Sens. Pettersen and Priola

Nearly half a million Coloradans need but do not receive treatment for a mental health or substance use disorder. Factors such as where you live, your income, your insurance, and stigma affect access to care. This legislation proposes three changes to help Coloradans access behavioral health treatment when they need it: create a treatment capacity tracking system, implement care navigation, and award grants for treatment capacity in underserved rural communities.



Implement care navigation for people with substance use disorders

More than 67,000 Coloradans are not getting the substance use services they need, and for people with a substance use disorder, lack of care could be fatal. HB 19-1287 proposes care navigation services to help individuals locate and begin treatment for substance use disorders. Individuals will be screened for the type of care needed and guided to their first appointment. **Care navigation services will be available to people seeking treatment regardless of insurance coverage or ability to pay.**



Create a treatment capacity tracking system

When an individual is in a mental health or substance use crisis, finding care can take weeks. Families, clinicians, and law enforcement officers often spend hours searching for a facility with an open bed. HB 19-1287 creates a **real-time capacity tracking system that will help people find available psychiatric or substance use treatment beds and medication-assisted treatment facilities.** The system would decrease wait times for treatment, use existing resources efficiently, and serve people closer to their community.



Award grants for treatment in underserved communities

Where you live influences your access to substance use treatment. Many rural Colorado counties lack adequate substance use or mental health treatment capacity. HB 19-1287 includes funding for increased capacity in underserved communities to create better access to services. The counties with few or no services will be prioritized. Law enforcement, schools, and local substance use providers can apply. The grants will encourage innovative partnerships between local communities and providers.