

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0718.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 22-1158

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sandridge and Snyder,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER AT THE COLORADO
102 SPRINGS CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO TO
103 PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY SERVICES RELATED TO
104 SUBSTANCE USE.

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 establishes the CARE center in the Colorado Springs campus of the university of Colorado (center). The purpose of the center is to provide accessible substance use prevention and treatment 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.

to the community, train competent and culturally responsive substance use counselors, and collect data that will contribute to research regarding the efficacy of substance use interventions. The center shall submit a report on its work and data collected to the health and human services committee of the senate and the public and behavioral health and human services committee of the house of representatives, or any successor committees, on or before December 30, 2027.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) According to the 2018 national survey on drug use and health,
5 nearly eight percent of persons twelve years of age and older needed
6 substance abuse treatment in the previous year, yet only close to two
7 percent received treatment for a substance use disorder. This treatment
8 gap may be explained by a variety of factors, from individual attitudes
9 toward substance use disorder treatment, to market and environmental
10 variables, and the characteristics of licensed counselors who provide
11 services, such as attitude, knowledge, and ability.

12 (b) Barriers to a person's ability to engage in substance use
13 prevention and treatment include:

14 (I) Lack of accessible treatment options due to geographic
15 location, such as in rural communities;

16 (II) Inadequate access to transportation to travel to treatment
17 facilities;

18 (III) Lack of health insurance or difficulties accessing providers
19 approved by health insurance;

20 (IV) Lack of funding necessary to pay for treatment;

21 (V) Social stigma; and

22 (VI) Lack of integration of care. The lack of integrated care

1 occurs when clients change levels of care during treatment. The lack of
2 integration and collaboration among treatment providers results in clients
3 "falling through the cracks".

4 (c) Research has demonstrated that untreated substance use
5 disorders cost society approximately four hundred forty-two billion
6 dollars each year in criminal justice expenses, as well as loss of
7 productivity and health-care costs;

8 (d) For every dollar invested in substance use disorder treatment,
9 twelve dollars are saved in health care, criminal justice costs, theft, and
10 drug-related crime;

11 (e) In 2018, the United States department of health and human
12 services estimated that Colorado had a shortage of approximately one
13 hundred and ten addictions counselors. If the number of addictions
14 counselors introduced to the workforce through training programs
15 remains constant, the shortage is expected to increase to a shortage of
16 four hundred and thirty addictions counselors by 2030.

17 (f) The Colorado Springs campus of the university of Colorado is
18 uniquely situated to provide persons experiencing substance use disorders
19 issues with behavioral health treatment. The department of counseling
20 and human services intends to establish a center, informally referred to as
21 the "CARE center", to provide on-site, no-cost community counseling
22 services with highly trained counseling interns under the supervision of
23 a faculty of fully licensed and certified mental health, substance use, and
24 mental health counselors.

25 (g) Once the CARE center is formalized, it will ensure counseling
26 services are accessible by circumventing common barriers to treatment in
27 the following ways:

1 (I) Administering telehealth services using a HIPAA-compliant
2 platform to ensure persons in rural communities and those with limited
3 transportation resources may access care;

4 (II) Providing services at no cost to the client; and

5 (III) Training student counselors in culturally responsive,
6 integrated healthcare, and evidence-based substance use and mental
7 health treatment modalities.

8 (h) The CARE center will gather outcome data from each
9 participating client, including demographics; responses to interventions;
10 and changes in health, symptoms, and well-being. This information will
11 contribute to research on the efficacy of interventions for substance use
12 disorder treatment.

13 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares it is in the best
14 interest of the state to formalize the CARE center and its services in
15 statute. This will increase accessibility of substance use disorder
16 treatment services by decreasing barriers to care and improving health
17 disparities and supporting the education and training of substance use
18 counselors-in-training. The interests of the state are further supported by
19 the expansion of research to increase the understanding of substance use
20 prevention and treatment interventions.

21 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 27-81-119 as
22 follows:

23 **27-81-119. CARE counseling center - established - purpose -**
24 **reporting.** (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2022, THE COLORADO
25 SPRINGS CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SHALL ESTABLISH
26 THE CARE COUNSELING CENTER, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE
27 "CENTER". THE PURPOSE OF THE CENTER IS TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE

1 SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES TO THE
2 COMMUNITY, TRAIN COMPETENT AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE
3 SUBSTANCE USE COUNSELORS, AND COLLECT DATA THAT WILL
4 CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH REGARDING THE EFFICACY OF SUBSTANCE USE
5 INTERVENTIONS.

6 (2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 30, 2027, THE CENTER SHALL
7 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF
8 THE SENATE AND THE PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN
9 SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY
10 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION,
11 BASED ON DATA COLLECTED THROUGH THE CENTER:

12 (a) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS TREATED BY THE CENTER
13 SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT;

14 (b) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REPEAT CLIENTS TREATED BY THE
15 CENTER;

16 (c) BEST PRACTICES FOR SCREENING AND ADMITTING POTENTIAL
17 CLIENTS FOR ADMISSION FOR THE LEVEL OF CARE PROVIDED AT THE
18 CENTER;

19 (d) BEST PRACTICES FOR ASSESSING THE PRESENCE OF A
20 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER; RISK FACTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
21 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER; PROTECTIVE AND RESILIENCY FACTORS
22 ASSOCIATED WITH ADAPTATION; AND PREVENTION OF PROBLEMATIC
23 SUBSTANCE USE;

24 (e) BEST PRACTICES FOR INCREASING CLIENT ACCESS TO
25 SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT, AS WELL AS OTHER HEALTH CARE SERVICES;
26 AND

27 (f) IDENTIFICATION OF EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS FOR THE

1 TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND
2 SYMPTOMS AND HOW THESE INTERVENTIONS IMPACT THE HEALTH AND
3 WELL-BEING OF CLIENTS.

4 (3) THE CENTER MAY CONTRACT WITH OTHER ENTITIES IN THE
5 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SYSTEM TO ACQUIRE RESOURCES NEEDED FOR
6 THE OPERATION OF THE CENTER.

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