

Representative Judy Amabile, *Chair*  
Representative Mary Bradfield  
Representative Regina English



Senator Robert Rodriguez, *Vice-Chair*  
Senator Rhonda Fields  
Senator Rod Pelton

## **Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System**

State Capitol Building, Room 029  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1784  
(303) 866-3521

January 23, 2024

Honorable Members of the Task Force Concerning Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems:

Pursuant to Section 18-1.9-104 (3)(a), C.R.S., the Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System ("committee") is required annually to define, in writing, the scope of behavioral health policy to be considered for the committee and the Task Force Concerning Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems ("task force").

For 2024, the scope of policy to be considered for the committee is:

- recommendations, proposals, and studies from the task force; and
- other behavioral health and justice system policy considerations arising during the work of the committee.

The task force does not need to reach consensus on all subjects. While the Legislative Oversight Committee encourages collaboration and problem solving among members of different backgrounds and interests, the Legislative Oversight Committee has not asked this task force to be a decision-making body for the future of legislation. Rather this task force is a space where ideas can be raised and discussed among experts across a wide range of related fields related to the treatment of persons with behavioral health disorders in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Therefore, for 2024, the task force shall reform their practices and procedures so that:


- Votes should not be taken by any subcommittee in order to advance an idea forward to the task force; any member may bring an idea to the entire task force after adequate discussion and debate;

- An idea from the whole task force may be advanced to the legislative oversight committee with a simple majority vote of present members. The goal is to generate more, not less, solutions to these pressing matters; and
- Expand stakeholder work to better engage members of the task force and include impacted and interested groups and individuals beyond those listed as formal members of the task force.

For 2024, the scope of policy to be considered for the task force is:

- Develop a recommendation for improving the competency system and eliminating the waitlist that includes a framework for a pathway to meaningful treatment and diversion away from the criminal justice system and into care;
- Develop a plan to expand pre-arrest diversion to enhance the State's ability to divert juveniles and adults with behavioral health disorders completely out of the criminal and juvenile justice systems;
- Examine Colorado's legal and clinical system of Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, including the limitations of this system as it relates to the treatment of individuals with postpartum depression and psychosis;
- Explore the use and expansion of specialized responses across the state of Colorado as a way to enhance the access to appropriate treatment and care for adults and juveniles with behavioral health disorders during crisis;
- Examine the systems of care that juveniles and adults with behavioral health disorders interact with while interacting with the criminal and juvenile justice systems, including but not limited to examining currently available programs and any capacity of the system to bridge care and increase access to services; and
- Determining contributing and mitigating factors that impact arrest and recidivism rates for people with serious behavioral health disorders; including but not limited to social determinants such as housing, drug use, homelessness, and access to inpatient and outpatient care.

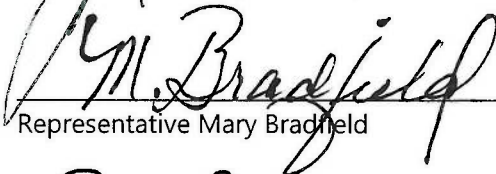
Sincerely,



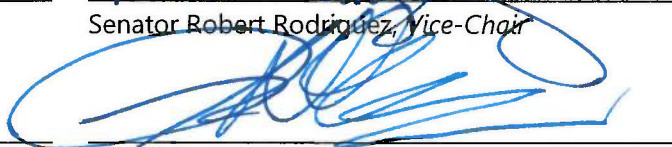
Representative Judy Amabile, *Chair*



Senator Robert Rodriguez, *Vice-Chair*



Representative Mary Bradfield



Senator Rhonda Fields



Representative Regina English



Senator Rod Pelton