

**Community Leaders in Support of
“Strengthening Colorado’s Mental Health System – A Plan to Safeguard All Coloradans”**

"Access to mental health treatment is certainly an issue for Colorado and our country, but the stigma associated with mental illness is just as insidious as the illness itself. Our message must be that mental illness is no different than a broken arm, and no one would think twice about getting treatment for that. It's okay to get the help you or your loved one need." Sen. Irene Aguilar (D-Denver), Bill Sponsor

"It's critical that we make our mental health treatment system not only more robust, but easier to navigate as well. Streamlining the process only makes common sense if we are to get the right people into the right treatment at the right time." Rep. Beth McCann (D-Denver) Bill Sponsor

“The governor’s budget request for additional resources for Colorado’s mental health system is a significant step forward for our state. Additional crisis response resources that build on and integrate with the services currently in place in community mental health centers across the state will improve access to services that help individuals and families stabilize as well as improve the follow up care that is vital to positive outcomes and maintaining stability. The governor’s budget recommendations focus on using limited resources wisely and will help Colorado’s children, adults and families receive the care they need. Colorado’s mental health system is viewed nationally as a strong and forward-thinking system even as it is seen as under-funded; these additional resources will further expand what state and local partnerships can accomplish working together to provide care for our most vulnerable citizens.” Barbara Ryan, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer Mental Health Partners