

## **B 2010-011**

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER**

#### **Creating the Behavioral Health Transformation Council**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order creating the Behavioral Health Transformation Council.

#### **I. Background and Purpose**

There is an urgent need to address the economic, social, and personal costs to the state of Colorado and its citizens of untreated mental health and substance use disorders. Behavioral health disorders, including mental health and substance use disorders, are treatable conditions not unlike other chronic health issues that require a combination of behavioral change and medication or other treatment. When individuals receive appropriate prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services, they can live full, productive lives. Untreated behavioral health disorders place individuals at high risk for poor health outcomes. The results of untreated behavioral health disorders impact virtually all aspects of local and state government by reducing family stability, student achievement, and workforce productivity and by increasing public safety risk and health care costs such as managing offenders convicted of “driving while under the influence” and increasing emergency room costs.

Currently, there is no single behavioral health care system in Colorado. Instead, consumers of all ages with behavioral health disorders receive services from a number of different systems, including the health care, behavioral health care, child welfare, juvenile and criminal justice, education, and higher education systems. Adult and youth consumers and their families need:

- Quality behavioral health care that is individualized and coordinated to meet their changing needs through a comprehensive and integrated system;
- Timely access through multiple points of entry to a full continuum of culturally responsive services;

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- Evidenced-based and promising practices resulting in favorable outcomes for Colorado adult and youth consumers, their families, and the communities in which they live; and
  - Increased public awareness regarding behavioral health issues to emphasize the importance of behavioral health as part of overall health and create the desire to invest in and support an integrated behavioral health system in Colorado.

To reduce the economic and social costs of untreated behavioral health disorders, Colorado needs a systemic transformation of the behavioral health system from one that is fragmented and siloed into one that is streamlined, efficient, and effective for Colorado citizens. To improve the quality of life for the citizens of Colorado, strengthen the economy, and continue the responsible management of the state's resources, the leadership of the three branches of government and the stakeholders most affected by mental health and substance use disorders must collaborate to build on the progress of past efforts and the opportunities of health care reform and to sustain a focus on the improvement of behavioral health services. For these reasons and pursuant to S.B. 10-153, I am creating the Behavioral Health Transformation Council (the "Council").

## II. Mission and Scope

- A. Designated members of my cabinet shall oversee the systemic transformation of the behavioral health system in Colorado and shall receive advice from the Council regarding the transformation. The cabinet members will work with the Interagency Health Reform Implementing Board designated in Executive Order B 2010-006 to facilitate implementation of the stated goals of behavioral health system transformation. The designated cabinet members shall include:
  - 1. The Commissioner of Education;
  - 2. The Executive Directors of the Departments of Corrections, Health Care Policy and Financing, Human Services, Labor and Employment, Local Affairs, and Public Safety; and
  - 3. The Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Public Health and Environment.
- B. The Council shall have the following duties and functions:
  - 1. To develop a strategic prioritization, planning, and implementation process to advise the Governor's cabinet on transforming Colorado's behavioral health system. The Council shall work

toward the following goals associated with a comprehensive, efficient, effective, and integrated behavioral health system:

- a. Developing shared outcomes across key systems to enable joint accountability, improve services, and increase recovery, self-sufficiency, and economic opportunity;
  - b. Aligning service areas across systems to promote equitable and timely access to a full continuum of services throughout Colorado, to the extent feasible;
  - c. Establishing joint monitoring across systems to ensure accountability for common outcomes and to reduce the administrative burden associated with service provision;
  - d. Creating integrated behavioral health policies and rules to align with integrated service delivery;
  - e. Financing reform to maximize and efficiently utilize funds;
  - f. Utilizing electronic health records other technology, shared screening tools, assessments, and evaluations in compliance with federal and state confidentiality and privacy laws;
  - g. Adopting consistent cross-system standards for cultural congruence and for youth, adult, and family involvement;
  - h. Promoting and utilizing evidence-based and promising practices to the extent possible;
  - i. Creating workforce-development strategies required for an integrated behavioral health system; and
  - j. Developing a comprehensive behavioral health service system that includes services to person with mental illness, addictions, disabilities, and co-occurring issues;
2. To make recommendations to the cabinet that encourage and promote collaboration, partnerships, and innovation across governmental agencies and other agencies in the budgeting, planning, administration, and provision of behavioral health services associated with the goals above; and

3. To coordinate and consolidate the Council's efforts with the efforts of other groups that are working on behavioral health issues to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of these efforts.

### III. Membership

- A. The Council membership shall include the following:
  1. Representatives from executive branch agencies that fund or serve clients who use the behavioral health system, including but not limited to the Departments of Corrections, Education, Health Care Policy and Financing, Human Services, Labor and Employment, Local Affairs, Public Health and Environment, and Public Safety, to serve for an initial term of four years;
  2. At least two representatives from the judicial branch appointed by the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court; one to serve an initial term of three years and one to serve an initial term of two years;
  3. Two representatives from the House of Representatives, one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives for an initial term of three years and one appointed by the minority leader for an initial term of two years, with preference given to members familiar with recent audit issues regarding behavioral health services;
  4. Two representatives from the Senate, one appointed by the president of the Senate for an initial terms of three years and one appointed by the minority leader for an initial term of two years;
  5. One representative from the Governor's Office of Information Technology to serve an initial term of four years; and
  6. At least ten representatives, recommended by the lead agency in consultation with the Council, from any group or committee that actively participated in the behavioral health transformation grant in 2009-2010, and which shall include consumers or entities representing consumers of behavioral health services. The initial terms of these appointees shall be staggered so that approximately one-third of all appointees' terms expire each year. The Lead Agency shall be responsible

for making a reasonable effort to have sufficient stakeholder representation from both the substance use disorder and mental health stakeholder communities.

- B. After the initial term, Council members shall serve four-year terms.
- C. Members of the Council shall serve without compensation.
- D. The Department of Human Services shall serve as the lead agency to coordinate the activities of the Council. The Department of Human Services shall consult with the Office of the Governor and reach consensus regarding issues such as appropriate membership, tenure, and operating protocols of the Council.
- E. The Council shall begin meeting on or before August 1, 2010.
- F. On or before January 30, 2011 and on or before each January 30 thereafter, the Department of Human Services shall brief the Health and Human Services committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the State Court Administrator's Office on the activities and progress of the council toward achieving the goals of a transformation of the Colorado's behavioral health system.

IV. Directive

The Behavioral Health Transformation Council is hereby created.

V. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in force until July 1, 2020, unless modified or rescinded by a future Executive Order of the Governor. Prior to the repeal date of July 1, 2020, the Council shall be reviewed as provided for in C.R.S. § 2-3-1203.

GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado this thirtieth day of  
August, 2010.

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor