

Senate Health & Human Services

HB21-1097 Establish Behavioral Health Administration

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Lacey Berumen</p> <p>For</p> <p>WE Care Patient and Family Coalition</p>	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>On Behalf of the WeCare Patient and Family Coalition we wanted to thank the bill sponsors for bringing forward this vital legislation. For too many years has behavioral health been set aside in our state government. We support shining the light on the possibility of realizing the Blue print that was brought forward by the BHTC to make improvements and remove the barriers that have existed for too long.</p> <p>The We Care Coalition is comprised of 35 Colorado treatment, advocacy and provider agencies that are working together to identify and solve problems the behavioral health community encounters to improve the lives of individuals, their families and their patients.</p> <p>If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at alaceyberumen@gmail.com , 303-884-3918</p> <p>Dr. Lacey Berumen</p>
<p>Andrew Rose</p> <p>Amend</p> <p>COMBINE - Medicaid mental healthcare workers</p>	<p>Dear Madam Chair Senator Fields and the committee,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed BHA.</p> <p>COMBINE represents over 60 Medicaid mental health clinicians and clinic directors. We seek a diverse, competent, and sustainable workforce.</p> <p>The Behavioral Health Administration as proposed does not indicate adequate support for parity, as described in SB19-1269, which requires governance to be implemented in actuality.</p> <p>Parity, which specifically means that processes that determine treatment limits are similar for mental health as for medical services, requires expertise, monitoring, and transparency.</p>

	<p>In the last 15 months, after HB19-129 was passed, we have seen parity ignored in a variety of aspects, including reimbursement rate setting, prior authorization regulation, contracting and credentialing, and network adequacy policies. This has resulted in less access for consumers and provider flight.</p> <p>The BHA addresses behavioral health explicitly, to the detriment of parity, which requires a view into how medical services are limited by payer policy.</p> <p>We ask for an amendment to this bill to provide for parity governance. Suggested text is</p> <p>page 4 line 20 "(IX) PROVIDES COLORADANS WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION THAT COMPLIES WITH PARITY AS EXPRESSED IN COLORADO HB19-1269 AND FEDERAL MHPAEA. THE BHA WILL PROVIDE FOR PARITY GOVERNANCE INCLUDING A PARITY COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF EXPERTS IN MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS THAT LIMIT TREATMENT."</p>
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