



# Youth Healthcare Alliance

Champions for Colorado School-Based Clinics

Formerly known as Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care

## 2024 Colorado Legislative Session Overview

The 2024 legislative sessions summarized in a few data points:

- **700+** bills considered in the legislative session
- Youth Healthcare Alliance supported **6** bills that became law
- Youth Healthcare Alliance and school-based clinic staff and patients testified and met with the legislature **3** times
- Policy Committee met **6** times and hosted our **2<sup>nd</sup>** Day at the Capitol with over **20** attendees

Included in this document are bills relevant to school-based clinics and school health that passed and were signed into law during the 2024 Colorado general assembly session. All the information in here is summarized from Colorado General Assembly website, including fiscal note summaries and legislative summaries.

Any bills that are outside of our scope or that did not pass during the session are not included here. If you want to learn more about other legislation, you can visit the General Assembly [website](#) or read [The Colorado Sun](#) or [The Denver Post](#).

Included again this year are action steps that clinics and/or Youth Healthcare Alliance should take to implement bills or plan to participate in stakeholder meetings for implementation processes. Next to the summaries of specific bills that have direct impact, we explain the action steps needed and summarize all the steps at the end of this document for easy reference. Look for more updates from Youth Healthcare Alliance on our pieces and feel free to reach out with any questions.

### Top Priority for Youth Healthcare Alliance

As school-based clinics rely on state funding for general operating grants to support their clinics, especially for any critical non-billable services and to support uninsured access to care, Youth Healthcare Alliance's number one priority each legislative session is always to defend the current state revenue and to find opportunities to increase revenue for school-based clinics.

CDPHE funding remains static for the SBHC Program at about \$5.5 million (and 2.8 FTE for Program administration), despite our efforts to increase that budget amount through legislation (**SB 034, Increasing Access to School-Based health Care**). The legislation also provided important clarity to statutory language and added an authorization for CDPHE to explore and provide grant funding (subject to additional appropriations) for innovative school-linked projects as well as to authorize Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to identify claims by school-based clinic site.

YHA will strategize for the 2025 legislative session advocacy for additional funding for the SBHC Program to support new clinics and a school-linked request for applications (RFA). Included in this strategy are outreaches to the governor's office, joint budget committee members, organizing legislator visits to clinics, and more. We also will continue our work with the Center for Improving Value in Health Care to ensure that the data they receive from HCPF is valid and usable for our current and future data analysis work.

## Critical Bills for School-Based Clinics

### Behavioral Health

- **HB 1176 – Behavioral Health Grant for Capital Project:** Expands the behavioral healthcare continuum gap grant program to include awarding community investment grants for capital construction projects. Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) will be administering these grants and has been appropriated \$4 million for this.
  - **ACTION:** Watch the Behavioral Health Administration's announcements for grant opportunities for any clinics who may need capital funding. [Sign up](#) for newsletters if you are not currently receiving any.
- **SB 001 – Continue Youth Mental Health Services Program:** Continues the I Matter for youth program indefinitely and requires evaluation and reporting on the program. This program provides up to 6 free therapy sessions per year for youth in Colorado.
  - **ACTION:** Youth Healthcare Alliance will continue to explore connections between SBHCs and I Matter program.
  - **ACTION:** Clinics should consider if they have capacity to explore signing up for the I Matter program to allow for continuity in care after 6 sessions are completed.

### Health Insurance Coverage

- **SB 110 – Medicaid Prior Authorization Prohibition:** Prohibits Medicaid from requiring prior authorization for anti-psychotic prescription medication used to treat a mental health disorder or a mental health condition for an adult that is prescribed a drug from the preferred drug list.

### Health Equity

- **HB 1039 – Non-Legal Name Changes:** Requires that public schools and charter schools use a student's preferred name and gender expression, if requested by a student, and deems refusal to do so discrimination. "Chosen name" and "gender expression" are added to definitions in statute for Colorado Civil Rights Division Commission.
- **HB 1322 – Medicaid Coverage Housing & Nutrition Services:** Directs Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) to conduct a feasibility study to explore seeking federal authorization for

providing nutrition and housing supportive services for Medicaid members' social needs. The findings will be reported to the Joint Budget Committee by November 10, 2024. A similar bill was passed in 2023, and this one clarifies that HCPF can use appropriations for a contractor to complete the work.

- **ACTION:** Watch for any possible stakeholder engagement as well as the report to the JBC for next steps.

## Other Bills May Affect School-Based Clinics (or Patients)

### Behavioral Health

- **HB 1003 – Opioid Antagonists & Detection Products in Schools:** Allows for schools to maintain a supply of opiate antagonists on school buses and extends liability to operators on buses for utilizing these antagonists in good faith. Allows schools to furnish antagonists to anyone, including a student, but only if they have completed the training. Allows schools to maintain detection tests.
  - **ACTION:** Clinics should learn what policies their schools/districts will be adopting about opiates and how to support schools in implementation.
- **HB 1096 – School Psychologist Licensure Interstate Compact:** Establishes a pathway for school psychologists to obtain equivalent licenses to provide services in any state that is a compact state.
- **HB 1136 – Healthier Social Media Impacts by Youth:** Requires department of education to create and maintain a resource bank of existing evidence-based, research-based scholarly articles and promising practices related to youth social media use, internet safety, and cybersecurity. Requires social media platforms to establish a pop-up message to users if they have reached certain limitations (e.g., length of time spent on app or time of use) as well as to limit use of platforms to ages younger than 18 without parental permission.
- **HB 1217 – Sharing of Patient Health Care Information:** Requires the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to create a universal behavioral health consent form for disclosure of individual's protected health information in compliance with HIPAA.
- **HB 1406 – School-Based Mental Health Support Program:** Creates the school-based mental health support program within the BHA to provide high-quality training, resources, and implementation and sustainability support for existing school educator workforce to provide social emotional learning to students. Emphasizes rural schools and areas where there is limited access to mental healthcare.
- **SB 007 – Behavioral Health First Aid Training Program:** Creates the behavioral health first aid training program in office of suicide prevention at CDPHE to be more youth focused.
  - **ACTION:** Clinics should see if this training is available in their communities and see if this would be beneficial for their youth or staff to participate.
- **SB 015 – Licensed Professional Counselors in Communities:** Creates a dual licensure stipend program to increase the number of licensed professional counselors (LPCs) by reimbursing LPC supervisors who provide clinical supervision to school counselors who are seeking licensure as LPCs.

### Health Insurance Access & Coverage

- **HB 1146 – Medicaid Provider Suspension for Organized Fraud:** Authorizes the department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) to suspend the enrollment of a Medicaid/CHP+

provider if they identify that the provider is participated in an alleged and organized ongoing crime or fraud scheme that impacts the programs.

- **HB 1149 – Prior Authorization Requirements Alternatives:** Requires insurance plans and pharmacy benefit managers to adopt a program to eliminate or substantially modify prior authorization requirements to reduce administrative burdens on providers and patients related to services or prescription drugs.
- **HB 1399 – Discounted Care for Indigent Patients:** Repeals the CICP (Colorado Indigent Care Program) and moves program into the Hospital Discounted Care Program (which was enacted through legislation in 2021 moving the program from CDPHE to HCPF). Requires the Medical Services Board to promulgate rules to distribute more funds to hospitals that serve more Medicaid and uninsured patients.
- **HB 1400 – Medicaid Eligibility Procedures:** Extends the time procedures that were suspended during COVID-19 public health emergency for determining eligibility until January 1, 2025, and authorizes HCPF to seek ongoing federal authorization for certain exemptions.
- **SB 010 – Dentist & Dental Hygienist Compact:** Facilitates interstate practice of dentistry by allowing dentists and dental hygienists to secure licenses in compact states (provided that certain requirements are met).
- **SB 018 – Physician Assistant Licensure Compact:** Enable physician assistants to get licenses to practice in any state in the compact provided they meet specific requirements.

## Other

- **HB 1004 – Ex-Offenders Practice in Regulated Occupations:** Makes allowances for hiring, including if the criminal offense is not violent and was more than 3 years prior, then discrimination in hiring is not allowed.
- **HB 1036 – Adjusting Certain Tax Expenditures:** Expands and modifies certain tax expenditures, but most relevant is the expansion of the rural and frontier healthcare preceptor tax credit by increasing the maximum credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per preceptorships (to a maximum of \$6,000 per year).
- **HB 1115 – Prescription Drug Label Accessibility:** Requires a pharmacy to provide an individual who has difficulty seeing or reading standard printed labels on prescription drug containers by including an electronic label for scanning to a reader, providing the prescription drug label in Braille or large print, and more, at no cost to the patient.
- **HB 1164 – Free Menstrual Products to Students:** Expands requirements over time to certain schools to provide free menstrual products for students 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades and expands eligibility for the grant program to purchase products.
- **HB 1285 – Student Weight-Based Bullying Prevention:** Extends current law identifying bullying behaviors to extend prohibited behaviors to include bullying based on weight, height, or body size.
- **HB 1320 – Educator Safety Task Force:** Creates an educator safety task force within the office of school safety to review, investigate, and make recommendations on issues relating to school safety especially for school staff.
- **HB 1390 – School Food Programs:** Provides more funding for the healthy school meals for all program to support the demand/need in the state.

## CLINIC IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

- **HB 1176 – Behavioral Health Grant for Capital Project**
  - **ACTION:** Watch the Behavioral Health Administration’s announcements for grant opportunities for any clinics who may need capital funding. [Sign up](#) for newsletters if you are not currently receiving any.
- **SB 001 – Continue Youth Mental Health Services Program:**
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## YOUTH HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

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