
Answers To Colorado Mental Health Jurisprudence Examination

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Colorado
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2023-08-18

**SANFORD
MCMAHON**

Strengthening

Colorado's Mental Health System, a Plan to Safeguard All Coloradans

The time for Behavioral Health Reform in Colorado is now. With a groundswell of support from the Governor's Office and stakeholders from all four corners of the State, reform is not only possible, but a reality. Together, we will ensure that every Coloradan with a behavioral health need receives timely, high-quality and affordable care within their community.

Colorado Mental Health Statute

This report, the first in a series of reports from the Colorado Cross-Agency Collaborative, lays out the goals, objectives and baseline data for behavioral health in Colorado. Behavioral health is

connected to overall health and well-being. Behavioral health includes mental health, but it is much more. It is the connection between behavior and the well-being of the body and mind. It includes both external factors and personal habits--negative ones like substance use and positive ones like exercising.

Population in Need of Mental Health Services and Public Agencies' Service Use in Colorado

Colorado has a behavioral health system that works for some people, but not all. The Behavioral Health Task Force heard from hundreds of Coloradans who are continuing to struggle to access the care they need for themselves or a loved one. Tragically,

many of these stories ended up in the death of a loved one. In 2018, Colorado had the seventh-highest suicide rate in the nation. Additionally, 15.3% of Coloradans reported poor mental health in 2019, up from 11.8% in 2017. Many Coloradans report they are not able to access timely care because the services they need are not available in their communities, wait times are too long, or providers can't accommodate their disabilities. The data affirms these concerns: Colorado ranked 29th worst among states by Mental Health America in terms of the prevalence of mental illness and access to care, and close to 95,000 Coloradans with substance use disorder went without

treatment in 2019.

Measuring Behavioral Health

Injuries are common, costly, and preventable. In Colorado, injury (including unintentional injuries and violence) is the third leading cause of death, ranking below cancer and heart disease. Injury is the leading cause of death for Coloradans ages 1 to 44 years old. Each year, 3,700 Coloradans die from injuries, a loss that affects the individuals, their families and friends, their community and society. In addition to the human toll, injury deaths create a substantial economic burden. In Colorado, injury deaths in 2013 led to over \$3.2 billion in combined medical costs and work-loss

costs. Additionally, for every injury death among Coloradans, there are almost 10 injury hospitalizations and 100 emergency department visits. Each year, there are 30,000 hospitalizations and 302,000 emergency department visits for non-fatal injuries among Colorado residents.

Here are Mental Health Services to Aid You

Study of mental health and substance abuse services in order to coordinate state agency efforts, streamline services provided, and maximize federal and other funding sources. The 1050 Task Force focused its efforts on the public systems that provide behavioral health services and did not address behavioral

health services through the private insurance system. For purposes of this report, behavioral health is defined as encompassing both mental health and substance use (use, abuse, and dependence/addiction) disorders.

Colorado's Capitation Plan

When an individual is experiencing a severe mental breakdown or substance abuse emergency, they may be involuntarily committed to a mental health institute, if they pose an immediate danger to themselves or people in their community. These involuntary commitments, used for treatment or care, are meant to be used a last resort when less restrictive alternatives

are unavailable.

**State of Colorado
1981-82 Supplement
to the Colorado
Mental Health Plan**

Colorado ranks in the bottom half of all states in prevalence of mental illness and access to mental health care for both adult and youth populations. The Behavioral Health Task Force was established to develop a blueprint to transform the state's behavioral health system. Four committees were created to prioritize and address behavioral health needs -- a main task force with three subcommittees, Children's Behavioral Health, State Safety Net, and Long Term Competency.

**An Analysis of
Recent Trends in
Colorado's Public**

**Mental Health
System**

Assessing the State of
America's Mental
Health System
*Colorado State Mental
Health Plan, 1980-85
Sunset Review, the
Colorado Mental Health
Licensing Statutes*

**An Evaluation of the
State of Colorado's
Care and Treatment
of the Mentally Ill,
Title 27, Article 10
(C.R.S. 27-10-101)**
Long-range Plan for
Colorado's Public
Mental Health System
Integrating Hospital
and Community
Programs

Colorado State Mental
Health Plan, 1985-1988

**Patterns of
Utilization of
Services by
Hispanics and Blacks
in the Colorado
State Mental Health
System**
Colorado State Plan

**for Construction of
Community Mental
Health Centers
Colorado**

Colorado's Early
Childhood Mental
Health Strategic Plan
Colorado Violence and
Injury Prevention-

Mental Health
Promotion Strategic
Plan 2016-2020
Colorado's Three-year
Plan for a Statewide
Community-based
Mental Health Service
System for Priority
Populations