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Dear Jacy,

This afternoon **HB 1032 - Behavioral Health Crisis Response System** will be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee. The committee begins at 1:30pm (in the legislative services building, room A) and HB 1032 is the 2nd bill scheduled to be heard. That means we need your help calling HHS members this morning! We need to speak with one voice and demonstrate to elected officials that we need **a statewide behavioral health crisis response system!**

THE FACTS:

HB 1032- Behavioral Health Crisis Response System

Fiscal Impact: FY 2010 - 2011, \$577,591 FY 2011 - 2012, \$580,364 **Note** will be reduced by the amendment, changes are not released as of 2-9-10

Primary Sponsors: Representative Frangas / Senator Boyd

Secondary Sponsors: Rep. Dennis Apuan, Rep. Tom Massey, Sen. Joyce Foster, Sen. Gail Schwartz

Bill Summary: This bill requires the department of human services to enter into a contract with a nonprofit entity for the provision of initial triage services through a coordinated and integrated crisis response system for persons experiencing mental health or substance abuse crisis. The system services that are contracted for may include, but need not be limited to, services for a telephone hotline operating 24/7, services provided through an integrated information technology system, and services provided by community-based crisis centers that provide short-term mental health services to persons in crisis (this may change slightly as there will be an amendment introduced today at the hearing).

Why does Colorado need a "coordinated and integrated crisis response system for persons experiencing mental health or substance abuse crisis?"

Talking points:

- Colorado does not currently have a coordinated crisis system, but many partial systems with great gaps. This bill ensures the state develops a plan to address and coordinate a single complete crisis system using all available and appropriate resources.
- Colorado ranks 50th in the nation for per capita inpatient psychiatric beds. This statistic was published before the closure of the units at Ft. Logan this past fall. Crisis triage serves to ensure only those really needing hospitalization take up those critical beds.
- Over 50% of hospital psychiatric admissions are released from emergency departments within 10 hours of entry without any admission to the hospital. A crisis response system would dramatically ensure appropriate linkage with community providers for those not requiring hospitalization.
- Currently, law enforcement has over 1000 Crisis Intervention Trained (CIT) officers with nowhere to take people other than the ED or jail, both high cost options that are not appropriate for people in psychiatric crisis. In other words, a crisis response system can prevent and divert those experiencing a behavioral health crisis from jail and unnecessary emergency room visits.

For more information or to sign on as a supporting organization, please contact Stephen Kopanos, skopanos@mhacolorado.org, 720-208-2224

Supporting Organizations (as of 2/9/10):

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI)

Colorado Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Colorado Medical Society
Colorado Psychiatric Association
Colorado Psychological Association
NAMI Colorado

ACTION:

Please call THIS MORNING to let the Health & Human Services Committee know Colorado needs an integrated and coordinated crisis response system! **Remember it only takes 5 - 10 people to effect a elected officials vote!**

Representative Cindy Acree (R), District 40 (Elbert county and East Arapahoe)

Phone: 303-866-2944

Email: cindy.acree.house@state.co.us

Representative Dennis Apuan (D), District 17 (South Colorado Springs, Ft. Carson to Pueblo county line)

Phone: 303-866-3069

Email: dennis.apuan.house@state.co.us

Representative Cheri Gerou (R), District 25 (Evergreen, Genessee, South and West Jefferson County)

Phone: 303-866-2582

Email: cheri.gerou@gmail.com

Representative John Kefalas (D), District 52 (East Fort Collins)

Phone: 303-866-4569

Email: john.kefalas.house@state.co.us

Representative Jim Kerr (R), District 28 (Columbine, Southwest Jefferson)

Phone: 303-866-2939

Email: james.kerr.house@state.co.us

Representative Dianne Primavera (D), District 33 (Broomfield, Superior, Erie, Westminster)

Phone: 303-866-4667

Email: dianne.primavera.house@state.co.us

Representative Ellen Roberts (R), District 59 (East Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta, San Juan counties, Durango)

Phone: 303-866-2914

Email: ellen.roberts.house@state.co.us

Representative Spencer Swalm (R), District 37 (Southglenn, Castlewood)

Phone: 303-866-5510

Email: spencer.swalm.house@state.co.us

Representative Max Tyler (D), District 23 (Golden, Lakewood)

Phone: 303-866-2951

Email: repmaxtyler@gmail.com

[Click here](#) for a quick reminder about how to talk to your elected official! If you have any questions, please email us back or call. Remember we need to help THIS MORNING, so act quickly!

Sincerely,

Public Policy and Advocacy Team
Mental Health America of Colorado

email: policy@mhacolorado.org

phone: 720-208-2220

web: <http://www.mhacolorado.org>

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