



Mental Health America of Colorado Supports SB 13-266

- We are already paying for an overpriced, ineffective behavioral health crisis response system by relying on 911 to deal with situations that don't require an ambulance, fire truck, or police cruiser to show up at someone's house.
 - Colorado's emergency first responders are currently burdened with thousands of calls each year that don't require their presence.
 - If a person or family in crisis had an alternative, trustworthy number to call, or an actual crisis center to visit, valuable emergency resources could go where they are truly needed.

- Behavioral health crisis calls to 911 can lead to short-term jail stays, costly ER visits, and typically don't have positive results.
 - Individuals with untreated behavioral health conditions routinely take up jail and ER beds, and are then released without any follow-up.
 - Recidivism and over-utilization of these costly resources drains the General Fund, while failing to promote public health and safety.

- This bill can be transformational.
 - By opening up a competitive process to Colorado-based resources, we can encourage innovation and efficiency.
 - Mental Health America of Colorado and our partners are ready to lead the way to a better, less expensive public behavioral health crisis system.