

**Second Regular Session  
Sixty-seventh General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 10-0190.01 Brita Darling

**HOUSE BILL 10-1032**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Frangas**, Apuan, Massey

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Boyd**, Foster, Schwartz

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**House Committees**

Health and Human Services  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES.**

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**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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

**Health Care Task Force.** This bill requires the department of human services (department) to enter into a contract with a nonprofit entity for the provision of initial triage services through a coordinated and integrated crisis response system (system services) for persons experiencing mental health or substance abuse crisis. The system services that are contracted for may include, but need not be limited to, services for a telephone hotline operating 24 hours per day and 7 days per week,

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

services provided through an integrated information technology system, and services provided by community-based crisis centers that provide short-term mental health services to persons in crisis. The department shall be responsible for specifying goals to be achieved by contracting for these system services and shall include specific performance goals and time frames for the provision of the system services.

This bill requires the department to maintain policy-making authority over services provided pursuant to the contract, monitor contract compliance, and evaluate the performance of the contracting entity. The contracting entity shall comply with federal regulations and reporting requirements. The contracting entity shall provide the department with information concerning persons receiving services in accordance with federal and state confidentiality laws and the data and information necessary for the department to monitor and evaluate the contracting entity.

The department shall not be required to contract for the system if the system is not cost-effective for the state, if the system services are not appropriate to address the needs of persons in crisis, or if the system services may be provided in a different manner.

The bill requires the department to report annually to the health and human services committees of the general assembly concerning the services provided through the contract.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Part 2 of article 1 of title 27, Colorado Revised  
3 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to  
4 read:

5 **27-1-210. Mental health crisis response system - legislative**  
6 **declaration - report by department.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
7 HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

8 (I) THERE ARE PEOPLE IN COLORADO COMMUNITIES WHO ARE  
9 EXPERIENCING MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISES AND NEED  
10 PROFESSIONAL CRISIS CARE OR URGENT PSYCHIATRIC CARE FROM SKILLED  
11 MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WHO EXCEL AT  
12 PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE CRISIS INTERVENTION AND STABILIZATION;

13 (II) MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS CAN HAPPEN

1 ANY HOUR OF THE DAY AND ANY DAY OF THE WEEK;

2 (III) PERSONS IN CRISIS FREQUENTLY COME IN CONTACT WITH  
3 COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS WHO ARE OFTEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE  
4 NECESSARY MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS OR WHO MUST TRANSPORT  
5 THESE PERSONS IN CRISIS TO EMERGENCY ROOMS FOR SERVICES, OR, IN  
6 CASES WHERE A CRIME IS ALLEGED, TO JAIL;

7 (IV) COLORADO RANKS FIFTIETH IN THE NATION IN THE NUMBER  
8 OF INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC BEDS;

9 (V) FEWER THAN ONE-HALF OF THE PERSONS WHO ARE IN CRISIS  
10 AND ARE TAKEN TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM ARE ADMITTED FOR INPATIENT  
11 HOSPITALIZATION, MEANING THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE EACH YEAR  
12 RETURN TO COMMUNITY STREETS WITH LITTLE, IF ANY, MENTAL HEALTH  
13 OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS INTERVENTION OR TREATMENT; AND

14 (VI) SIGNIFICANT TIME AND RESOURCES ARE REQUIRED OF  
15 COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS IN ADDRESSING PERSONS IN MENTAL  
16 HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS AND, IN MANY CASES, THIS  
17 COMMUNITY RESPONSE IS NEITHER TIMELY NOR SAFE FOR THE PERSON IN  
18 CRISIS NOR COST-EFFICIENT FOR THE STATE.

19 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE FINDS THAT:

20 (I) A COORDINATED CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM PROVIDES FOR  
21 EARLY INTERVENTION AND EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OF PERSONS IN MENTAL  
22 HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS;

23 (II) A COORDINATED CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SHOULD INVOLVE  
24 FIRST RESPONDERS AND INCLUDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS TO  
25 INTEGRATE AVAILABLE CRISIS RESPONSES;

26 (III) A COORDINATED CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SHOULD BE  
27 AVAILABLE IN ALL COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE; AND

1 (IV) A COORDINATED CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM MAY INCLUDE  
2 COMMUNITY-BASED CRISIS CENTERS WHERE PERSONS IN MENTAL HEALTH  
3 OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS MAY BE STABILIZED AND RECEIVE  
4 SHORT-TERM TREATMENT.

5 (2) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW THE CURRENT  
6 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE IN COLORADO AND SHALL  
7 FORMULATE A PLAN TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF COORDINATED CRISIS  
8 RESPONSE IN THE STATE. THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF THE  
9 BEST USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
10 MANAGED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
11 ORGANIZATIONS, MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS, CRISIS INTERVENTION  
12 TRAINED OFFICERS, METRO CRISIS SERVICES, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER  
13 ENTITIES IMPACTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE.

14 (b) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 30, 2011, THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
15 SHALL PRESENT TO A JOINT MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN  
16 SERVICES COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE  
17 SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, A REPORT CONCERNING  
18 COORDINATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE IN COLORADO. THE  
19 REPORT, AT A MINIMUM, SHALL INCLUDE THE PLAN PREPARED PURSUANT  
20 TO PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2).

21 **SECTION 2. 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, and safety.