

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 24-0337.01 Conrad Imel x2313

SENATE BILL 24-001

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and Cutter, Bridges, Exum, Fenberg, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Marchman, Mullica, Priola, Roberts, Rodriguez, Sullivan, Winter F., Zenzinger

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Brown and Rutinel,

Senate Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

House Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**
102 **SERVICES PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING**
103 **AN APPROPRIATION.**

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 temporary youth mental health services program (program), commonly known as "I Matter", is scheduled to repeal on June 30, 2024. The bill continues the program indefinitely.

Under existing law, the selection of a vendor to create or use an existing online portal to facilitate the program (program vendor) is

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

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 15, 2024

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 13, 2024

exempt from the requirements of the state's procurement code. The bill repeals the exemption.

Existing law requires the state department of human services to report to the general assembly about the program twice each year. The bill requires one annual report, due June 30 of each year.

The bill requires the behavioral health administration (BHA) to annually evaluate the efficacy of the program. The bill requires the BHA to conduct surveys of youth and providers who participate in the program and collect data from providers and the program vendor for the annual evaluation.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-60-109, **amend**
3 (1)(b), (2)(a), and (5); **repeal** (4)(b) and (6); and **add** (1)(f) and (4.5) as
4 follows:

5 **27-60-109. Youth mental health services program - established**
6 **- report - rules - definitions.** (1) As used in this section, unless the
7 context otherwise requires:

8 (b) "Program" means the ~~temporary~~ youth mental health services
9 program established in this section.

10 (f) "YOUTH PARTICIPANT" MEANS A YOUTH WHO PARTICIPATES IN
11 A MENTAL HEALTH SESSION THAT IS REIMBURSED PURSUANT TO THE
12 PROGRAM.

13 (2) (a) There is established in the behavioral health administration
14 the ~~temporary~~ youth mental health services program to facilitate access
15 to mental health services, including substance use disorder services, for
16 youth to respond to mental health needs identified in an initial mental
17 health screening through the portal. ~~including those needs that may have~~
18 ~~resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.~~ The program reimburses
19 providers for up to three mental health sessions with a youth.

20 (4) (b) ~~The selection of a vendor pursuant to this subsection (4) is~~

1 ~~exempt from the requirements of the procurement code, articles 101 to~~
2 ~~112 of title 24.~~

3 (4.5) (a) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE VENDOR
4 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION SHALL DELIVER TO THE
5 BHA ANY OF THE FOLLOWING, COLLECTED DURING THE PRIOR YEAR:

6 (I) INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM COLLECTED FROM
7 SURVEYS OF YOUTH PARTICIPANTS, PARENTS, AND PROVIDERS; AND

8 (II) DATA FROM EVALUATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE VENDOR
9 ABOUT THE EFFICACY OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING WHETHER THE
10 PROGRAM IS SERVING THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF YOUTH
11 PARTICIPANTS.

12 (b) THE BHA SHALL CONDUCT A SURVEY OF EACH PROVIDER WHO
13 PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM THAT SOLICITS FEEDBACK ABOUT THE
14 FOLLOWING:

15 (I) THE MET AND UNMET MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF THE YOUTH
16 PARTICIPANTS WHO ENGAGED IN TREATMENT WITH THE PROVIDER;

17 (II) WHETHER THE PROVIDER MADE REFERRALS FOR YOUTH
18 PARTICIPANTS FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES BEYOND WHAT IS PROVIDED
19 PURSUANT TO THE PROGRAM; AND

20 (III) ANY OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM.

21 (c) THIS SUBSECTION (4.5) DOES NOT AUTHORIZE THE BHA, A
22 PROVIDER, A VENDOR, OR ANY OTHER PERSON TO VIOLATE APPLICABLE
23 FEDERAL OR STATE PATIENT PRIVACY LAWS.

24 (5) (a) ~~On or before January 1 of each year, and on or before June~~
25 ~~30 of each year, the state department shall report to the house of~~
26 ~~representatives public and behavioral health and human services~~
27 ~~committee and the senate health and human services committee, or their~~

1 successor committees, regarding the number of youth who received
2 services under the program, excluding any personally identifiable
3 information in accordance with state and federal law; information in
4 aggregate about the services provided to youth under the program; ~~and~~
5 other relevant information regarding the program; AND THE INFORMATION
6 REPORTED TO THE BHA BY THE VENDOR PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4.5)
7 OF THIS SECTION. _____

8 (6) ~~This section is repealed, effective June 30, 2024.~~

9 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-50-105, **amend**
10 (1)(g) as follows:

11 **27-50-105. Administration of behavioral health programs -**
12 **state plan - sole mental health authority - gifts, grants, or donations.**

13 (1) The BHA shall administer and provide the following behavioral
14 health programs and services:

15 (g) The ~~temporary~~ youth mental health services program created
16 pursuant to section 27-60-109;

17 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year,
18 \$5,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for use
19 by the behavioral health administration. This appropriation is from the
20 general fund and is based on an assumption that the administration will
21 require an additional 1.0 FTE. To implement this act, the administration
22 may use this appropriation for the youth mental health services program.

23 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
26 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
27 institutions.