

## **Policy Options: What States Can Do**

### **Presented by Moe Keller, Mental Health Colorado**

#### **1. Enforcement of mental health and substance use disorders so that people can access care:**

- a. Create an Ombudsman office.  
[https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2018a\\_1357\\_signed.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2018a_1357_signed.pdf)
- b. Enact mental health parity compliance in both the private and public sector.  
[https://www.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2019a\\_1269\\_signed.pdf](https://www.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2019a_1269_signed.pdf)
- c. Require compliance of provider networks in private and public plans.  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gnJCubZgcqt-Bn46O3s9XkYPsJvA\\_oMY/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gnJCubZgcqt-Bn46O3s9XkYPsJvA_oMY/view)

#### **2. Address workforce shortages so people can access care:**

- a. Require expansion of provider networks in private and public plans.
- b. Expand opportunities for peer specialists to work within networks or team of providers.
- c. Enact loan forgiveness for mental health and substance use providers.  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/health-professional-loan-repayment>
- d. Enter the PsychPACT with other states for psychologists to provide telepsych in other compact states.  
[https://www.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2018A/bills/2018a\\_1017\\_enr.pdf](https://www.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2018A/bills/2018a_1017_enr.pdf)

#### **3. Adopt a Zero Suicide Model for your state.**

- a. [www.zerosuicide.com](http://www.zerosuicide.com)
- b. <https://trackbill.com/bill/colorado-senate-bill-147-suicide-prevention-through-zero-suicide-model/1277765/>

#### **4. Address emotional and mental wellness in every school building in your state:**

- a. Add school counselors-  
[https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2019a\\_1120\\_signed.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2019a_1120_signed.pdf)  
[https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2019a\\_1017\\_signed.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2019a_1017_signed.pdf)
- b. Address barriers – billing, sharing of information if counselor or professional is not a school employee.  
[https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2016a\\_1063\\_signed.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2016a_1063_signed.pdf)
- c. Sharing of records: FERPA vs. HIPPA