



HB22-1268

Medicaid Mental Health Reimbursement Rates Report

ASSIGNED COMMITTEE: PUBLIC & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

THE ISSUE

Colorado mental health practitioners and stakeholders have identified a disparity with Medicaid reimbursement rates in the mental health profession, between Independent Providers and Community Mental Health Centers that provide the same or similar services. The purpose of the bill is to create transparency in Medicaid reimbursement rates to allow for equity among Independent Providers and Community Mental Health Centers.

IF PASSED

- An independent auditor will prepare findings on mental health reimbursement rates and make recommendations to achieve balance and rate equity. Findings will be submitted to HCPF.
- Based on the audit findings, HCPF shall prepare an action plan to correct disparity through 2025.
- HCPF will publish yearly reports revealing key metrics across the mental health provider space.
- Annual reports will be presented to the Joint Public Health Committee in Smart Act Hearings through 2025.

Colorado currently ranks 51st¹ in the U.S. for access to mental health services and treatment, meaning countless Coloradans are unable to access the care they need to deal with mental health issues before they reach crisis levels. By making reimbursement rates fair and consistent between Independent and Community Health Providers, we can attract more medical providers to help mitigate the mental health crisis that has affected the emotional, psychological, and social well-being of individuals in both rural and urban Colorado.

¹Mental Health America, 2022
<https://www.mhanational.org/issues/2022/mental-health-america-adult-data>