



# Behavioral Health Administration

SMART Act Report to the Joint Judiciary Committee

January 29, 2025

Commissioner Dannette R. Smith

Ryan Templeton, Legislative Division Director



**COLORADO**  
Behavioral Health  
Administration

# Mission

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## Behavioral Health

Administration's mission is to co-create a people-first behavioral health system that meets the needs of all people in Colorado

# Vision

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## Behavioral Health

Administration's vision is that behavioral health services in Colorado are accessible, meaningful, and trusted



# Behavioral Health Administration's Priority Outcomes

## Priorities<sup>1</sup>

## Supporting Strategies



**Improve BH outcomes for all Coloradans,** by standing up and developing Colorado's behavioral health system with a unified strategy and people first approach to improve whole person health

1. Engage stakeholders to address the needs of people the Behavioral Health system serves and workforce that keep it operational
2. Develop tools to enable people to find and enroll in treatment and behavioral health services
3. Organizing a people first approach to data collection and sharing that enables greater accessibility and transparency
4. Streamlining processes for credentialing, contracting, and provider quality measurement to reduce administrative burdens



**Expand Access to Behavioral Health Care,** to meet the unaddressed needs of Coloradans by increasing the number of people served through the new BHASO network of community behavioral health care providers

1. Implement the BHASO model
2. Collect data on quality and volume of services administered by BHASOs
3. Establish performance monitoring and management approach
4. Enable referrals through client care search



**Improve Outcomes for Children and Youth with complex behavioral health needs,** by improving accessibility and quality of treatment for Colorado's youth

1. Report on Children and Youth Plan Progress
2. Expand use of standardized assessments
3. Establish service availability improvements
4. Support training of Children Youth and Family Professionals



**Transform Customer Experience,** by increasing volume of digital users that can address their need without additional assistance

1. Implement digital tools across BHA's services
2. Establish analytics monitoring and service data
3. Develop customer experience improvement strategy

1. Formal Wildly Important Goals will be published in BHA's FY 25-26 performance plan published on July 1, 2025



# BHA Tools for System Oversight and Achievement

**1** **BHA Performance Hub:**  
Colorado's Behavioral Health  
Data Bank

**2** **Behavioral Health Care  
Grievance and Complaint  
Process:**  
Increasing Transparency &  
Improving Timelines

**3** **Behavioral Health Administrative  
Services Organizations (BHASOs):**  
Regional administration of safety  
net services

**4** **Interagency Council:**  
Cross agency leadership,  
departmental alignment and  
shared oversight of Colorado's  
Behavioral Health System



Early Intervention,  
Deflection, and  
Redirection from the  
Criminal Justice System  
Grant Program (*SB22-196*)

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*Medication Consistency* for  
Individuals with Behavioral or  
Mental Health Disorders in  
the Criminal and Juvenile  
Justice Systems







# Study of Health Effects of Felonizing Fentanyl Possession

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## Criminal Justice Diversion Programs



# ARPA: Behavioral Health Investments



## Behavioral & Mental Health (BMH) Fund

**\$550M**

SLFRF funds from the BMH Fund appropriated across 9 departments and the judicial branch



## BHA Appropriations

**\$294M**

One time SLFRF funds appropriated to BHA for behavioral health, workforce and public health investments from the BMH Fund.





# Type of programs supported by SB22-196 Grants

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**\$50.7  
Million**

**Early Intervention** - programs to prevent the onset of certain behaviors and supports the development of resilience

**Deflection** - pre-arrest programs that deflect individuals away from the criminal justice system and into behavioral health and social services

**Diversion** - intervention programs that offer individuals who have entered the criminal justice system “off ramps” to by taking part in behavioral health or social services

**Reentry** - programs that support in the transition of justice-involved individuals moving from jails or prisons back to the community



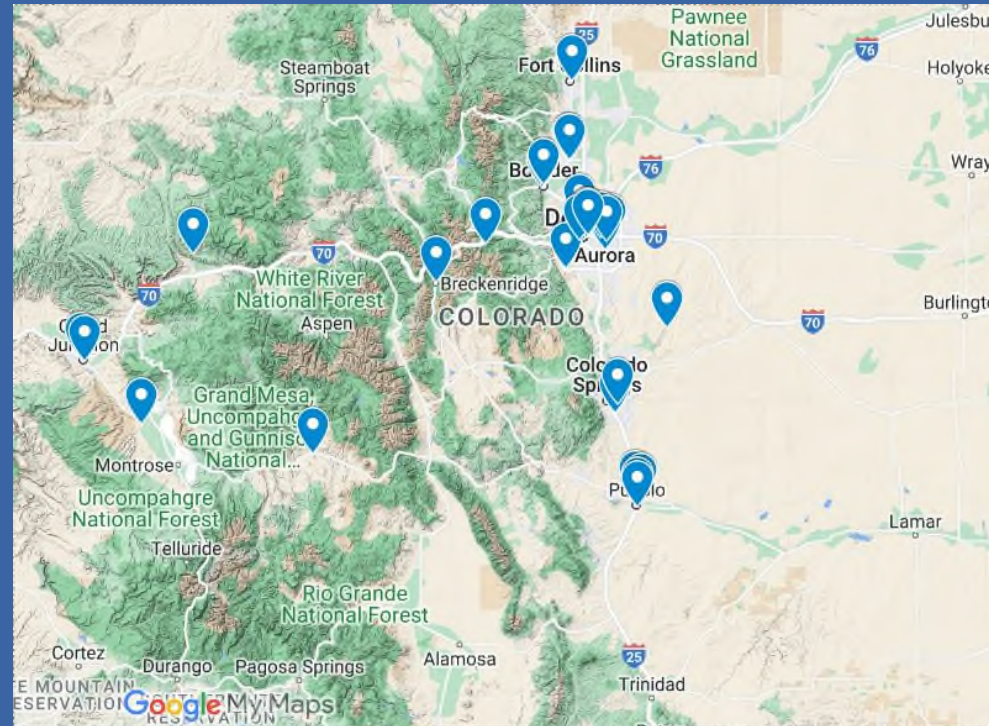


# SB22-196 Grant Program Reach

17 Counties

29 Programs

6,386 Individuals Served





## Medication Consistency for Individuals with Behavioral or Mental Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

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- *Establishing an agreed upon medication formulary*
- **New formulary release April 2025**



# Strengthen medication consistency across settings through:



Decreasing overall costs of treatment through cooperative purchasing agreements



Piloting health information exchange systems in jails to facilitate data sharing with community providers



# MEASURING THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF FELONIZING FENTANYL POSSESSION

## STATE REPORT

25 IBEH 192399

## Aims

1. To estimate the health impacts of the change in criminal penalties associated with synthetic opioids on overdoses and initiation and retention on MOUD in Colorado.
2. To evaluate trends in felony charges associated with synthetic opioids in Colorado.
3. To apply a participatory action research approach to understand the intersection of justice involvement and substance use disorder (SUD) in Colorado.

# Criminal Justice Diversion Programs



## Co-responder Programs

42% of Counties have at least one program in place



## Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

Launching a youth LEAD pilot this year.



# Thank You

[bha.colorado.gov](http://bha.colorado.gov)  
[@BHACONnect](https://twitter.com/BHACONnect)

