

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0652.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

HOUSE BILL 25-1124

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Rydin,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet,

House Committees
Health & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING UPDATES TO THE UNIVERSAL CONTRACTING PROVISION**
102 **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DELIVERY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
103 **SAFETY NET SERVICES.**

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>.)

Under current law, the universal contracting provisions must comply with 16 requirements when a state agency contracts for the delivery of behavioral health services. The bill repeals 13 of the existing requirements and adds a new requirement to facilitate connections for individuals to the statewide behavioral health safety net system.

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.*

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds that:

4 (a) Access to behavioral health services is critical for addressing
5 the behavioral health needs of individuals in Colorado;

6 (b) The universal contracting provisions provide a mechanism for
7 reducing administrative burdens, which can negatively impact access to
8 behavioral health services; and

9 (c) The universal contracting provisions assist in ensuring
10 consistency across the behavioral health safety net system for those
11 seeking to access high-quality care.

12 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that in order to
13 accomplish the intent of these universal contracting provisions, the
14 existing requirements must be streamlined and simplified.

15 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-50-203, **amend**
16 (1) and (2) as follows:

17 **27-50-203. Universal contracting provisions - requirements.**

18 (1) ~~On or before July 1, 2023,~~ The BHA shall work with the department
19 of health care policy and financing, in collaboration with relevant
20 stakeholders and other state agencies, to develop universal contracting
21 provisions to be used by state agencies when contracting for behavioral
22 health SAFETY NET services in the state. The universal contracting
23 provisions ~~shall~~ **MUST** provide clear, standardized requirements
24 addressing at least the following:

25 (a) Minimum data collection **STANDARDS** and reporting, including
26 electronic data and participation in health information organization

1 networks;

2 (b) Grievance and occurrence reporting, including to the BHA;

3 ~~(c) Collaboration with other state agencies;~~

4 ~~(d) Use of evidence-based practices;~~

5 ~~(e) Access to care and quality of care standards, including~~
6 ~~accountability to the performance standards developed pursuant to section~~
7 ~~27-50-201;~~

8 ~~(f) Programmatic and financial reporting;~~

9 ~~(g) (c) Consequences for not meeting contract requirements; AND~~

10 ~~(h) Standard payment methodologies, based on provider type or~~
11 ~~other factors, as determined by the BHA;~~

12 ~~(i) Claims submissions and billing procedures and guidelines;~~

13 ~~(j) Limitations of liability;~~

14 ~~(k) Compliance with behavioral health safety net standards,~~
15 ~~including provision of services for priority populations;~~

16 ~~(l) Utilization management;~~

17 ~~(m) (d) Utilization of required tools or programs that improve~~
18 ~~quality outcomes, accessibility of social determinants of health supports,~~
19 ~~affordability, referral efficiency, or other state priorities; ENSURING~~
20 ~~INDIVIDUALS ARE CONNECTED TO THE SERVICES THE INDIVIDUALS REQUIRE~~
21 ~~WITHIN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SAFETY NET SYSTEM.~~

22 ~~(n) Policies on accepting, discharging, triaging, and denying~~
23 ~~services to clients consistent with sections 27-50-302 and 27-50-303;~~

24 ~~(o) Standards for serving priority populations and high-acuity~~
25 ~~clients based on state need and provider type; and~~

26 ~~(p) Compliance with all applicable federal statutes and~~
27 ~~regulations, including anti-discrimination laws.~~

1 (2) ~~The universal contracting provisions may include alternate~~
2 ~~standardized provisions, depending on its application, such as whether the~~
3 ~~provider is a comprehensive community behavioral health provider or an~~
4 ~~essential behavioral health safety net provider, the service type, or other~~
5 ~~factors.~~ THE UNIVERSAL CONTRACTING PROVISIONS DO NOT REQUIRE THE
6 EXPANSION OF DATA COLLECTION BEYOND THE DATA ALREADY BEING
7 COLLECTED BY A STATE AGENCY, TRIBAL GOVERNMENT, OR A
8 CONTRACTOR.

9 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
10 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
12 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
13 institutions.