



# HB21-1166 Behavioral Health Crisis Response Training

*A legislative proposal to enhance Colorado's current system's ability, in a cost-effective way, to serve individuals that are dually diagnosed.*

## Background:

- Colorado's University Center on Excellence and Developmental Disabilities, JFK Partners, and The Arc of Colorado, conducted a statewide study to identify gaps (2014) in care for individuals that are dually diagnosed (those with both intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and a mental health diagnosis). The analysis found that obtaining timely access to competent and high-quality care for individuals with multiple diagnoses is a concern in the state.
- The gap analysis found that people with IDD experience significant barriers to accessing crisis response services to meet their needs.
- Six years later, the challenges remain. In fact, the 2020 Statewide Behavioral Health Needs Assessment: Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) commissioned by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health prioritizes the funding of an IDD Crisis Stabilization Unit Model based on the outcomes of HB15-1368, a pilot response to the gaps analysis.

## Bill Summary:

- The bill directs the Dept. of Health Care Policy & Financing to work with a training vendor to provide teleconferenced training to case management agencies, mental health centers, and IDD support providers in behavioral health crisis response management.
- 20 providers will receive the teleconferenced training statewide, including 10 from underserved areas.

## Why Does Colorado Need the Cross-System Behavioral Crisis Response Training?

- The need for quality care for those who are dually diagnosed is a statewide issue and thus demands a statewide solution. Furthermore, the bill looks to address the report issued by the Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing indicating continuing issues with access to care for families and individuals who are dually diagnosed [1].
- When cross-system responses have been implemented, they have proven to support key outcomes, such as reduced jail admission, access to supportive services, and less system fragmentation.
- This bill allows individuals to remain in community settings rather than using the emergency department, inpatient psychiatric facilities, regional centers and the State Mental Health Institutes.

## Questions?

Christiano Sosa, Executive Director, The Arc of Colorado

csoa@thearcofco.org

(303) 864-9334

[1] Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy & Financing (2019, July 1). Fiscal Year 2018-19 Cross-System Criss Response Pilot Report (House Bill 15-1368). <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/2019%20HCPF%20CrossSystem%20Response%20Pilot%20Annual%20Report%20-%20July%202019>