



**MENTAL HEALTH  
COLORADO**

# **2023 Policy Agenda Overview**

March 7, 2023

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Mental Health Colorado: 2023 Agenda Bills
- Bills We're Watching
- Questions

# Mental Health Colorado: 2023 Policy Priorities

- Strong Start for All Children
  - SB23-174: Access To Certain Behavioral Health Services
- Access to Care, Supports, and Services
  - SB23-176: Protections For People With An Eating Disorder
  - HB23-1013: Use Of Restrictive Practices In Prisons
  - Forthcoming Bill: Interstate Compac

# SB23-174:

- **Sponsors:**
  - Senators Chris Kolker (D-Centennial) and Bob Gardner (R-Colorado Springs)
- **The Issue:**
  - To access behavioral health services, kids must have a formal behavioral health diagnosis
- **SB23-174:**
  - Expands access to a wide variety of behavioral health services to kids without needing a behavioral health diagnosis



# SB23-176:

- **Sponsors:**
  - Majority Leader Senator Dominick Moreno (D-Commerce City) and Lisa Cutter (D-Littleton)
- **The Issue:**
  - Eating disorders are the deadliest mental illness in teenagers and young adults; however, most do not receive care.
- **SB23-176:**
  - Makes eating disorder care more accessible and equitable by:
    - Removing the use of BMI or ideal body weight as a determining factor in medical necessity
    - Regulating eating disorder facilities in the same way we regulate other MH/SU facilities
    - Making it illegal to sell diet pills and weight loss supplements to minors



# HB23-1013: Use Of Restrictive Practices In Prisons

- **Sponsors:**

- Rep. Judy Amabile (D-Boulder)
- Senator Rhonda Fields (D-Aurora) and Senator Robert Rodriguez (D-Denver)

- **Status:**

- Passed the House Committee on Judiciary on 1/31
- Amended to Appropriations

- **The Issue:**

- The Colorado Department of Corrections has a pattern of using “clinical four-point restraints” to restrain individuals for long periods of time with few policies that govern this practice.

- **HB23-1013:**

- Developed in partnership with Disability Law Colorado, this bill adds necessary guardrails and stronger due process protections for people placed on involuntary medications.

# Forthcoming Bill

- **Sponsors:**

- Representatives Mary Young (D-Greeley) and Meghan Lukens (D-Steamboat Springs)

- **The Issue:**

- Under the Interstate Compact, individuals who seek care from behavioral health facilities are asked if they have an outstanding charge in another state or are here under supervision. If they meet either criterion, the statute prohibits that person from starting care until they meet the terms of the statute.

- **About:**

- This bill aims to preserve public safety and break down barriers preventing people from accessing needed behavioral health services.

# Bills We Support

## Strong start for Children

- [HB23-1005: School Mental Health Assessment](#)
- [HB23-1009: Secondary School Student Substance Use](#)
- [HB23-1012: Juvenile Competency to Proceed](#)
- [HB23-1191: Prohibit Corporal Punishment Of Children](#)

## Access to Care, Supports, and Services

- [HB23-1007: Higher Education Crisis & Suicide Prevention](#)
- [HB23-1130: Drug Coverage for Serious Mental Illness](#)
- [SB23-002: Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Services](#)

## Support for Families

- [HB23-1118: Fair Workweek Employment Standards](#)
- [SB23-017: Additional Uses Paid Sick Leave](#)
- [SB23-027: Food Pantry Assistance Grant Program](#)



# Bills We Support

## Wellness in Aging

- [HB23-1158: Colorado Commodity Supplemental Food Grant Program](#)
- [SB23-144: Prescription Drugs for Chronic Pain](#)
- [SB23-031: Improve Health-care Access for Older Coloradans](#)

## Reduce potential harm from drugs and alcohol

- [HB23-1167: Reporting of Emergency Overdose Events](#)

## Decriminalize Mental Health

- [HB23-1138: Procedures Related to Adult Competency](#)
- [HB23-1169: Limit Arrest for Low-level Offenses](#)

## End Discrimination

- [HB23-1032: Remedies Persons with Disabilities](#)

# Bills We're Opposing

SB23-109: Criminal  
Penalty Controlled  
Substance Supplier

# Questions?