



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 23-0698	Date:	June 27, 2023
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Kolker; Gardner	Bill Status:	Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic: ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill would have required select mental health services to be covered for Medicaid members under 21 who have mental health risk factors and instructed the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to explore opportunities to integrate risk factors into screening tools. The bill would have minimally increased state workload on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation was required

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. This bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on February 16, 2023; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires select mental health services to be covered for Medicaid members under 21 who have mental health risk factors. These factors include genetic factors, traumatic events, and environmental factors. When the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) identifies a risk factor, the bill requires therapy, prevention and education services, case management, and evaluation and treatment planning services to be covered. Finally, the bill instructs HCPF to explore opportunities to integrate risk factors into screening tools.

Background

Every Medicaid member, excluding those partially covered by Medicare, is assigned to a regional organization responsible for providing or arranging medically necessary behavioral health services including the services required under the bill. HCPF pays each regional organization a preset monthly capitation payment for each eligible Medicaid member.

State Expenditures

The bill impacts workload in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing in two ways.

Integrating risk factors into screening tools. Starting in FY 2023-24, workload in HCPF will increase to explore opportunities to integrate risk factors into screening tools. It is assumed that this process can be conducted within the existing stakeholder process.

Coverage requirements. In FY 2023-24 only, HCPF will hold at least one stakeholder meeting regarding mental health services to be covered under the bill, which can be accomplished within existing resources.

Because the bill will not increase eligibility nor expand available services, no service cost increase is anticipated. HCPF provides this level of mental health services to its membership under the behavioral health capitation program.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Behavioral Health Administration
Information Technology

Health Care Policy and Financing
Public Health and Environment

Human Services