

BHDCJS Housing Subcommittee Recommendations

DRAFT

1. Build upon HB22-1283 Youth and Family Behavioral Health Care Act, passed last year.

Augment its provisions to include Families with Adult Children with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI), especially those families who are caretakers and need additional support to keep family members housed at home so they do not become homeless. Or—provide additional support to live independently outside of the family home to stay housed; and give the person with SPMI support within the family to accomplish this. (This is the same principle that has gained traction for keeping seniors at home so they do not use high cost medical or assisted living facilities.)

2. Build upon SB22-010 Pretrial Diversion for Persons with Behavioral Health which passed last year.

Add additional funding to fund support services for homeless individuals enabling equal access to diversion. In addition, charge diversion grant programs to also support, specifically, individuals who are in the Bridges Competency program. Review if appropriate that they should rather be in diversion treatment programs rather than competency restoration classes.

3. We have other suggestions in development regarding what landlords can consider for apartment applications and zoning restrictions for hotels in communities that have little or no supportive housing or shelters. These zoning restrictions preclude all options for housing for the target population.