

CBHC Legislative Update February 9, 2009

[Link to Mental Health Resolution](#)

[Link to Day at the Capitol in the Rocky Mountain News](#)

2009 CBHC Mental Health Day at the Colorado State Capitol

CBHC would first like to thank everyone who participated in yesterday's 2009 CBHC Mental Health Day at the Capitol. We would like to share with everyone a bit about the great day! We had over *100 attendees* come down to the Capitol to connect with state officials and advocate on behalf of behavioral health. It was a huge success! Feedback from our attendees, State Legislators, the Governor's Office and State Departments has been overwhelmingly positive. The general sentiment is that while many groups may come down to the Capitol to speak for their issues, few groups have done so with as much enthusiasm, savvy and in such large numbers as the mental health folks did yesterday.

A few highlights:

-State Senator Jim Isgar welcomed the group in the morning, recognizing the importance of mental health issues and emphasizing the importance of building relationships with policy makers. Thanks to Senator Isgar for taking the time to meet with us!

-A Resolution Concerning Recognition of Community Mental Health Centers and Behavioral Health Organizations in Colorado was read on both the House and Senate floors. **To read the Resolution, [CLICK HERE.](#)**

Special thanks to the Senators and Representatives who spoke on behalf of mental health during yesterday's session:

- *Representative Nancy Todd
- *Representative Joe Rice
- *Representative Sal Pace
- *Representative Jerry Frangas
- *Representative Carole Murray
- *Representative Gwyn Green
- *Senator Betty Boyd
- *Senator Moe Keller

-Director of the Office of State Planning and Budget Todd Saliman briefed the group on the State Budget and potential implications to mental health, while reiterating the Governor's support for behavioral health issues. Mr. Saliman has been a wonderful supporter for mental health issues over the years.

-Colorado First Lady Jeannie Ritter praised the group for their dedication and hard work as champions for a healthier Colorado. Mrs. Ritter's own efforts have played a crucial role in progressing mental health goals and we are particularly thankful to her.

Thanks again to everyone for participating and for working so hard for behavioral health. Feel free to forward this email on to anyone who might be interested. Contact Brian Turner at bturner@cbhc.org if you have anything you would like to follow up on or if you would like copies of any of the materials provided at the event.

Legislation

SB 09-006

Bill "Concerning Creation of an Identification Processing Unit for Detention Facilities" was referred amended out of Senate Committee on Local Government and Energy to the Appropriations Committee on February 3rd.

SB 09-019

Bill "Concerning the Establishment of a Pilot Program to Fund grants to Local Governments to Facilitate Changes in Land Development Regulations to Accommodate the Housing Needs of Persons with Mental Illness who are Involved in the Criminal Justice System" was postponed indefinitely.