

CHAPTER 159

HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES

HOUSE BILL 02-1025

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Romanoff, Boyd, Stafford, Tochtrop, Coleman, Garcia, Groff, Jahn, Mace, Madden, Marshall, Miller, Plant, Sanchez, Vigil, and Williams S.;
also SENATOR(S) Hagedorn, Hanna, Hernandez, Linkhart, Nichol, Pascoe, Phillips, Takis, and Tupa.

AN ACT**CONCERNING METHODS TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN COLORADO WORKS PARTICIPANTS.**

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

SECTION 1. Part 7 of article 2 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

26-2-724. Colorado works - screening for substance abuse and mental health problems - repeal. (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS THAT A SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF COLORADO WORKS PARTICIPANTS ENCOUNTER BARRIERS TO ACHIEVING SELF-SUFFICIENCY DUE TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS OR MENTAL ILLNESS. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALSO FINDS THAT THE IDENTIFICATION OF THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS OR MENTAL ILLNESS DOES NOT ALWAYS OCCUR IN A TIMELY FASHION. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT THE USE OF SCREENING INSTRUMENTS TO SCREEN FOR THESE PROBLEMS AND TO REFER PARTICIPANTS FOR SERVICES, IF APPROPRIATE, WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM.

(2) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2002, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SCREENING INSTRUMENT TO BE USED TO SCREEN COLORADO WORKS PARTICIPANTS FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR MENTAL ILLNESS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TRAINING ON THE USE OF THE SCREENING INSTRUMENT. FOR ASSESSMENTS OF NEW WORKS PARTICIPANTS CONDUCTED ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2002, EACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL EITHER USE THE SCREENING INSTRUMENT DESIGNATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR SHALL DESIGNATE ITS OWN MECHANISM TO BE USED IN THAT COUNTY TO SCREEN WORKS PARTICIPANTS FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR MENTAL ILLNESS. BASED UPON THE RESULTS OF THE

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

SCREENING, THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS SHALL MAKE REFERRALS FOR SERVICES, IF APPROPRIATE.

(3) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO AUTHORIZE PERSONNEL OF COUNTY DEPARTMENTS TO MAKE MEDICAL DIAGNOSES WHICH THEY ARE NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO MAKE.

(4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005.

SECTION 2. 26-2-723 (4) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

26-2-723. Evaluation - audit committee - repeal. (4) (a) The goals of the evaluation shall be to obtain an objective analysis of the outcomes realized as a result of the implementation of the works program. Such outcomes shall include but not be limited to:

(I) The number of adults who leave the works program for employment;

(II) The extent to which job placements result in job retention;

(III) The rate at which participants return to the program after periods of employment;

(IV) The extent to which job placements are leading participants to long-term self-sufficiency;

(V) The number of adults who leave the works program for other reasons;

(VI) The impact of the implementation of the works program on the medicaid, child care, and child welfare programs operated in the state;

(VII) THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCREENING, REFERRAL, AND ASSESSMENT.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 24, 2002