

Mental health matters to your constituents. More than ever.

Every candidate should have mental health on their minds, these are the things you ought to be thinking about as you are campaigning.



Strong start for all children

We develop brains and behaviors at a rapid pace, not fully maturing until as late as our mid-20s. Preventative care and healthy learning environments are central to ensuring healthy minds and bright futures.



Support for families

Strong, healthy families are vitally important to strong, healthy individuals. Education, childcare, stable housing, meaningful employment, and access to health care are all essential to family wellbeing.



Access to housing, supports, and services

Having a place to call home is an essential element of good mental health across the lifespan. Access to supports and services prolongs life and enhances mental health outcomes.



Wellness in aging

From childhood to old age, the quality of our lives depends on our mental health. Every phase of life brings its own challenges and opportunities for continuing mental growth and development.



Reduce potential harm from drugs and alcohol

Drugs and alcohol have been a part of our landscape throughout history. From childhood onward, we thrive if we can reap their benefits while reducing their potential for great harm.



Decriminalize mental health

As many of those working in law enforcement understand more clearly than most, the criminal justice system is our first and only—and completely inappropriate, ineffective, and costly—response to people’s need for mental health and substance use care. Building health care capacity and supportive housing so that we can disentangle mental health and criminal justice will improve health outcomes, save taxpayer dollars, and enhance community wellbeing.



End shame and discrimination

Mental health—like physical health—is part of who we are. We need to be increasingly understanding and compassionate with ourselves and others.

Call to Action:

We are interested in consulting with candidates about their mental health platforms and providing candidate education on mental health policy priorities. Additionally, in order to make sure candidates hear community concerns about mental health, Mental Health Colorado is hosting a series of regional candidate forums ahead of the elections. Please let us know if you would like to discuss consulting with Mental Health Colorado or participate in a candidate forum by emailing our communications director, Aubree Hughes (ahughes@mentalhealthcolorado.org).