

## CHAPTER 316

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**HUMAN SERVICES - MENTAL HEALTH**

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**HOUSE BILL 10-1032**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Frangas, Apuan, Massey, Casso, Gerou, Labuda, Merrifield, Pommer, Todd, Vigil, Kerr J.,  
McFadyen, Riesberg;  
also SENATOR(S) Boyd, Foster, Schwartz, Newell, Tochtrop.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES.**

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

**SECTION 1.** Part 2 of article 1 of title 27, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

**27-1-210. Mental health crisis response system - legislative declaration - report by department.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(I) THERE ARE PEOPLE IN COLORADO COMMUNITIES WHO ARE EXPERIENCING MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISES AND NEED PROFESSIONAL CRISIS CARE OR URGENT PSYCHIATRIC CARE FROM SKILLED MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WHO EXCEL AT PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE CRISIS INTERVENTION AND STABILIZATION;

(II) MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS CAN HAPPEN ANY HOUR OF THE DAY AND ANY DAY OF THE WEEK;

(III) PERSONS IN CRISIS FREQUENTLY COME IN CONTACT WITH COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS WHO ARE OFTEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS OR WHO MUST TRANSPORT THESE PERSONS IN CRISIS TO EMERGENCY ROOMS FOR SERVICES, OR, IN CASES WHERE A CRIME IS ALLEGED, TO JAIL;

(IV) COLORADO RANKS FIFTIETH IN THE NATION IN THE NUMBER OF INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC BEDS;

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

(V) FEWER THAN ONE-HALF OF THE PERSONS WHO ARE IN CRISIS AND ARE TAKEN TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM ARE ADMITTED FOR INPATIENT HOSPITALIZATION, MEANING THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE EACH YEAR RETURN TO COMMUNITY STREETS WITH LITTLE, IF ANY, MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS INTERVENTION OR TREATMENT; AND

(VI) SIGNIFICANT TIME AND RESOURCES ARE REQUIRED OF COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS IN ADDRESSING PERSONS IN MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS AND, IN MANY CASES, THIS COMMUNITY RESPONSE IS NEITHER TIMELY NOR SAFE FOR THE PERSON IN CRISIS NOR COST-EFFICIENT FOR THE STATE.

(b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE FINDS THAT:

(I) A COORDINATED CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR EARLY INTERVENTION AND EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OF PERSONS IN MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS;

(II) A COORDINATED CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SHOULD INVOLVE FIRST RESPONDERS AND INCLUDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS TO INTEGRATE AVAILABLE CRISIS RESPONSES;

(III) A COORDINATED CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN ALL COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE; AND

(IV) A COORDINATED CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM MAY INCLUDE COMMUNITY-BASED CRISIS CENTERS WHERE PERSONS IN MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS MAY BE STABILIZED AND RECEIVE SHORT-TERM TREATMENT.

(2) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW THE CURRENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE IN COLORADO AND SHALL FORMULATE A PLAN TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF COORDINATED CRISIS RESPONSE IN THE STATE. THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF THE BEST USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MANAGED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS, MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS, CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINED OFFICERS, METRO CRISIS SERVICES, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER ENTITIES IMPACTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLETE THE REVIEW, FORMULATE THE PLAN, AND PREPARE THE REPORT REQUIRED IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2) WITHIN EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS AND SHALL DESIGN THE PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS.

(b) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 30, 2013, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRESENT TO A JOINT MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, A REPORT CONCERNING COORDINATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE IN COLORADO. THE REPORT, AT A MINIMUM, SHALL INCLUDE THE PLAN PREPARED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2).

**SECTION 2. 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 27, 2010