

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 21-0261.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 21-1130

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and Bradfield,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING EXPANDING THE COMMUNITY TRANSITION SPECIALIST**
102 **PROGRAM.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill expands the community transition specialist program (program) by redefining "high-risk individual" to allow more individuals to access program services. The bill also expands facilities that can access program services.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-66.5-102, **amend**
3 (3)(a) introductory portion, (3)(a)(IV), (3)(a)(V), (3)(c), and (5); **repeal**
4 (3)(b); and **add** (3)(a)(VI) and (4.5) as follows:

5 **27-66.5-102. Definitions.** As used in this article 66.5, unless the
6 context otherwise requires:

7 (3) "High-risk individual" means a person who:

8 (a) ~~Is under~~ HAS A SIGNIFICANT MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE
9 USE DISORDER, AS EVIDENCED BY:

10 (IV) An emergency commitment pursuant to section 27-81-111;

11 ~~or~~

12 (V) An involuntary commitment pursuant to section 27-81-112;

13 OR

14 (VI) RECEIVING VOLUNTARY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
15 PURSUANT TO SECTION 27-65-103, 27-81-109, OR 27-81-110; AND

16 (b) ~~Has a significant mental health or substance use disorder; and~~

17 (c) Is not currently engaged OR ACTIVELY ENROLLED in consistent
18 COMMUNITY-BASED behavioral health treatment.

19 (4.5) "TRANSITION SERVICES" INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO,
20 ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

21 (a) ACCESS TO HOUSING OR RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM PLACEMENT;

22 (b) ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT OR BENEFITS;

23 (c) ADVOCACY TO INSURANCE COMPANIES AND PROVIDERS FOR
24 THE APPROPRIATE TYPE AND INTENSITY OF MENTAL HEALTH OR
25 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES;

26 (d) PLANNING FOR FOLLOW-UP SERVICES AND COORDINATION
27 WITHIN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM AFTER HOSPITALIZATION OR

1 DISCHARGE FROM A WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT FACILITY, ACUTE
2 TREATMENT SERVICE FACILITY, CRISIS STABILIZATION SERVICE FACILITY,
3 OR A HOSPITAL OR AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING A VISIT FOR
4 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REASONS;

5 (e) ASSISTANCE WITH PREPARING ADVANCE DIRECTIVES;

6 (f) OBTAINING A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE OR GUARDIAN;

7 (g) FAMILY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES; OR

8 (h) COMPLIANCE WITH COURT APPEARANCES OR PROBATION.

9 (5) "Transition specialist" means a person who assists high-risk
10 individuals with ~~one or more of the following~~ TRANSITION services.

11 ~~(a) Access to housing or residential program placement;~~

12 ~~(b) Access to behavioral health treatment or benefits;~~

13 ~~(c) Advocacy to insurance companies and providers for the~~
14 ~~appropriate type and intensity of mental health or substance use disorder~~
15 ~~services;~~

16 ~~(d) Planning for follow-up services and coordination within the~~
17 ~~behavioral health system after hospitalization or discharge from a~~
18 ~~withdrawal management facility or an emergency room following a visit~~
19 ~~for behavioral health reasons;~~

20 ~~(e) Assistance with preparing advance directives;~~

21 ~~(f) Obtaining a representative payee or guardian;~~

22 ~~(g) Family supportive services; or~~

23 ~~(h) Compliance with court appearances or probation.~~

24 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-66.5-103, **amend**
25 (1), (2), (3), and (6) as follows:

26 **27-66.5-103. Community transition specialist program -**
27 **program requirements - acceptance of referrals - contract for**

1 **services - rules.** (1) The community transition specialist program is
2 established in the office of behavioral health. The program ~~must~~
3 ~~coordinate~~ COORDINATES referrals of high-risk individuals from
4 withdrawal management facilities, FACILITIES PROVIDING ACUTE
5 TREATMENT SERVICES, FACILITIES PROVIDING CRISIS STABILIZATION
6 SERVICES, and hospitals OR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS to appropriate
7 transition specialists.

8 (2) On or before January 1, 2019, the program must be available
9 statewide, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS. The program must
10 have a process to accept referrals for high-risk individuals and coordinate
11 contact between referred high-risk individuals and appropriate transition
12 specialists. To the extent possible, the coordinated contact must take place
13 prior to the release or discharge of the high-risk individual from a facility.

14 (3) The program must encourage, but cannot require, withdrawal
15 management facilities, FACILITIES PROVIDING ACUTE TREATMENT
16 SERVICES, FACILITIES PROVIDING CRISIS STABILIZATION SERVICES, and
17 hospitals OR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS to contact the program before
18 releasing or discharging a high-risk individual.

19 ~~(6) On or before October 1, 2018,~~ The department ~~shall~~ MAY
20 promulgate rules necessary for the implementation of this article 66.5.

21 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
22 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.