

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

March 9, 2021

Chair of Committee

Date

Committee on Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB21-1097 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

- 1 Amend printed bill, page 2, line 11, strike "CONSUMERS" and substitute
- 2 "ADULTS, CHILDREN,".
- 3 Page 2, line 12, strike "ABUSE DISORDER" and substitute "USE".
- 4 Page 2, line 13, strike "STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT," and substitute
- 5 "STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS,".
- 6 Page 2, line 16, strike "IS" and substitute "WAS".
- 7 Page 2, line 19, strike "IS".
- 8 Page 2, line 20, strike "EASY" and substitute "EQUITABLE".
- 9 Strike pages 3 through 5.
- 10 Page 6, strike lines 1 through 16 and substitute "TO WHOLE-PERSON CARE;
- 11 (d) IN SEPTEMBER 2020, THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE
- 12 RELEASED ITS BLUEPRINT, SUBCOMMITTEE, AND COVID-19 SPECIAL
- 13 COMMITTEE REPORTS THAT OUTLINE ITS VISION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
- 14 REFORM; AND
- 15 (e) THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE
- 16 INDICATE THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT AN IMPROVED BEHAVIORAL
- 17 HEALTH SYSTEM IN COLORADO:

1 (I) PROVIDE EQUITABLE AND MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO SERVICES
2 AND CARE FOR COLORADANS, REGARDLESS OF ABILITY TO PAY,
3 CO-OCCURRING CONDITIONS, DISABILITY, LINGUISTICS, GEOGRAPHIC
4 LOCATION, RACIAL OR ETHNIC IDENTITY, RELIGION, SOCIOECONOMIC
5 STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AGE, GENDER IDENTITY, HOUSING STATUS,
6 HISTORY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT, PAYER SOURCE, CULTURE,
7 OR ANY OTHER FACTOR;
8 (II) PROVIDE ACCESS TO CARE THAT:
9 (A) INTEGRATES PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH;
10 (B) IS CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY RESPONSIVE,
11 TRAUMA-INFORMED, AND TAILORED TO THE INDIVIDUAL AND SPECIFIC
12 FAMILY NEEDS; AND
13 (C) PRIORITIZES ALL ASPECTS OF HEALTH, INCLUDING WELLNESS,
14 AND EARLY INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS THAT HELP PEOPLE STAY
15 SUCCESSFULLY AND MEANINGFULLY CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY
16 WHERE THEY LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY;
17 (III) PROVIDES A CONTINUUM OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH,
18 AND ADULTS, INCLUDING MEETING THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND
19 YOUTH. YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS THAN ADULTS AND
20 SHOULD BE OFFERED DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE AND CULTURALLY
21 COMPETENT SERVICES.
22 (IV) PROVIDES ACCESS TO QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE SERVICES
23 IN A VARIETY OF METHODS, INCLUDING IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL SERVICES;
24 (V) PROVIDES ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN
25 REGIONS AND COMMUNITIES WITHOUT NECESSITATING ENGAGEMENT WITH
26 THE CRIMINAL OR JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS;
27 (VI) PROVIDES COLORADANS WITH ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CARE
28 THAT KEEPS THEM HEALTHY, AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCIES ACROSS
29 THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY ALIGN WITH PAYMENT MODELS
30 AND INCENTIVES THAT DRIVE QUALITY AND IMPROVED OUTCOMES;
31 (VII) INCLUDES A HIGH-QUALITY, TRAINED, CULTURALLY
32 RESPONSIVE, TRAUMA-INFORMED, AND DIVERSE PROFESSIONAL
33 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE THAT DELIVERS OUTCOMES AND
34 EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CARE; AND
35 (VIII) PROVIDES COLORADANS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO
36 ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN MENTAL WELLNESS BY ADDRESSING SOCIAL
37 DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, SUCH AS HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND
38 EMPLOYMENT, IN ADDITION TO THE INTEGRATION OF PHYSICAL AND
39 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE.
40 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS THAT IN
41 IMPLEMENTING THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COLORADO

1 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE IT IS IMPERATIVE TO RELY ON ALL
2 STAKEHOLDERS WORKING TOGETHER TO HOLD THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
3 SYSTEM ACCOUNTABLE TO ENSURE ALL COLORADANS ARE RECEIVING THE
4 CARE NEEDED TO FULFILL THE TASK FORCE'S AIM OF ENSURING A QUALITY
5 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM.

6 (3) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT, TO
7 ENSURE A STANDARD OF HIGH-QUALITY, INTEGRATED, AND
8 CONSUMER-CENTRIC ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, IT
9 IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS INCLUDED IN
10 THE BLUEPRINT CREATED BY THE COLORADO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASK
11 FORCE BE FOLLOWED AND THAT A SINGLE STATE AGENCY, KNOWN AS THE
12 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, BE ESTABLISHED TO LEAD AND
13 PROMOTE THE STATE'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRIORITIES. IT IS IMPERATIVE
14 THAT THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION TRANSFORM THE
15 STATE'S CURRENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM BY:

16 (a) COORDINATING AND INTEGRATING THE DELIVERY OF
17 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN COLORADO;

18 (b) SETTING STANDARDS FOR THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM
19 TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND EQUITY OF CARE;

20 (c) ENSURING THAT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES RESPOND TO
21 THE CHANGING NEEDS OF COMMUNITIES, MONITOR STATE AND LOCAL
22 OUTCOMES, SUPPORT TRIBAL NEEDS, AND EVALUATE STATE EFFORTS;

23 (d) IMPROVING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO, QUALITY OF, AND
24 AFFORDABILITY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR COLORADANS;

25 (e) PRESERVING AND BUILDING UPON THE INTEGRATION OF
26 BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE THAT TREATS THE WHOLE
27 PERSON;

28 (f) LEADING AND PROMOTING COLORADO'S PRIORITY OF
29 ADDRESSING THE INCREASING NEED FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES;

30 (g) ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY FRAGMENTATION OF SERVICES
31 AND STREAMLINING ACCESS;

32 (h) ADDRESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AS A CORE
33 COMPONENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OUTCOMES;

34 (i) PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF
35 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFORM OUTCOMES AND SPENDING OF TAXPAYER
36 DOLLARS; AND

37 (j) REDUCING ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
38 CARE PROVIDERS SO THEY ARE ABLE TO FOCUS ON CLIENT CARE."

39 Page 7, strike line 9 and substitute "STATE AND REDUCE BEHAVIORAL
40 HEALTH DISPARITIES."



- 1 Page 7, line 11, after "WITH" insert "DEMOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE".
- 2 Page 7, line 13, strike "FAMILIES," and substitute "ADVOCATES,".
- 3 Page 7, line 14, after "GOVERNMENTS," insert "MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS,
4 TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS,".
- 5 Page 8, line 5, strike "STREAMS," and substitute "STREAMS AND
6 PERSONNEL,".
- 7 Page 8, line 9, strike "BHA;" and substitute "BHA, INCLUDING A
8 RECOMMENDATION FOR INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN ANY GOVERNANCE
9 STRUCTURE TO OVERSEE AND BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR POLICY, STRATEGY,
10 AND SERVICES FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH;".
- 11 Page 8, strike line 11 and substitute "MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTIES, AND
12 TRIBES;".
- 13 Page 8, strike line 15 and substitute "INFORMATION SHARING AND LEGAL
14 FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT AN AGREED-UPON APPROACH AND SPECIFIC USE
15 CASE FOR INFORMATION SHARING THAT LEVERAGES EXISTING".
- 16 Page 8, line 18, strike "SERVICES;" and substitute "SERVICES AND
17 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EQUITY WHILE MAINTAINING TRIBAL
18 SOVEREIGNTY;".
- 19 Page 8, line 20, strike "PROGRAMS" and substitute "SERVICES" and strike
20 "CARE;" and substitute "CARE ACROSS COLORADO;".
- 21 Page 8, strike lines 22 through 26 and substitute:
- 22 "(I) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE
23 POLICY AND FINANCING, DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH
24 COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS, ON HOW MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
25 FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SHOULD BE ALIGNED OR INTEGRATED WITH THE
26 BHA IN SUCH A WAY THAT CONSUMERS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
27 HAVE SEAMLESS ACCESS TO NEEDED SERVICES REGARDLESS OF PAYER.
28 THE RECOMMENDATIONS MUST INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE BHA
29 WILL ENSURE THAT ACCESS TO SERVICES DEEMED MEDICALLY NECESSARY
30 PURSUANT TO THE EARLY AND PERIOD SCREENING, DIAGNOSTIC, AND
31 TREATMENT BENEFIT IS ARRANGED FOR ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH.".



- 1 Page 8, line 27, strike "FROM" and substitute "FOR".
- 2 Page 9, line 2, strike "DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES," and substitute
3 "COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS,".
- 4 Page 9, line 4, strike "ARE" and substitute "SHOULD BE".
- 5 Page 9, line 5, strike "FROM" and substitute "FOR".
- 6 Page 9, line 7, strike "DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES," and substitute
7 "COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS,".
- 8 Page 9, line 8, strike "ARE" and substitute "SHOULD BE" and strike "INTO"
9 and substitute "WITH".
- 10 Page 9, line 15, after "DISTRIBUTING" insert "APPROPRIATE".
- 11 Page 9, line 16, strike "MONEY" and substitute "FUNDING".
- 12 Page 9, lines 17 and 18, strike "ON DATA RELATED TO".
- 13 Page 9, line 19, strike "JURISDICTIONS;" and substitute "JURISDICTIONS,
14 WHILE MAINTAINING TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY;".
- 15 Page 9, line 22, after "ACHIEVE" insert "AND MAINTAIN".
- 16 Page 9, line 24, strike "USE;" and substitute "USE TREATMENT;".
- 17 Page 9, line 25, strike "SUPPORTING EFFORTS FOR" and substitute
18 "STRENGTHENING".
- 19 Page 9, line 27, strike "SUPPORTING" and substitute "ENHANCING
20 PROGRAMMATIC AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN SUPPORT OF".
- 21 Page 10, line 1, strike "AND".
- 22 Page 10, line 2, strike "RESPONSIVE" and substitute "RESPONSIVE,
23 TRAUMA-INFORMED,".
- 24 Page 10, line 3, strike "CARE." and substitute "CARE; AND
25 (V) PROMOTING COORDINATION OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES OUTSIDE



1 OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM TO ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS
2 OF HEALTH, AND TO CONNECT PEOPLE TO SERVICES SUCH AS HOUSING,
3 TRANSPORTATION, AND EMPLOYMENT."

4 Page 10, line 4, after "SHALL" insert "WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE
5 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING, COMMUNITY
6 STAKEHOLDERS, AND OTHER STATE DEPARTMENTS, AS APPROPRIATE, TO".

7 Page 10, line 12, after "MADE" insert "BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY".

8 Page 10, strike line 21 and substitute "DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE STATE."

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