



## Legislative Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

# Memorandum

July 18, 2024

**TO:** Members of the Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System

**FROM:** Juliann Jenson, Senior Research Analyst, 303-866-3264  
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**SUBJECT:** Committee Charge Memo

### Summary

This memorandum provides an overview of the Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System (LOC), including its membership, origin, and charge. The memorandum also covers bill request deadlines and procedures, as well as information regarding committee staff and the committee website.

### Origin and Charge of the Committee

The committee was formed in 1999 as the Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Mental Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems, with reauthorization legislation most every three years. Most recently, [Senate Bill 22-021](#) revised the committee name and changed the scope to include behavioral health disorders. The bill also extended the repeal date for the LOC and task force to July 1, 2027. In addition to overseeing the advisory task force and recommending legislative changes, the LOC is directed to develop and propose areas of study for the task force.

The 31-member advisory task force examines the identification, diagnosis, and treatment of persons with behavioral health issues who are involved in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. This includes reviewing liability, safety, and costs as they relate to these issues, and researching topics for members of the oversight committee upon request. The task force must also consider, at a minimum, the following issues:

- early identification and intervention strategies for individuals who are at a higher risk of system involvement;
- promotion of resilience and health for persons who are involved or at-risk of becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system;
- intersection of behavioral health disorders and the criminal and juvenile justice system, with a specific focus on diversion; and,



- safe and effective prevention and intervention strategies to promote good health outcomes upon release and during recovery.

**2023 interim.** The task force and LOC discussed and examined the required topics mentioned above during the 2023 interim. Based on these discussions, the LOC approved the following bills, three of which were enacted into law during the 2024 legislative session:

- [House Bill 24-1034 \(Adult Competency to Stand Trial\)](#)
- [House Bill 24-1079 \(Person Detained in Jail on Emergency Commitment\)](#)
- [House Bill 24-1019 \(Crisis Resolution Team Program\)](#) - deemed lost in House Appropriations
- [Senate Bill 24-006 \(Pretrial Diversion Programs\)](#)
- [Senate Bill 24-052 \(Ongoing Funding for 911 Resource Center\)](#) – deemed lost in Senate Appropriations

## LOC Committee Membership

There are six members on the committee: three from the House and three from the Senate, appointed by leadership. Per Senate Bill 22-021, members are appointed on a yearly basis. The chair and vice chair alternate every other year between the House and Senate.

### Representatives

Representative Judy Amabile, Vice-Chair  
Representative Mary Bradfield  
Representative Regina English

### Senators

Senator Dafna Michaelson Jenet, Chair  
Senator Lisa Cutter  
Senator Rod Pelton

## Meetings

The LOC is required to meet a minimum of three times a year. Typically, the committee meets infrequently during the legislative session and primarily convenes during the interim to work on legislation.

## Task Force

The task force has 31 members, representing the Executive Branch, Judicial, other local agencies, and members of the public. Seventeen of the members are subject to an application process and subsequently approved by the LOC.

The chair and co-chair of the Task Force are:

- Jack Johnson, Chair, Disability Law Colorado (jjohnson@disabilitylawco.org or 303-722-0300),
- Erin Crites, Co-Chair, Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Public Safety (erin.crites@state.co.us or 303-239-4442).



The task force meets on the third Thursday of every month, and a list of members can be found here: [https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/membership\\_grid\\_4\\_20\\_2024\\_0.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/membership_grid_4_20_2024_0.pdf)

**Bill limits and requests.** The committee may introduce up to five bills, joint resolutions, and concurrent resolutions in the 2025 legislative session. Bills approved by the committee do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session. Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to approval by the Legislative Council.

**Bill request deadlines.** The Legislative Council has established deadlines for the 2024 interim for requesting, drafting, and approving bill drafts under consideration by the committee.

- *August 20:* Last date for meeting to request legislation (committees may request legislation earlier)
- *September 10:* Last day to finalize bill drafts with the Office of Legislative Legal Services
- *October 1:* Last date for meeting to approve final legislation (must be at least 42 days between the hearing to request bills and the one to finalize)

## Committee Staff and Website

**Committee and fiscal staff contacts.** Legislative Council Staff is charged with assisting the committee in its activities, and providing fiscal notes for committee legislation and other analyses as requested. If you have any questions or would like any additional information concerning the committee, please contact any of the following individual staff members, or [MICJS@coleg.gov](mailto:MICJS@coleg.gov).

- Matthu Beck, Research Analyst, [matthu.beck@coleg.gov](mailto:matthu.beck@coleg.gov), 303-866-2408
- Brendan Fung, Fiscal Analyst, [brendan.fung@coleg.gov](mailto:brendan.fung@coleg.gov), 303-866-4781
- Juliann Jenson, Senior Research Analyst, [juliann.jenson@coleg.gov](mailto:juliann.jenson@coleg.gov), 303-866-3264

**Legal services staff contacts.** Additionally, attorneys at the Office of Legislative Legal Services provide legal and bill drafting assistance to the committee. For assistance in these areas, please contact:

- Conrad Imel, Senior Attorney, [conrad.imel@coleg.gov](mailto:conrad.imel@coleg.gov), 303-866-2313
- Shelby Ross, Senior Attorney, [shelby.ross@coleg.gov](mailto:shelby.ross@coleg.gov), 303-866-4510

**Website.** Documents distributed during the meetings and meeting summaries may be found on the committee website at: <https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/treatment-persons-behavioral-health-disorders-criminal-and-juvenile-justice-systems/2024>