

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-seventh General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

BILL

LLS NO. 10-0203.01 Michael Dohr

COMMITTEE BILL

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**Legislative Oversight Committee for the Continuing Examination of the  
Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness Who Are Involved in the Criminal  
and Juvenile Justice Systems**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS FOR**  
102      **SYSTEM OF CARE FAMILY ADVOCATES.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

**Legislative Oversight Committee for the Continuing Examination of the Treatment of Persons with Mental Illness Who Are Involved in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems.** Under the current demonstration programs for system of care family advocates, the services are provided by family advocates. The bill will allow family system navigators to provide the same services through the demonstration programs. The bill makes necessary conforming

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

amendments.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** 26-22-101 (1) (b), (1) (c), (1) (e), (1) (f), and (2),  
3 Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

4           **26-22-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
5 hereby finds and declares that:

6           (b) Preliminary research demonstrates that family advocates AND  
7 FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS increase family and youth satisfaction,  
8 improve family participation, and improve services to help youth and  
9 families succeed and achieve positive outcomes. One preliminary study  
10 in Colorado found that the wide array of useful characteristics and valued  
11 roles performed by family advocates AND FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS,  
12 regardless of where they are located institutionally, provided evidence for  
13 continuing and expanding the use of family advocates AND FAMILY  
14 SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS in systems of care.

15           (c) Input from families, youth, and state and local community  
16 agency representatives in Colorado demonstrates that family advocates  
17 AND FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS help families get the services and  
18 support they need and want, help families to better navigate complex state  
19 and local systems, improve family and youth outcomes, and help  
20 disengaged families and youth to become engaged families and youth;

21           (e) A family advocate OR A FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR helps  
22 state and local agencies and systems adopt more strengths-based-targeted  
23 programs, policies, and services to better meet the needs of families and  
24 their youth with mental illness or co-occurring disorders and improve  
25 outcomes for all, including families, youth, and the agencies they utilize;

1 (f) There is a need to demonstrate the success of family advocates  
2 AND FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS in helping agencies and systems in  
3 Colorado to better meet the needs of families and youth and help state and  
4 local agencies strengthen programs.

5 (2) It is therefore in the state's best interest to establish  
6 demonstration programs for system of care family advocates AND FAMILY  
7 SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS for mental health juvenile justice populations who  
8 navigate across mental health, physical health, substance abuse,  
9 developmental disabilities, juvenile justice, education, child welfare, and  
10 other state and local systems to ensure sustained and thoughtful family  
11 participation in the planning processes of the care for their children and  
12 youth.

13 **SECTION 2.** 26-22-102 (2), (4), (5), (6), and (8), Colorado  
14 Revised Statutes, are amended, and the said 26-22-102 is further amended  
15 BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

16 **26-22-102. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context  
17 otherwise requires:

18 (2) "Demonstration programs" means programs that are intended  
19 to exemplify and demonstrate evidence of the successful use of family  
20 advocates AND FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS in assisting families and  
21 youth with mental illness or co-occurring disorders.

22 (4) "Division of mental BEHAVIORAL health" means the unit  
23 within the department of human services that is responsible for mental  
24 health services.

25 (5) "Family advocacy coalition" means a coalition of family  
26 advocates, FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS, or family advocacy  
27 organizations working to help families and youth with mental health

1 problems, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, and other  
2 co-occurring disorders to improve services and outcomes for youth and  
3 families and to work with and enhance state and local systems.

4 (6) "Family advocate" means ~~an individual who has been trained~~  
5 ~~to assist families in accessing and receiving services and support. Family~~  
6 ~~advocates are usually individuals who have raised or cared for children~~  
7 ~~and youth with mental health or co-occurring disorders and have worked~~  
8 ~~with multiple agencies and providers, including mental health, physical~~  
9 ~~health, substance abuse, juvenile justice, developmental disabilities, and~~  
10 ~~other state and local systems of care~~ A PARENT OR PRIMARY CARE GIVER

11 WHO:

12 (a) HAS BEEN TRAINED IN A SYSTEM OF CARE APPROACH TO ASSIST  
13 FAMILIES IN ACCESSING AND RECEIVING SERVICES AND SUPPORTS;

14 (b) HAS RAISED OR CARED FOR A CHILD OR ADOLESCENT WITH A  
15 MENTAL HEALTH OR CO-OCCURRING DISORDER; AND

16 (c) HAS WORKED WITH MULTIPLE AGENCIES AND PROVIDERS, SUCH  
17 AS MENTAL HEALTH, PHYSICAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, JUVENILE  
18 JUSTICE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, EDUCATION, AND OTHER STATE  
19 AND LOCAL SERVICE SYSTEMS.

20 (6.5) "FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

21 (a) HAS BEEN TRAINED IN A SYSTEM OF CARE APPROACH TO ASSIST  
22 FAMILIES IN ACCESSING AND RECEIVING SERVICES AND SUPPORTS;

23 (b) HAS THE SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, AND KNOWLEDGE TO WORK  
24 WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH MENTAL HEALTH OR CO-OCCURRING  
25 DISORDERS; AND

26 (c) HAS WORKED WITH MULTIPLE AGENCIES AND PROVIDERS,  
27 INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH, PHYSICAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE,

1 JUVENILE JUSTICE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, EDUCATION, AND  
2 OTHER STATE AND LOCAL SERVICE SYSTEMS.

3 (8) "Partnership" means a relationship between a family advocacy  
4 organization and another entity whereby the family advocacy organization  
5 works directly with another entity for oversight and management of the  
6 family advocate OR FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR and family advocacy  
7 demonstration program, and the family advocacy organization employs,  
8 supervises, mentors, and provides training to the family advocate OR  
9 FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR.

10 SECTION 3. 26-22-103, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
11 to read:

12 26-22-103. **Demonstration programs established.** There are  
13 hereby established demonstration programs for system of care family  
14 advocates AND FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS for mental health juvenile  
15 justice populations that shall be implemented and monitored by the  
16 division of ~~mental~~ BEHAVIORAL health, with input, cooperation, and  
17 support from the division of criminal justice, the task force, and family  
18 advocacy coalitions.

19 SECTION 4. The introductory portion to 26-22-104 (1),  
20 26-22-104 (1) (b), the introductory portions to 26-22-104 (2), (3) (c), and  
21 (3) (d), 26-22-104 (3) (d) (IV) and (3) (d) (V), the introductory portion to  
22 26-22-104 (4), and 26-22-104 (4) (a) and (4) (c), Colorado Revised  
23 Statutes, are amended to read:

24 26-22-104. **Program scope.** (1) On or before September 1, 2007,  
25 the division of ~~mental~~ BEHAVIORAL health, after consultation with family  
26 advocacy coalitions, the task force, and the division of criminal justice,  
27 shall develop a request for proposals to design demonstration programs

1 for family advocacy programs that:

2 (b) Provide navigation, crisis response, integrated planning,  
3 TRANSITION SERVICES, and diversion from the juvenile justice system for  
4 youth with mental illness or co-occurring disorders.

5 (2) The division of ~~mental~~ BEHAVIORAL health shall accept  
6 responses to the request for proposals from a partnership between a  
7 family advocacy organization and any of the following entities or  
8 individuals that operate or are developing a family advocacy program:

9 (3) The responses to the request for proposals shall include, but  
10 need not be limited to, the following information:

11 (c) A plan for family advocates OR FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS  
12 that includes:

13 (d) A plan for family advocate OR FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR  
14 program services for targeted youth and their families, including:

15 (IV) Cooperative training programs for family advocates OR  
16 FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS and for staff, where applicable, of mental  
17 health, physical health, substance abuse, developmental disabilities,  
18 education, child welfare, juvenile justice, and other state and local  
19 systems related to the role and partnership between the family advocates  
20 OR FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS and the systems that affect youth and  
21 their family;

22 (V) Integrated crisis response services and crisis AND TRANSITION  
23 planning;

24 (4) On or before November 15, 2007, the division of ~~mental~~  
25 BEHAVIORAL health, after consultation with family advocacy coalitions,  
26 the task force, and the division of criminal justice, shall select three  
27 demonstration programs to deliver juvenile justice family advocacy

1 services. The division of ~~mental~~ BEHAVIORAL health shall base the  
2 selection on:

3 (a) The program's demonstration of collaborative partnerships that  
4 integrate family advocates OR FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS into the  
5 systems of care;

6 (c) Any other criteria set by the division of ~~mental~~ BEHAVIORAL  
7 health.

8 **SECTION 5.** 26-22-105 (1), (3) (c), and (5), Colorado Revised  
9 Statutes, are amended to read:

10 **26-22-105. Evaluation and reporting.** (1) On or before January  
11 1, 2008, the division of ~~mental~~ BEHAVIORAL health shall prepare an initial  
12 descriptive report of the selected demonstration programs and provide the  
13 report to the legislative oversight committee, the task force, the family  
14 advocacy coalition, and the demonstration programs selected pursuant to  
15 section 26-22-104 (4).

16 (3) Each selected demonstration program shall regularly forward  
17 the following data to the division of criminal justice:

18 (c) Family and youth satisfaction and assessment of family  
19 advocates OR FAMILY SYSTEMS NAVIGATORS;

20 (5) On or before June 1, 2010, the division of criminal justice  
21 shall complete a comprehensive evaluation of the selected demonstration  
22 programs based on the data provided pursuant to subsection (3) of this  
23 section. Prior to preparing the evaluation, the division of criminal justice  
24 shall develop with the selected demonstration programs the comparison  
25 groups for the evaluation. The evaluation shall include analysis of the  
26 comparison groups. The division of criminal justice shall submit a final  
27 report, including an executive summary and recommendations, to the task

1 force, the demonstration programs, and family advocacy coalitions for  
2 review. The division of criminal justice, the division of mental  
3 BEHAVIORAL health, family advocacy coalitions, and the task force shall  
4 review the evaluation findings and jointly develop recommendations to  
5 be made to the legislative oversight committee.

6 <{*Do you want either a safety clause or petition clause?*}>