

MENTAL HEALTH COLORADO

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



## STRONG START FOR ALL CHILDREN



- Require culturally responsive, evidence-, and trauma-informed mental health and substance use training for every teacher prior to re-certification. (HB-1312)
- Ensure clinically appropriate responses for any youth with a mental health concern who reaches out to the Safe2Tell call or text line. (HB-1005)



## DECRIMINALIZE MENTAL HEALTH

- Reforms the criminal justice system for individuals who are languishing in jail with unmet mental health needs and creates a work group to look at how enhanced sentencing laws disproportionately impact individuals with specific health conditions. (SB 181)
- Create a new transportation alternative for people in a mental health crisis so that people are not transported by law enforcement to a health care facility. (HB-1284)



To see all legislation Mental Health Colorado supports and opposes, scan the QR code to the left, or visit [mentalhealthcolorado.org/2020legislation](https://mentalhealthcolorado.org/2020legislation).

## ACCESS TO SUPPORTS AND SERVICES



- People living in recovery from mental health and substance use conditions have proven to be effective in supporting positive health outcomes for others. These peers should be widely available, reasonably compensated, and have pathways to professional growth. (HB-1139)



## REDUCE POTENTIAL HARM OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- When prescribing benzodiazepines, prescribers must check to see that other life-threatening interacting medicines have not already been prescribed. (HB-1085)
- All private carriers must use the same evidence-based and nationally recognized criteria in coverage determinations for the treatment of substance use disorders. (SB-007)



## SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

- Early childhood mental health consultants are known to be effective in improving children's mental health. Early childhood consultants ought to be available in all childcare settings so every child can thrive in an environment that is supportive of wellbeing. (HB-1006)



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