

Send date: Thursday, 2/29

Subject line: Your February Updates from Mental Health Colorado



Your voice for healthier minds across the lifespan for all Coloradans

February 2024

February was a busy month with some exciting legislative wins!

 **SB24-117 passed 6 - 3!** 

SB24-117

Eating Disorder Treatment & Recovery Programs

Concerning protections for individuals with an eating disorder, and, in connection therewith, requiring an eating disorder treatment and recovery facility to hold an appropriate designation and requiring the behavioral health administration to regulate the use of involuntary feeding tubes.



 **HB24-1066 passed 12 - 1!** 

HB24-1066

Prevent Workplace Violence in Health-Care Settings

Concerning methods to prevent workplace violence in certain health-care settings.



 **HB24-1217 passed 12 - 1!** 

HB24-1217

Sharing of Patient Health-Care Information

Concerning the dissemination of patient health-care information.



Thank you so much to our tenacious fellow advocates. Together we will ensure that every Coloradan has a chance to thrive in health and well-being. ❤️



If you'd like to get involved in our legislative efforts, please sign up here:

[BUTTON]

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeI_9_kTYBcXINr-vtcMkMLMIs0MaGIPyokG9flu1WvBidw3g/viewform

Save the Date!

Our 4th Annual Unmasked Masquerade Party will be held this June 8th at 6pm in Castle Rock, CO.

We are seeking donations from local artists to feature in our silent auction. Submit your art to help us raise funds for our mission to promote healthier minds across the lifespan for all Coloradans!



CALL TO ARTISTS

[Donate your art for our silent auction to help raise critical funds to support our mission!](#)

Reach out to Ashley at APerales@mentalhealthcolorado.org.



In The News





VINCENT ATCHITY

Mental Health Colorado

President & CEO

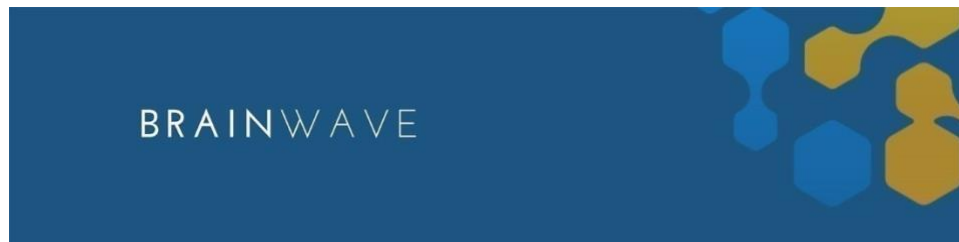
Colorado Politics | 2.20.24

Fix Archaic Policy Failing Coloradans with Mental Health Needs

“Though there are several factors in play here — over-incarceration of those with mental health needs being a glaring one — expediting Medicaid patients’ access to getting the care they need to stabilize in Colorado’s mental health hospitals is a key step we must take to disrupt this vicious cycle. Colorado lawmakers need to act now to extend Medicaid coverage for mental health care and give these vulnerable Coloradans a real shot at healthier and more productive lives. Lifting the 15-day cap on Medicaid coverage for in-patient care will enable providers to support improved health outcomes.”

[Read More Here](#)

The Brain Wave Policy Corner



What’s Happening in Colorado:

The second month of the 2024 Legislative Session has concluded! This month, all three of our agenda bills had their first committee meetings and passed out of committee:

- [HB24-1066: Prevent Workplace Violence in Health-Care Settings](#), which passed the House Health & Human Services Committee (12-1).
- [HB24-1217: Sharing of Patient Health-Care Information](#), which passed the House Health & Human Services Committee (12-1).
- [SB24-117: Eating Disorder Treatment & Recovery Programs](#), which passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee (6-3).

Additionally, Mental Health Colorado testified on over 10 bills in February to support their passage in committee, including,

- [HB24-1038 High-Acuity Crisis for Children & Youth](#)
- [SB24-055: Agricultural & Rural Behavioral Health Care](#)
- [HB24-1136 Healthier Social Media Use by Youth](#)

If you would like to get involved with these bills or others, please reach out!

A View from Washington, D.C.

According to a new RAND study, more than 40 percent of Americans know someone who died from a drug overdose. Rates were significantly higher in New England compared to other parts of the country. [Read more here.](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through its Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), finalized modifications to the Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Patient Records regulations at 42 CFR part 2 (“Part 2”), which protect the privacy of patients’ SUD treatment records. [Read the updates here.](#)

Congressional leaders reached a deal to extend government funding by a week to give themselves time to pass annual spending bills. The House will then try to pass six appropriations bills – Agriculture; Commerce; Justice and Science; Interior; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs; and Energy and Water. [Read more here.](#)

Advocacy Opportunities

- **Legislative Weekly Round Ups:** We are sending weekly emails during Legislative Session to keep all Brain Wavers up-to-date with relevant and upcoming opportunities to weigh in and testify at committee hearings. Be sure to stay in the loop by signing up to be a [Brain Waver here.](#)
- **Learn about advocating with Mental Health Colorado.** Schedule a call with our Senior Policy Advocate, Bridget, to learn about the Legislative Process and how to be an advocate. [Schedule a call here.](#)

Upcoming Events



Boulder Ballet Presents *MINDFIELD* - an evening-length collaboration exploring the intersection of movement and wellness through physiological and neuroscience-based research.

Join us March 9th at 7pm for an engaging performance and post-show Q&A with CEO Vincent Atchity.

[Get your tickets today!](#)



Behavioral Health Best Practices in our Workplaces and Behavioral Health Design/Construction

April 11, 2024

We're teaming up with the Association of Medical Facility Professionals (AMFP) and the Colorado Association of Healthcare Engineers and Directors (CAHED) for an in-person panel event to engage in

meaningful conversation about how leadership can support mental health and well-being in the workplace and in the broader community.

Registration opens March 7th. Follow [this link](#) to secure your seat!

<h2>Natural Psychedelic Medicines for Mental Health</h2> <p>2024 Webinar Series</p> <p>Join us for this 4-part series to learn about psilocybin therapy, upcoming regulation, and how to discuss natural medicine with your patients</p>  	 <p>01 25 Session 1: Natural Psychedelic Medicines for Mental Health</p>	 <p>02 15 Session 2: Stories of Healing</p>
	 <p>02 28 Session 3: Training for Psychedelic Facilitators</p>	 <p>03 14 Session 4: It Takes a Village: Integrative Approaches to Maximize the Benefit of Psychedelic Therapies</p>

Our Psychedelic Medicines for Mental Health webinar series, in partnership with [Healing Advocacy Fund](#), continues this month with our final session on March 14th.

“It Takes a Village: Integrative Approaches to Maximize the Benefits of Psychedelic Therapies” will explore how psychedelic therapies can be integrated with existing mental health practices and peer support to enhance safety and maximize positive outcomes. This session will explore creative approaches in Oregon and how Colorado can chart a path to more affordable access for those who stand to benefit the most. We’ll be joined by Jesse Gould from the [Heroic Hearts Project](#), Seth Mehr, MD, Director of Health and Safety at [InnerTrek](#), and Jude Solano, CEO of [Southern Colorado Harm Reduction](#).

Please join us!

[Register for Session 4](#) - March 14 at 12pm MT

[Watch Session 3: Training to Facilitate Psychedelic Therapies](#)

Do you shop at King Soopers?



[If so, CLICK HERE!](#)

Every time you shop at King Soopers, a portion of your purchase can benefit Mental Health Colorado.