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Subject line: Your January Updates from Mental Health Colorado



Your voice for healthier minds across the lifespan for all Coloradans

January 2024

The 2024 Legislation Session has started! One of Mental Health Colorado's Agenda Bills was introduced during the first week of session— [HB25-1066: Prevent Workplace Violence in Health-Care Settings](#) — which we are co-leading with the Colorado Nurses Association.



HB24-1066 is sponsored by Representatives Hamrick and Garcia and Senators Michaelson Jenet and Gonzales. This bill aims to prevent violence against health care workers from occurring in the first place. It requires facilities to establish workplace violence prevention committees, provide training on the plan, and submit data on incidents to the Department of Public Health and Environment or Behavioral Health Administration, and offer post-incident services to affected staff. **To get involved, please reach out:** banshus@mentalhealthcolorado.org.

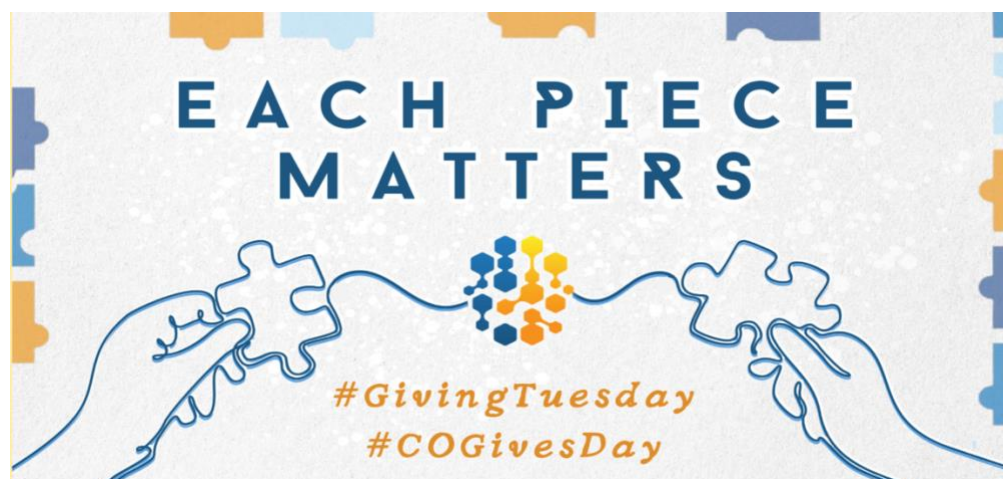
We've put together a comprehensive PDF booklet outlining sponsorship opportunities for 2024! Find detailed information on how you can support Mental Health Colorado in 2024 and make a significant contribution to promoting well-being, ensuring equitable access to mental health and substance use care, and ending discrimination for all Coloradans across the lifespan.



Download the booklet and explore the various sponsorship opportunities available:
CLICK HERE (<https://www.mentalhealthcolorado.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2024-Sponsorship-Opportunities-Mental-Health-Colorado.pdf>)

Become a 2024 Sponsor and Partner of Mental Health Colorado:

CLICK HERE (<https://www.mentalhealthcolorado.org/2024-sponsorship-opportunities/>)



https://www.mentalhealthcolorado.org/each_piece_matters

In The News



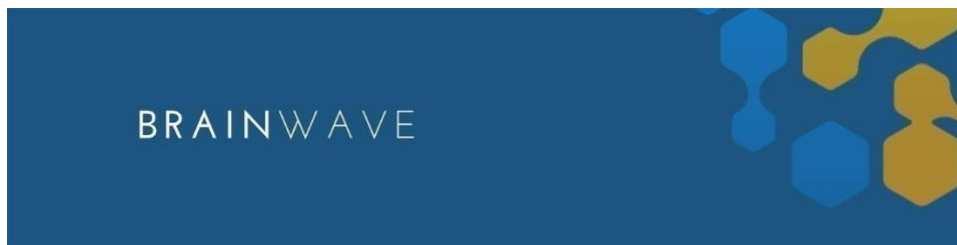
State of Reform | 1.29.24 | Shane Ersland

‘Colorado Doctors Highlight Patient Safety & Preparation as Key Priorities in States Development of Psilocybin Rules’

“We know that natural medicines have been used safely for millennia by cultures for healing, and Colorado can do better to promote health and healing by [reducing its focus on criminal punishments](#) for (people) who suffer mental health issues, and by establishing regulated access to natural medicines through a humane, cost-effective and responsible approach.” - Mental Health Colorado’s President & CEO, Vincent Atchity

[Read More Here](#)

The Brain Wave Policy Corner



What’s Happening in Colorado:

- **The 2024 Legislation Session has started!** One of Mental Health Colorado’s Agenda Bills was introduced during the first week of session— [HB25-1066: Prevent Workplace Violence in Health-Care Settings](#) — which we are co-leading with the Colorado Nurses Association. HB24-1066 is sponsored by Representatives Hamrick and Garcia and Senators Michaelson Jenet and Gonzales. This bill aims to prevent violence from occurring in the first place toward health care workers. It requires facilities to establish workplace violence prevention committees, provide training on the plan, and submit data on incidents to the Department of Public Health and Environment or Behavioral

Health Administration, and offer post-incident services to affected staff. If you'd like to get involved, please reach out to us (banshus@mentalhealthcolorado.org).

- Governor Jared Polis delivered his State of the State address at the Capitol. In his remarks, the Governor shared his policy priorities on housing affordability, transportation, and public safety. He also urged productivity and civil collaboration. [Read his full address here.](#)
- The Behavioral Health Administration released its Children and Youth Behavioral Health Implementation Plan for developing a comprehensive statewide system. The plan lays out a pathway to establishing a comprehensive, equitable, effective continuum of behavioral health services that meets the needs of children and youth in the right place, at the right time, to achieve whole-person health and well-being. [Read the full plan here.](#)
- The Metro Denver Homeless Initiative released its “State of Homelessness 2023,” a comprehensive look into homelessness in the region. According to the report, deteriorating relationships with families and partners was a leading cause of homelessness in the area alongside an ability to pay rent as a second-most common factor. [Read the full report here.](#)

A View from Washington, D.C.

- Top lawmakers on the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee announced a deal for a temporary expansion of the child tax credit. The committees have been discussing a package for months and hope to move on it before the 2023 tax filing season begins. The legislation – the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024— would expand the child tax credit for three years. Read more about the bill [here](#).
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration developed an updated Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit, providing guidance on preventing and responding to an overdose. The toolkit also emphasizes that harm reduction and access to treatment are essential aspects of overdose prevention. [Access the toolkit here.](#)
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new model to test approaches for addressing the behavioral and physical health, as well as health-related social needs, of people enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare. The Innovation in Behavioral Health (IBH) Model’s goal is to improve the overall quality of care and outcomes for adults with mental health and/or substance use conditions by connecting them with the physical, behavioral, and social supports needed to manage their care. [Read more about the model here.](#)

Advocacy Opportunities

- **You're Invited! 2024 Legislative Education & Advocacy Day (LEAD):** Mental Health Colorado is excited to announce that our annual LEAD event will take place on **March 6 from 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM in Denver**. Join us for a full day of in-person legislative education and advocacy focused on our legislative priorities and this year's theme: "Care, Not Cuffs." [If you are interested in participating, you can register here.](#)
 - **Morning at the Capitol (7:30 AM – 11:00 PM):** We will host an advocacy training breakfast on how to advocate effectively on our legislative priorities. After the training, you will have the opportunity to go to Colorado's Capitol, watch floor proceedings, and meet face-to-face with legislators to share your story and discuss the bills they should support.
 - **LEAD Event: Care, Not Cuffs (11:30 – 3:00 PM):** We will transition back from the Capitol to a networking lunch with advocates and legislators. We will hear from our Keynote Speaker, Judge Steven Leifman (Miami-Dade County, Florida), and a panel of experts will discuss what our state is doing to move toward meeting health needs with health care, and disentangling mental health from the criminal justice system.

Legislative Kick Off Webinar Recording: Thank you to those who were able to attend our webinar earlier this month. In case you missed it, you can access the [slides here](#). If you would like access to our recording, please reply to this email.

Legislative Weekly Round Ups: We will be 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](#).

What's Your Peace? Think about the things that make you feel your best! Where do you find joy, connection, or tranquility? Share your peace now to be featured in our campaign; to inspire other Coloradans' well-being; and to contribute to the puzzle of our collective health.



[CLICK HERE](#)

(<https://www.mentalhealthcolorado.org/whats-your-peace/>)

Upcoming Events

Donate to Mental Health Colorado by Attending a Professional Hockey or Lacrosse Game!

Mental Health Colorado is so excited about our partnership with our state's professional Lacrosse and Hockey teams, The Colorado Mammoth & Colorado Avalanche. Get your tickets now to these special games and prepare for a rowdy good time of entertainment that supports mental health advocacy and the well-being of Coloradans everywhere!



Mental Health Colorado
with the Colorado Mammoth



Friday, February 23rd | 7:00 PM | BALL ARENA
Prices are subject to change
\$5 of each ticket will benefit Mental Health Colorado



TO ORDER TICKETS:
Mammoth.KSETickets.com/MentalHealthColorado

For questions please contact Kyle Hench with the Colorado Mammoth at 720.746.8953 or email Kyle.Hench@TeamKSE.com

Get your tickets now at Mammoth.KSETickets.com/MentalHealthColorado

[\[CLICK HERE\]](#)



COLORADO AVALANCHE
2023-24

Mental Health Colorado
with the Colorado Avalanche



COLORADO AVALANCHE VS MINNESOTA WILD

Friday, March 8th • 7:00 PM • Ball Arena

Prices are subject to change
\$5 of each ticket will benefit Mental Health Colorado



TO ORDER TICKETS:
Avalanche.KSETickets.com/MentalHealthColorado

For questions please contact Kyle Hench with the Colorado Avalanche at 720.746.8953 or email Kyle.Hench@TeamKSE.com

Get your tickets now at Avalanche.KSETickets.com/MentalHealthColorado

[\[CLICK HERE\]](#)

Natural Psychedelic Medicines for Mental Health

2024 Webinar Series

Join us for this 4-part series to learn about psilocybin therapy, upcoming regulation, and how to discuss natural medicine with your patients




01 25	Session 1: Natural Psychedelic Medicines for Mental Health	02 15	Session 2: Stories of Healing
02 28	Session 3: Training for Psychedelic Facilitators	03 14	Session 4: It Takes a Village: Integrative Approaches to Maximize the Benefit of Psychedelic Therapies

This February, our *Psychedelic Medicines for Mental Health* webinar series continues with two more impactful sessions. On Feb 15, you'll hear from Coloradans who have used psychedelics in their own healing journeys. We'll also dive deeper into the research regarding

the therapeutic use of psychedelics for substance use conditions and chronic pain, discuss equity considerations in Colorado's regulated model, and learn from Army Ranger Combat Veteran Tim Spalla, LPCC, about Veteran access. In our third session on Feb 28, you'll learn about the training requirements to become a natural medicine facilitator in Colorado and from licensed psilocybin facilitators in Oregon about their training experience and starting their new practice. We hope you join us!

[Watch Session 1](#)

[Register for Session 2: "Stories of Healing" on February 15, 2024](#)

[Register for Session 3: "Training to Facilitate Psychedelic Therapies" on February 28, 2024](#)

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.