

Send date: Friday, 6/28

Subject line: Your June Updates from Mental Health Colorado

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*Your voice for healthier minds across the lifespan for all Coloradans*

**June 2024**

**Save the Date!**



Save the date for our **41<sup>st</sup> Annual Tribute Fundraising Gala** on **Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>** at the **Grand Hyatt Denver**! We're looking forward to an exciting evening to celebrate accomplishments and pay tribute to the individuals and organizations who have had a meaningful impact on the health landscape in Colorado.

Watch your inbox for upcoming tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and special guest announcements. We hope to see you there!

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Thanks for visiting us at Pride Fest!



What an incredible weekend at Denver Pride Fest! Thank you to everyone who stopped by to show their support and learn more about our mission to create healthier minds across the lifespan for all Coloradans!



As we reach the end of Pride Month, Mental Health Colorado is partnering with the Colorado Rockies to raise funds in support of our mission to pass laws, change practices, and build a movement to promote healthier minds across the lifespan for all Coloradans. Enter now for a chance to **win 4 tickets to a Colorado Rockies 2024 season game at Coors Field for just \$5!**

**[ENTER THE DRAWING HERE!](#)**

All proceeds will support Mental Health Colorado's programs and initiatives dedicated to promoting well-being, ensuring equitable access to mental health and substance use care, and ending discrimination.

**The deadline to enter is Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.** TWO winners will be announced July 1<sup>st</sup>, so keep an eye on your inbox!

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## In The News



Colorado Times Recorder | 6.21.24 | Steven Haden

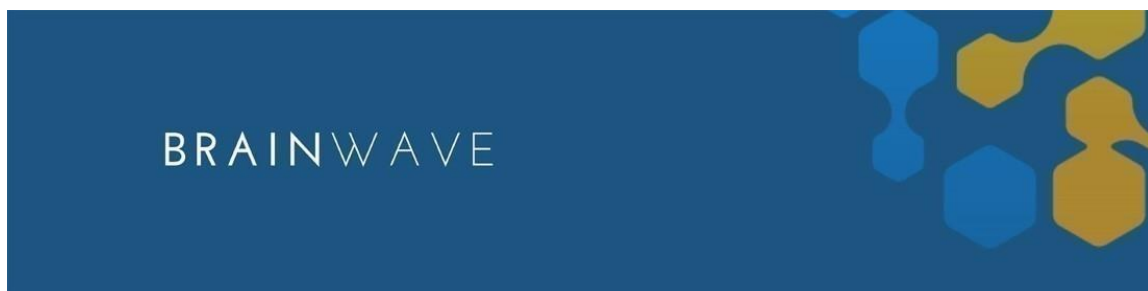
Even in the face of immense challenges, Pride Month ignites a powerful beacon of resilience. It's a testament to the unwavering spirit of LGBTQ+ individuals and their communities, a spirit that ignited with the Stonewall Riots in 1969 and continues to burn brightly in the fight against discriminatory legislation and rhetoric. This month serves as a necessary reminder of the strength found in unity and the unwavering hope that guides the LGBTQ+ movement towards a more equitable future...

In April, Envision:You merged with Mental Health Colorado, the state's largest advocacy organization for those experiencing mental health and substance use issues. We're proud to join an organization that for years has recognized that discrimination and oppression play a key role in our well-being, and regularly advocates for policies to support LGBTQ+ Coloradans. That includes measures to ensure bathrooms in public buildings are gender inclusive and protect LGBTQ+ children in foster care from discrimination, and giving youth on Medicaid better access to mental health care.

[Read More Here](#)

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## The Brain Wave Policy Corner



## What's Happening in Colorado:

- Big changes ahead! As of July 1, the Colorado Behavioral Health Safety Net goes live. All provider rules that were passed last fall will now be enforced including various patient rights. Additionally, new covered substance use disorder and mental health diagnoses will be added to the capitated behavioral health benefit, substance use disorder partial hospitalization will be covered, and SB23-174, which Mental Health Colorado championed, will be in effect to allow children and youth to access certain services without needing a diagnosis.
  - The Behavioral Health Administration announced a new Care Coordination Program for People on Involuntary Civil Certifications, which will begin operation on July 1. The two programs include:
    - Care Coordination for Incompetent to proceed People on Involuntary Civil Certifications: Pursuant to HB23-1138 and CRS 27-65-108.5, for more details, please read this [official memo](#) or visit our [web page](#) to learn more about this program.
    - Care Coordination for People with Terminating, Expiring, or Transferring Involuntary Civil Certifications: Pursuant to HB22-1256, CRS 27-65-110(6), and CRS 27-65-108, for more detail, please read this [official memo](#) or visit our [web page](#) to learn more about this program.
  - Results from the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey revealed some promising improvements to youth mental health. The data showed a 14% drop in the number of high schoolers feeling persistently sad or hopeless and that thoughts of suicide among youth decreased by 6 points. However, the data shows that LGBTQ+ youth are struggling much more with their mental health compared to their peers. Transgender youth seriously considered suicide at a higher rate than cisgender peers (45% to 10%). Lastly for the first time, this survey included questions about eating disorders and body image, which uncovered new gaps among our youth. [Look into the data here.](#)
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## A View from Washington, D.C.

- The U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy called for social media platforms to include health warning warnings for younger users. In an op-ed, the Surgeon General pointed to social media as a major contributor to the mental health crisis young people are experiencing, urging Congress to act to require a label. [Read more here.](#)
- A new federal study showed that very few Medicare enrollees who survive drug overdoses receive appropriate treatment afterward. The study found that just 4.1% of those who experienced a nonfatal overdose received treatment like methadone and buprenorphine. [Read more here.](#)

- The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated their recommendations for doctors screening children for obesity. The task force recommends intensive behavioral interventions for kids 6 and older. This new recommendation replaces the 2017 guidance that recommended primary care providers to simply screen kids. Notably, the recommendation does not include prescribing drugs such as Ozempic or other FLP-1 drugs. [Read the full statement here.](#)
  - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the release of a national strategy today, with recommendations developed by the Task Force on Maternal Mental Health to address unmet maternal mental health and substance use needs. The United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among high-income countries. To address this issue, the Administration released a [Report to Congress](#) and [National Strategy to Improve Maternal Mental Health Care](#). [Read more here.](#)
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### **Advocacy Opportunities**

- **Submit Public Comments:** This session, the Colorado Legislature passed HB24-1322 to allow Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) -- Colorado Medicaid – to pursue 1115 waiver amendment, which would authorize housing and nutrition services for individuals covered by Medicaid. Advocate for this change by submitting comments until July 10. For more information, please visit: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/1115sudwaiver>
  - **Become an informed voter:** Check out CPR News' voter guide to the Colorado 2024 Primary election HERE (<https://www.cpr.org/2024/06/03/colorado-2024-primary-election-voter-guide/>). Find more information on how to vote for the presidential election HERE (<https://www.usa.gov/how-to-vote>).
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### **Previous Event (Recording)**

#### **Falling Through the Cracks:**

#### ***How to Improve Care, and Life, for Coloradans with Serious Mental Illness***

Colorado Sun Equity Reporter Tatiana Flowers spoke with a panel of experts about how they see mental illness falling through the cracks, what are some solutions or ways to address the issues, and much more.

[WATCH HERE](#)

Speakers included:

- **Sandra Sharp**, Vice President of National Alliance on Mental Illness Denver
- **Frank Cornelia**, MS, LPC, Deputy Executive Director of Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
- **Deborah Harrell**, Holistic Healing Practitioner
- **Vincent Atchity**, Ph.D., President & CEO of Mental Health Colorado
- **Chief Judge Susan Blanco**, 8th Judicial District of Colorado



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**Upcoming Event**

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### **Learn How to Become a Natural Medicine Facilitator**

Colorado recently adopted rules for its psychedelic therapy program, set to launch in 2025, and state-approved training programs will soon begin offering coursework for those seeking licensure in this new profession. A growing body of research from leading medical institutions including Johns Hopkins, UCLA, and NYU has found that psychedelic therapy can be highly effective for a variety of mental health conditions, including treatment-resistant depression, anxiety and addiction.

**On July 11, join Healing Advocacy Fund and Mental Health Colorado for a virtual overview of the requirements to become a state-licensed psychedelic facilitator.** This session will provide information about training requirements and the process to get licensed, with opportunities for Q&A.

[Register for the Free Webinar Here](#)

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*an initiative of*  MENTAL HEALTH  
COLORADO

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[Check out the wishlist here!](#)

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