

Authorizing Statute CRS 18-1.9-101 to 106

CRS 18-1.9-101 (4) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is necessary to create a task force to continue to examine the identification, diagnosis, and treatment of persons with mental illness who are involved in the state criminal and juvenile justice systems and to make additional recommendations to a legislative oversight committee for the continuing development of legislative proposals related to this issue.



32 Appointed Members Representing:

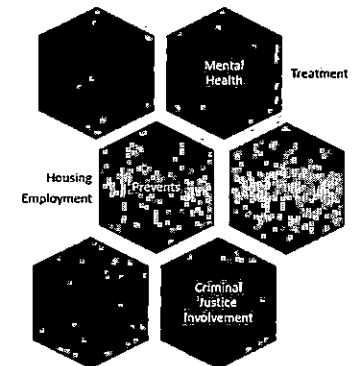
- ◆ Dept. of Public Safety
- ◆ Dept. of Corrections
- ◆ Local Law Enforcement
- ◆ Dept. of Human Services
- ◆ County Dept. of Social Services
- ◆ Dept. of Education
- ◆ State Attorney General's Office
- ◆ District Attorney
- ◆ Criminal Defense Bar
- ◆ Practicing Mental Health Professionals
- ◆ Community Mental Health Centers
- ◆ Person with Knowledge of Public Benefits and Public Housing
- ◆ Dept. of Health Care Policy & Financing
- ◆ Practicing Forensic Professional
- ◆ Members of the Public
- ◆ Office of the Child's Representative
- ◆ Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel
- ◆ Dept. of Labor & Employment
- ◆ Judicial Branch

Task Force Concerning the Treatment of
Individuals with Mental Health Disorders in
the Criminal Justice System

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MHDCJS

Task Force Concerning the Treatment of Individuals with Mental Health Disorders in the Criminal Justice System (MHDCJS)



MHDCJS History

The MHDCJS Advisory Task Force and Legislative Oversight Committee first met in the summer of 1999, with the charge of broadly studying the complex issues leading to increasing numbers of individuals with behavioral health disorders in the criminal justice system. In the 20 years since, the MHDCJS task force has undertaken hours of study and stakeholder engagement to prepare annual recommendations to the oversight committee aimed at systematically dismantling the complex problems that fuel these trends. Beyond legislative recommendations, the task force has engaged in interagency research projects, securing funding and completing grant applications; providing technical assistance to state agencies and other implementors, and engaging in the policy process. Through the years, the task force has experienced a variance in resources and capacity to meet the changing charges it has been directed with. In its history, the MHDCJS structure was reauthorized several times including in 2004, 2009 and 2014. The current statutes are set to repeal on July 1, 2020.

Current Taskforce Subcommittees (2019):

- ◆ Diversion & M-1 holds
- ◆ Housing Resources & Issues
- ◆ Data Sharing and Consistency
- ◆ Youth and Juvenile Issues
- ◆ Competency Issues (Ad-Hoc)

Highlighted Accomplishments

- ◇ Researched and recommended intensive juvenile treatment programs with HB00-1034.
- ◇ Developed standardized mental health screenings for adults and youth involved in the criminal and juvenile justice system; SB00-47 and SB02-16
- ◇ Obtained grant resources to initiate law enforcement Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) in Colorado (2001) and facilitated legislation to secure sustainable resources for the program.
- ◇ Researched and recommended legislation to submit benefit applications prior to inmates' prison release; HB02-1295.
- ◇ Recommended a mechanism for local communities to manage local youth juvenile justice programs.
- ◇ Researched and recommended revisions to juvenile competency statute and sustained research of competency related issues throughout past decade.
- ◇ Recommended multiple bills over years to reform housing policies in zoning, funding, and rental applications to assist individuals post incarceration. Engaged with advocates and policy makers on ongoing study of housing issues for this population.
- ◇ Designed and obtained grant funding to start John Echon Reentry Program (JERP), which opened the door to mental health services within community corrections (2005).
- ◇ Researched and recommended Medicaid suspension rather than termination due to jail detention; SB08-006.
- ◇ Recommended successful legislation to ensure inmates in Colorado are released with IDs.
- ◇ Obtained and engaged on a McArthur grant to initiate a juvenile version of CIT.
- ◇ Spearheaded attention to incarcerated individuals with mental illness in administrative segregation to promote policy discussions and solutions.

Recently Passed Legislation :

- ◆ **HB17-012** required Colorado courts to consider outpatient services as a priority for individuals in need of restoration and established a responsible entity within the state for ensuring services are available and overseeing them.
- ◆ **HB17-019** required various state entities to utilize a medication formulary and to develop a process by which patient-specific information can be shared between entities to promote medication consistency.
- ◆ **HB17-021** provided housing vouchers and supportive services to individuals with mental health disorders being released from incarceration.
- ◆ **HB18-1040** required the Department of Corrections to create incentives to secure more mental health professionals in hard to serve areas.
- ◆ **HB18-1050** created a juvenile-specific definition of "competent to proceed" and clarified procedures for establishing incompetency and restoration in juveniles.
- ◆ **HB18-016** which allows for funds that support individuals transitioning from the justice system to continue.