

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0871.02 Conrad Imel x2313

SENATE BILL 23-229

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Kirkmeyer, Zenzinger

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sirota and Bockenfeld, Bird

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Senate Committees  
Appropriations

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF THE STATEWIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
102 COURT LIAISON, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AND  
103 REDUCING APPROPRIATIONS.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Joint Budget Committee.** Under existing law, the state court administrator administers a statewide behavioral health court liaison program, known as the bridges program (program), to identify local behavioral health professionals to serve as court liaisons in each state judicial district who facilitate communication and collaboration between

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

judicial and behavioral health systems.

The bill establishes the office of the statewide behavioral health court liaison (office) as an independent agency within the judicial department to administer the program. The head of the office is the director.

The bill establishes the bridges program commission (commission) to support the office. The commission appoints the director of the office, provides guidance to the office, provides fiscal oversight of the office's general operating budget, participates in program services funding decisions, and assists with the office's duties concerning program training and public outreach.

The bill clarifies the scope, requirements, and duties of the program, including requiring the program to inform county attorneys of available behavioral health services and connect participants to, and support engagement with, relevant services. The bill clarifies the duties of the program's court liaisons, including:

- Addressing system gaps and barriers and promoting positive outcomes for program participants;
- Keeping judges, district attorneys, county attorneys, and defense attorneys informed about available community-based behavioral health services; and
- Providing consultation and training to criminal and juvenile justice personnel regarding behavioral health and community treatment options and program best practices.

The bill authorizes the office to fund services for participants, either by providing the services or contracting with an entity to provide the services.

The office is required to annually report to the joint budget committee about the office's work and administration of the program.

The bill makes and reduces appropriations.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add with amended**  
3 **and relocated provisions** article 95 to title 13 as follows:

4 **ARTICLE 95**

5 **Office of the Statewide Behavioral Health Court Liaison**

6 **13-95-101. [Formerly 16-11.9-201] Legislative declaration and**

7 **intent.** (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

8 (a) Colorado's citizens who are living with mental health and

1 substance use disorders are overrepresented in the criminal justice system,  
2 and they are at a significantly greater risk of incurring criminal justice  
3 involvement, longer terms of involvement, and harsher consequences of  
4 that involvement when compared to the general public;

5 (b) Colorado must make a commitment to ensure that all  
6 individuals within the criminal justice system are treated fairly and  
7 humanely, regardless of their behavioral health history or mental state;  
8 and

9 (c) There is a significant need for enhanced communication  
10 among health-care systems, behavioral health systems, and criminal  
11 justice entities, including law enforcement, defense attorneys, district  
12 attorneys, COUNTY ATTORNEYS, judges, and probation, to foster  
13 collaboration that provides all individuals with a fair chance of living a  
14 healthy and productive life.

15 (2) The general assembly further finds that:

16 (a) Colorado has an obligation to ensure that entities within the  
17 criminal justice system are equipped with a greater understanding of  
18 behavioral health treatment options in the community; and

19 (b) Community mental health providers, including community  
20 mental health centers, are a critical component of achieving positive  
21 outcomes for individuals living with mental health, behavioral health, and  
22 substance use disorders and have long held an essential role in engaging  
23 criminal justice entities.

24 (3) The general assembly therefore finds that it is critical to create  
25 a network of professionals who can comprehensively bridge the criminal  
26 justice system and the community behavioral health systems across the  
27 state in order to:

1 (a) Promote positive outcomes for individuals living with mental  
2 health or co-occurring behavioral health conditions;

3 (b) Inform criminal justice entities about community treatment  
4 options; and

5 (c) Connect individuals to behavioral health services.

6 (4) Therefore, the general assembly declares that a statewide  
7 behavioral health court liaison program ~~must provide~~ PROVIDES a method  
8 for collaboration and consultation among behavioral health providers,  
9 district attorneys, COUNTY ATTORNEYS, and defense attorneys about  
10 available community-based behavioral health services and supports,  
11 competency evaluations, restoration to competency services, and other  
12 relevant decisions and issues facing individuals with mental health or  
13 co-occurring behavioral health ~~conditions~~ CHALLENGES, INCLUDING  
14 MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITIES, who are involved with the criminal OR  
15 JUVENILE justice system, including appropriateness for community  
16 treatment and resource availability.

17 **13-95-102. [Formerly 16-11.9-202] Definitions.** As used in this  
18 ~~part 2~~ ARTICLE 95, unless the context otherwise requires:

19 (1) "Behavioral health ~~condition~~ CHALLENGE" refers to mental  
20 health and co-occurring ~~substance use conditions that are indicative of a~~  
21 ~~possible behavioral health problem, concern, or disorder~~ CHALLENGES  
22 THAT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY DIAGNOSED, INCLUDING  
23 SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES AND MENTAL DISABILITIES.

24 (2) "Behavioral health services" or "behavioral health systems"  
25 means service systems that encompass prevention and promotion of  
26 emotional health, prevention and treatment services for ~~mental health and~~  
27 ~~substance use conditions~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES, and

1 recovery support.

2 (3) "CO-OCCURRING CHALLENGE" MEANS A DISORDER THAT MAY  
3 OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY DIAGNOSED THAT COMMONLY  
4 COINCIDES WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES AND MAY INCLUDE,  
5 BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND SUBSTANCE USE  
6 DISORDERS, INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, FETAL  
7 ALCOHOL SYNDROME, AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

8 (4) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE BRIDGES PROGRAM COMMISSION  
9 CREATED IN SECTION 13-95-104.

10 ~~(3)~~ (5) "Court liaison" means a person who is hired OR  
11 CONTRACTED BY THE OFFICE as a dedicated behavioral health court liaison  
12 for the program pursuant to ~~section 16-11.9-203~~ THIS ARTICLE 95.

13 (6) "DIRECTOR" MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE DESCRIBED  
14 IN SECTION 13-95-103.

15 (7) "MENTAL DISABILITY" MEANS A PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITY,  
16 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, LEARNING DISABILITY, OR COGNITIVE  
17 IMPAIRMENT, INCLUDING A TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AND DEMENTIA  
18 DISEASES AND RELATED DISABILITIES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 25-1-502.

19 (8) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF THE STATEWIDE BEHAVIORAL  
20 HEALTH COURT LIAISON ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 13-95-103.

21 (9) "PARTICIPANT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH BEHAVIORAL  
22 HEALTH CHALLENGES WHO IS INVOLVED WITH THE CRIMINAL OR JUVENILE  
23 JUSTICE SYSTEM AND FOR WHOM A COURT LIAISON HAS BEEN APPOINTED  
24 PURSUANT TO A COURT ORDER.

25 ~~(4)~~ (10) "Program" OR "BRIDGES PROGRAM" means the statewide  
26 behavioral health court liaison program established in ~~section~~  
27 ~~16-11.9-203~~ SECTION 13-95-105.

1           (11) "SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH" MEANS THE  
2 NON-MEDICAL FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE HEALTH OUTCOMES, INCLUDING  
3 HEALTH-CARE ACCESS AND QUALITY, EDUCATION ACCESS AND QUALITY,  
4 SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT, ECONOMIC STABILITY, HOUSING, AND  
5 TRANSPORTATION.

6           ~~(5)~~ (12) "State court administrator" means the state court  
7 administrator established pursuant to section 13-3-101.

8           **13-95-103. Office of statewide behavioral health court liaison**  
9 **- administrative support - director - repeal.** (1) (a) THERE IS CREATED  
10 THE OFFICE OF STATEWIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT LIAISON AS AN  
11 INDEPENDENT AGENCY IN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT. THE OFFICE HAS  
12 THE POWERS AND DUTIES DESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE 95.

13           (b) THE OFFICE AND COURT LIAISONS SHALL PROVIDE BRIDGES  
14 PROGRAM SERVICES, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTIONS 13-95-104 AND  
15 13-95-105, TO PERSONS ACCUSED OF CRIMES OR DELINQUENT ACTS. THE  
16 OFFICE AND COURT LIAISONS SHALL PROVIDE BRIDGES PROGRAM SERVICES  
17 TO PARTICIPANTS INDEPENDENTLY OF ANY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS OR  
18 PRIVATE INTERESTS.

19           (c) (I) THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE IS THE DIRECTOR. EXCEPT FOR THE  
20 INITIAL DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c)(II) OF  
21 THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPOINT THE DIRECTOR. THE  
22 DIRECTOR SHALL EMPLOY OR CONTRACT WITH PERSONS NECESSARY TO  
23 DISCHARGE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
24 ARTICLE 95.

25           (II) (A) NOTWITHSTANDING THE APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY  
26 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION, THE PERSON WHO,  
27 ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT, IS SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF THE

1 STATEWIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT LIAISON PROGRAM, AS IT EXISTED  
2 PRIOR TO ITS REPEAL IN 2023, IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR A TERM  
3 EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2026. AFTER THE INITIAL TERM OF APPOINTMENT, THE  
4 COMMISSION MAY APPOINT THE PERSON AS DIRECTOR PURSUANT TO  
5 SUBSECTION (1)(c)(I) OF THIS SECTION. THE COMMISSION MAY REMOVE  
6 THE DIRECTOR SERVING PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1)(c)(II)(A) FOR  
7 CAUSE.

8 (B) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(c)(II) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE  
9 DECEMBER 31, 2026.

10 (2) THE DIRECTOR SHALL ADMINISTER THE OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE  
11 WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE JUDICIAL  
12 DEPARTMENT. THE OFFICE AND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO  
13 A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THAT CONTAINS, AT A MINIMUM:

14 (a) A REQUIREMENT THAT THE OFFICE HAS ITS OWN PERSONNEL  
15 RULES;

16 (b) A REQUIREMENT THAT THE DIRECTOR HAS INDEPENDENT  
17 HIRING AND TERMINATION AUTHORITY OVER OFFICE EMPLOYEES AND  
18 CONTRACTED COURT LIAISONS;

19 (c) A REQUIREMENT THAT THE OFFICE MUST FOLLOW THE JUDICIAL  
20 DEPARTMENT'S FISCAL RULES; AND

21 (d) TERMS TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE OFFICE  
22 THAT WILL HELP MAINTAIN THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE OFFICE.

23 (3) (a) AS AN INCLUDED AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSES OF ARTICLE  
24 100 OF THIS TITLE 13, THE OFFICE RECEIVES ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL  
25 SUPPORT SERVICES FROM THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR  
26 INDEPENDENT AGENCIES.

27 (b) (I) THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE OFFICE

1 WITH CENTRAL ACCOUNTING, BUDGETING, AND HUMAN RESOURCES AND  
2 PAYROLL SUPPORT TO THE EXTENT AND PERIOD NECESSARY UNTIL THOSE  
3 SUPPORT SERVICES CAN BE PROVIDED INDEPENDENTLY BY THE OFFICE OF  
4 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR INDEPENDENT AGENCIES.

5 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (3)(b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30,  
6 2024.

7 (4) (a) THE OFFICE AND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO  
8 A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO PROVIDE THE OFFICE AND COURT  
9 LIAISONS ELECTRONIC READ-ONLY ACCESS TO THE NAME INDEX AND  
10 REGISTER OF ACTIONS FOR THOSE CASE TYPES NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT  
11 THE OFFICE'S AND COURT LIAISONS' STATUTORY PURPOSE AND THE DUTIES  
12 OF THEIR COURT APPOINTMENT. THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
13 MUST ALSO DELINEATE A FILING PROCESS FOR COURT LIAISONS TO SUBMIT  
14 REPORTS TO THE COURT.

15 (b) THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TRANSITION  
16 SERVICES TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT AND THE  
17 OFFICE DETERMINE THAT THE TRANSITION IS COMPLETE.

18 (5) THE OFFICE SHALL PAY THE EXPENSES OF THE BRIDGES  
19 PROGRAM COMMISSION, ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 13-95-104.

20 **13-95-104. Bridges program commission - creation -**  
21 **membership - duties - repeal.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE OFFICE THE  
22 BRIDGES PROGRAM COMMISSION TO SUPPORT THE OFFICE.

23 (2) (a) THE COMMISSION IS COMPRISED OF THE FOLLOWING  
24 MEMBERS:

25 (I) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COLORADO DISTRICT  
26 ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

27 (II) THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER, OR THE STATE PUBLIC



1 DEFENDER'S DESIGNEE;

2 (III) THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
3 ADMINISTRATION, OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE;

4 (IV) THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR, OR THE STATE COURT  
5 ADMINISTRATOR'S DESIGNEE; AND

6 (V) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
7 OF THE COLORADO SUPREME COURT:

8 (A) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A DISABILITY RIGHTS ORGANIZATION  
9 THAT PROVIDES SERVICES TO THE POPULATIONS SERVED BY THE BRIDGES  
10 PROGRAM;

11 (B) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DISABILITY,  
12 OR CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION THAT ADVOCATES FOR  
13 THE POPULATIONS SERVED BY THE BRIDGES PROGRAM;

14 (C) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES  
15 HOUSING OR OTHER RESOURCES TO THE POPULATIONS SERVED BY THE  
16 BRIDGES PROGRAM; AND

17 (D) TWO COLORADO RESIDENTS, AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM IS AN  
18 INDIVIDUAL WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE REFLECTIVE OF THE POPULATIONS  
19 SERVED BY THE BRIDGES PROGRAM.

20 (b) THE CHIEF JUSTICE SHALL MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO THE  
21 COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(V) OF THIS SECTION NO  
22 LATER THAN JULY 1, 2023.

23 (c) MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE SHALL NOT BE  
24 EMPLOYED OR UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE STATEWIDE  
25 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT LIAISON OR THE OFFICE WITHIN A STATE  
26 DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSISTING CIVIL AND FORENSIC MENTAL  
27 HEALTH PATIENTS. TO REPRESENT THE DIVERSITY OF THE COMMUNITIES

1 SERVED BY THE BRIDGES PROGRAM, WHEN MAKING DESIGNATIONS OR  
2 APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION, THE DESIGNATING AND APPOINTING  
3 AUTHORITIES SHALL CONSIDER A DESIGNEE'S OR APPOINTEE'S PLACE OF  
4 RESIDENCE OR EMPLOYMENT, GENDER AND GENDER IDENTITY, SEXUAL  
5 ORIENTATION, ABILITY, RACE, ETHNIC BACKGROUND, AND LIVED  
6 EXPERIENCE.

7 (d) (I) EXCEPT FOR THE INITIAL APPOINTMENTS MADE PURSUANT  
8 TO SUBSECTION (2)(d)(II) OF THIS SECTION, THE TERM OF APPOINTMENT  
9 FOR EACH MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE PURSUANT TO  
10 SUBSECTION (2)(a)(V) OF THIS SECTION IS THREE YEARS. THE CHIEF  
11 JUSTICE MAY REAPPOINT A MEMBER FOR ADDITIONAL TERMS.

12 (II) (A) FOR THE INITIAL TERM OF APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS  
13 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(V) OF THIS SECTION, THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
14 SHALL APPOINT TWO MEMBERS TO A THREE-YEAR TERM, TWO MEMBERS TO  
15 A TWO-YEAR TERM, AND ONE MEMBER TO A ONE-YEAR TERM.

16 (B) THIS SUBSECTION (2)(d)(II) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE  
17 DECEMBER 31, 2025.

18 (e) EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SERVES WITHOUT  
19 COMPENSATION BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTUAL AND  
20 REASONABLE EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE  
21 MEMBER'S DUTIES.

22 (3) THE DIRECTOR SHALL CALL THE FIRST MEETING OF THE  
23 COMMISSION TO OCCUR NO LATER THAN JULY 31, 2023.

24 (4) THE DIRECTOR AND THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH  
25 PROCEDURES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION.

26 (5) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

27 (a) APPOINT THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE. THE COMMISSION MAY

1 REMOVE A DIRECTOR FOR CAUSE.

2 (b) WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE  
3 GUIDANCE TO THE OFFICE; PROVIDE FISCAL OVERSIGHT OF THE GENERAL  
4 OPERATING BUDGET OF THE OFFICE; PARTICIPATE IN FUNDING DECISIONS  
5 RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF PROGRAM SERVICES; AND ASSIST WITH  
6 THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE CONCERNING BRIDGES PROGRAM TRAINING AND  
7 PUBLIC OUTREACH, AS NEEDED.

8 **13-95-105. Statewide behavioral health court liaison program**  
9 **- established - purpose - administration.** (1) [Formerly 16-11.9-203  
10 **(1)(a)**] The statewide behavioral health court liaison program, KNOWN AS  
11 THE BRIDGES PROGRAM, is established in the office. ~~of the state court~~  
12 ~~administrator. The state court administrator is responsible for program~~  
13 ~~administration including ensuring that each judicial district implements~~  
14 ~~a local program design that is~~ BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, THE OFFICE SHALL  
15 OPERATE THE BRIDGES PROGRAM IN EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IN THE  
16 STATE. THE OFFICE SHALL DISTRIBUTE COURT LIAISON AND PROGRAM  
17 RESOURCES EQUITABLY IN EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT AND SHALL ENSURE  
18 THAT THE PROGRAM SERVICES IN EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ARE  
19 CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND BEST PRACTICES OF  
20 THE BRIDGES PROGRAM, AS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE AND  
21 COMMISSION, AND ARE aligned with statewide goals and legislative intent.

22 (2) [Formerly 16-11.9-203 (1)(b)] The purpose of the BRIDGES  
23 program is to identify and dedicate ~~local~~ behavioral health professionals  
24 TO SERVE as court liaisons in each state judicial district. The court liaisons  
25 shall facilitate communication and collaboration between judicial and  
26 behavioral health systems. THE OFFICE SHALL HIRE, OR ENTER INTO  
27 CONTRACTS FOR, INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE AS COURT LIAISONS WHO

1 PROVIDE PROGRAM SERVICES TO COURTS AND PARTICIPANTS IN JUDICIAL  
2 DISTRICTS.

3 (3) [Formerly 16-11.9-203 (2)] (a) The BRIDGES program is  
4 ~~designed to~~ MUST keep judges, district attorneys, COUNTY ATTORNEYS,  
5 and defense attorneys informed about available community-based  
6 behavioral health services, including services for defendants who have  
7 been ordered to undergo a competency evaluation or receive competency  
8 restoration services pursuant to article 8.5 of this title 16 AND ARTICLE 2.5  
9 OF TITLE 19.

10 (b) The BRIDGES program is ~~further designed to~~ MUST MAKE  
11 EFFORTS TO CONNECT PARTICIPANTS TO, AND SUPPORT ENGAGEMENT  
12 WITH, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SERVICES FOR SOCIAL  
13 DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND TO promote positive outcomes for  
14 individuals living with ~~mental health or co-occurring~~ behavioral health  
15 ~~conditions~~ CHALLENGES.

16 (c) THE BRIDGES PROGRAM MUST MAKE EFFORTS TO COLLABORATE  
17 WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS, INCLUDING THE OFFICE WITHIN A STATE  
18 DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSISTING CIVIL AND FORENSIC MENTAL  
19 HEALTH PATIENTS AND JAIL-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS, TO  
20 ENSURE CONTINUITY OF CARE AND SERVICE DELIVERY.

21 **13-95-106. Behavioral health court liaisons - duties and**  
22 **responsibilities.** (1) [Formerly 16-11.9-204 (1) introductory portion] A  
23 court liaison hired OR CONTRACTED pursuant to this ~~part 2~~ ARTICLE 95 has  
24 the following duties and responsibilities:

25 (a) [Formerly 16-11.9-204 (1)(b)] CONDUCTING INTAKE,  
26 screening, AND ASSESSMENT, WITH PARTICIPANTS, for behavioral health  
27 ~~conditions and determining appropriate referral and treatment options~~

1 ~~when necessary~~ HISTORY AND NEEDS AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF  
2 HEALTH NEEDS;

3 (b) DETERMINING APPROPRIATE REFERRAL AND TREATMENT  
4 OPTIONS WHEN NECESSARY AND MAKING DIRECT CONNECTIONS TO, AND  
5 SUPPORTING ENGAGEMENT WITH, SERVICES FOR PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING  
6 OTHER CRIMINAL OR JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVERSION PROGRAMS FOR  
7 INDIVIDUALS WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES, WHICH MAY  
8 INCLUDE ALTERNATIVES TO COMPETENCY SERVICES, PROSECUTION, AND  
9 CUSTODY OR CONFINEMENT; IF A PARTICIPANT IS CONVICTED,  
10 ALTERNATIVES TO SENTENCES TO CONFINEMENT WHILE PROMOTING  
11 PUBLIC SAFETY; AND OTHER DIVERSION-ORIENTED PROGRAMS, INCLUDING  
12 PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS, COMPETENCY DOCKETS, TREATMENT, SOBER  
13 OR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, AND PEER MENTOR PROGRAMS;

14 (c) **[Formerly 16-11.9-204 (1)(c) introductory portion]** Using  
15 the ~~behavioral health~~ COMPETENCY information from the statewide court  
16 data system, as updated pursuant to ~~section 16-11.9-203 (4)~~, to ~~make a~~  
17 ~~determination regarding whether a behavioral health consultation would~~  
18 SECTION 13-3-101 (17), TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN  
19 APPOINTED A COURT LIAISON BUT FOR WHOM AN APPOINTMENT TO THE  
20 BRIDGES PROGRAM MAY be beneficial. ~~in achieving program goals and~~  
21 ~~objectives. If the court liaison operating in the judicial district determines~~  
22 ~~that a consultation would be beneficial~~ IF A COURT LIAISON OR THE  
23 BRIDGES PROGRAM IDENTIFIES AN INDIVIDUAL FOR WHOM SERVICES MAY  
24 BE APPROPRIATE, the court liaison ~~shall consult with each~~ MAY  
25 RECOMMEND TO THE judicial officer, defense attorney, and district  
26 attorney working on the case ~~and the liaison must identify, at a minimum,~~  
27 ~~the following information:~~ THAT A COURT LIAISON BE APPOINTED FOR THE

1 INDIVIDUAL.

2 (d) ADDRESSING SYSTEM GAPS AND BARRIERS AND PROMOTING  
3 POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN CASES TO WHICH THE LIAISON  
4 IS ASSIGNED;

5 (e) KEEPING JUDGES; DISTRICT ATTORNEYS OR COUNTY  
6 ATTORNEYS, AS APPLICABLE; AND DEFENSE ATTORNEYS INFORMED ABOUT  
7 AVAILABLE COMMUNITY-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE  
8 PARTICIPANT IN A CASE, AND, IF APPLICABLE, CASE PLANNING FOR  
9 POSSIBLE RELEASE FROM CUSTODY FOR A PARTICIPANT WHO HAS BEEN  
10 ORDERED TO UNDERGO A COMPETENCY EVALUATION OR RECEIVE  
11 COMPETENCY RESTORATION SERVICES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 8.5 OF TITLE  
12 16 AND ARTICLE 2.5 OF TITLE 19.

13 (f) **[Formerly 16-11.9-204 (1)(d)]** Facilitating communication  
14 AND COLLABORATION between behavioral health systems and criminal  
15 justice entities; ~~and providing consultation to criminal justice personnel~~  
16 ~~regarding behavioral health and community treatment options;~~

17 (g) PROVIDING CONSULTATION AND TRAINING TO CRIMINAL AND  
18 JUVENILE JUSTICE PERSONNEL REGARDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND  
19 COMMUNITY TREATMENT OPTIONS AND BRIDGES PROGRAM BEST  
20 PRACTICES; AND

21 (h) **[Formerly 16-11.9-204 (1)(e)]** Coordinating with SERVICE  
22 PROVIDERS, INCLUDING THE OFFICE WITHIN A STATE DEPARTMENT  
23 RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSISTING CIVIL AND FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH  
24 PATIENTS AND jail-based behavioral health providers, to ensure continuity  
25 of care and service delivery. ~~and~~

26 (2) **[Formerly 16-11.9-204 (2)]** If a ~~consultation occurs pursuant~~  
27 ~~to subsection (1)(c) of this section~~ COURT APPOINTS A COURT LIAISON FOR

1 A PERSON, the statewide court data system must include a record of ~~such~~  
2 ~~consultation~~ THE APPOINTMENT AND ACTIONS RELATED TO THE  
3 APPOINTMENT on the ~~individual's~~ PERSON'S case records.

4 (3) A COURT LIAISON APPOINTED IN A CASE SHALL ACT AS A  
5 RESOURCE FOR THE COURT AND THE PARTIES TO THE CASE. A COURT  
6 LIAISON SHALL NOT BE AN INDEPENDENT PARTY IN A CASE OR SERVE IN A  
7 ROLE INTENDED TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH A COURT ORDER BY A  
8 PARTY OR OTHER PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH A CASE.

9 (4) A COURT LIAISON MAY CONTINUE TO SERVE A PARTICIPANT FOR  
10 UP TO NINETY DAYS AFTER FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE CASE FOR WHICH  
11 THE LIAISON WAS APPOINTED.

12 **13-95-107. Bridges program participant services funding.**

13 (1) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
14 THE OFFICE MAY EXPEND APPROPRIATED PROGRAM MONEY TO PROVIDE,  
15 OR CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES,  
16 BASIC NECESSITIES, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, AND OTHER SERVICES TO  
17 SUPPORT THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, FOR PARTICIPANTS.

18 (2) REQUESTS FOR MONEY MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE  
19 APPOINTED COURT LIAISON OR OTHER EMPLOYEE OR DESIGNEE OF THE  
20 OFFICE.

21 (3) THE OFFICE SHALL MAKE PAYMENTS TO THE ENTITY PROVIDING  
22 SERVICES TO PARTICIPANTS AND SHALL NOT MAKE PAYMENTS DIRECTLY  
23 TO A PARTICIPANT.

24 **13-95-108. Gifts, grants, and donations.** THE OFFICE MAY SEEK,  
25 ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR  
26 PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 95.

27 **13-95-109. Reporting requirements.** (1) ON OR BEFORE

1 NOVEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL REPORT TO THE JOINT  
2 BUDGET COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE, ABOUT THE  
3 OFFICE'S WORK AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE BRIDGES PROGRAM DURING  
4 THE PRIOR YEAR. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE:

5 (a) THE NUMBER OF CASES IN THE PAST YEAR WHEN A COURT  
6 LIAISON WAS APPOINTED AND OUTCOMES IN THOSE CASES RELATED TO THE  
7 LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND STATEWIDE GOALS OF THE PROGRAM, AS SET  
8 FORTH IN THIS ARTICLE 95; AND

9 (b) INFORMATION CONCERNING THE USE OF MONEY FROM THE  
10 BRIDGES PROGRAM PARTICIPANT SERVICE FUND, INCLUDING A SUMMARY  
11 OF HOW MONEY FROM THE FUND IS BEING USED TO ALLEVIATE SYSTEM  
12 GAPS AND BARRIERS TO SERVICES.

13 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE  
14 REPORTING REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION CONTINUES  
15 INDEFINITELY.

16 **SECTION 2. Repeal of relocated and nonrelocated provisions**  
17 **in this act.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** part 2 of title 11.9 of  
18 title 16; except that 16-11.9-203 (3), 16-11.9-203 (4), and 16-11.9-203  
19 (5); 16-11.9-204 (1)(a), 16-11.9-204 (1)(c)(I), 16-11.9-204 (1)(c)(II),  
20 16-11.9-204 (1)(c)(III), 16-11.9-204(1)(c)(IV), and 16-11.9-204 (1)(f);  
21 and 16-11.9-205 are not relocated.

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-3-101, **add** (17)  
23 as follows:

24 **13-3-101. State court administrator - report - definitions -**  
25 **repeal.** (17) THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR SHALL HAVE THE  
26 CAPABILITIES WITHIN THE EXISTING STATEWIDE COURT DATA SYSTEM TO  
27 INDICATE COURT LIAISON APPOINTMENT AND ACTIONS RELATED TO THE



1 APPOINTMENT IN CASES.

2 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 16-8.5-103, **amend**  
3 (1)(b) as follows:

4 **16-8.5-103. Determination of competency to proceed.**

5 (1) (b) On or before the date when a court orders that a defendant be  
6 evaluated for competency, a court liaison for the district hired OR  
7 CONTRACTED pursuant to ~~part 2 of article 11.9 of this title 16~~ ARTICLE 95  
8 OF TITLE 13 may be assigned to the defendant.

9 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 16-8.5-105, **amend**  
10 (1)(a)(III) and (6) as follows:

11 **16-8.5-105. Evaluations, locations, time frames, and report.**

12 (1) (a) (III) The court shall determine the type of bond and the conditions  
13 of release after consideration of the presumptions and factors enumerated  
14 in article 4 of this title 16, which include consideration of the information  
15 received from any pretrial services program pursuant to the provisions of  
16 section 16-4-106 and any information provided by the court liaison hired  
17 OR CONTRACTED pursuant to ~~part 2 of article 11.9 of this title 16~~ ARTICLE  
18 95 OF TITLE 13. As a condition of any bond, the court shall require the  
19 defendant's cooperation with the competency evaluation on an outpatient  
20 and out-of-custody basis. In setting the bond, the court shall not consider  
21 the need for the defendant to receive an evaluation pursuant to this article  
22 8.5 as a factor in determining any monetary condition of bond.

23 (6) Whenever a competency evaluation is ordered upon the  
24 request of either party, the court may notify the county attorney or district  
25 attorney required to conduct proceedings pursuant to section 27-65-113  
26 (6) for the county in which the charges are pending and the court liaison  
27 hired OR CONTRACTED pursuant to ~~part 2 of article 11.9 of this title 16~~

1 ARTICLE 95 OF TITLE 13 of all court dates for return of the report on  
2 competency to ensure that all parties are on notice of the expected need  
3 for coordinated services and planning with consideration of possible civil  
4 certification.

5 **SECTION 6. Appropriation - adjustments to 2023 long bill.** To  
6 implement this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual  
7 general appropriation act for the 2023-24 state fiscal year to the judicial  
8 department for the statewide behavioral health court liaison program is  
9 decreased by \$2,802,491, and the related FTE is decreased by 12.0 FTE.

10 **SECTION 7. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2023-24 state fiscal  
11 year, \$5,181,020 is appropriated to the judicial department for use by the  
12 office of the statewide behavioral health court liaison. This appropriation  
13 is from the general fund. To implement this act, the office may use this  
14 appropriation as follows:

15 (a) \$3,566,814 for personal services, which amount is based on an  
16 assumption that the office will require an additional 33.7 FTE;

17 (b) \$604,300 for operating expenses;

18 (c) \$300,000 for IT and CMS;

19 (d) \$388,783 for health, life, and dental;

20 (e) \$5,057 for short-term disability;

21 (f) \$158,033 for S.B. 04-257 amortization equalization  
22 disbursement; and

23 (g) \$158,033 for S.B. 06-235 supplemental amortization  
24 equalization disbursement.

25 (2) For the 2023-24 state fiscal year, \$100,453 is appropriated to  
26 the judicial department. This appropriation is from the general fund. To  
27 implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for the

1 purchase of legal services.

2 (3) For the 2023-24 state fiscal year, \$100,453 is appropriated to  
3 the department of law. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds  
4 received from the judicial department under subsection (2) of this section  
5 and is based on an assumption that the department of law will require an  
6 additional 0.5 FTE. To implement this act, the department of law may use  
7 this appropriation to provide legal services for the judicial department.

8 **SECTION 8. Effective date.** (1) Except as otherwise provided  
9 in this section, this act takes effect upon passage.

10 (2) Section 13-95-103 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, enacted in  
11 section 1 of this act, takes effect only if Senate Bill 23-228 does not  
12 become law.

13 (3) Section 13-95-103 (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, enacted in  
14 section 1 of this act, takes effect only if Senate Bill 23-228 becomes law,  
15 in which case section 13-95-103 (3) takes effect on the effective date of  
16 this act or Senate Bill 23-228, whichever is later.

17 **SECTION 9. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
18 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.