



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**GOV. JOHN HICKENLOOPER TO VISIT JEFFERSON CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH  
TO SIGN HISTORIC MENTAL HEALTH BILLS**

Two important Mental Health Bills to be Signed on Thursday

**WHO:**   Jefferson Center for Mental Health

**WHAT:**  Hosting Mental Health Bill Signing

**WHERE:** Jefferson Center for Mental Health, 4851 Independence St, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

**WHEN:**  Thursday, May 15, 2013 at 8:30-8:50 a.m.

**WHY:**  **Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper to sign SB13-266 and SB13-1296.**

**The bills that will be signed include:**

**Senate Bill 13-266 – Coordinated Behavioral Health Crisis Response**

Sponsors for this Bill are Senators Aguilar and Nicholson and Representatives Kraft-Tharp and Young

The bill directs DHS to issue a request for proposals to entities with the capacity to create a statewide coordinated and seamless behavioral health crisis response system. Proposals will be accepted for each of 5 specific components of a crisis system: A 24-hour crisis telephone hotline, walk-in crisis services and crisis stabilization units, mobile crisis services, residential and respite crisis services, and a public information campaign. The department is directed to establish and work with a committee of interested stakeholders, including HCPF, to develop the request for proposals and the selection criteria. The committee will also be responsible for reviewing proposals and awarding contracts. The request for proposals is scheduled to go out on or before September 1, 2013, and contracts must be awarded on or before January 1, 2014. The department is required to make annual reports to the general assembly on the progress toward implementing the crisis system.

### House Bill 13-1296 – Civil Commitments An Task Force

Sponsors for this Bill are Representatives McCann and Kraft-Tharp and Senator Newell. The bill creates the civil commitment statute review task force. The membership and duties of the task force are detailed. The bill also adds a definition of "danger to self and others" and amends the current definition of "gravely disabled", as those definitions relate to civil commitments.

#### **About Jefferson Center for Mental Health**

Celebrating its 55th year, Jefferson Center for Mental Health helps to bring hope for a brighter future to thousands of community members who struggle with mental health challenges. Part of Colorado's network of community behavioral health providers and member of the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council, Jefferson Center serves as the safety net for people with mental illness and behavioral health problems who lack adequate resources to pay for care and often have no place to turn. With specialized programs for veterans, children and families, victims of trauma and seniors, Jefferson Center is also an essential first responder providing critical support in the event of traumatic community disasters. As the community's nonprofit mental health center, Jefferson Center serves people throughout Jefferson, Gilpin and Clear Creek counties at over 20 locations, as well as schools, nursing homes, senior centers and other community settings. Last year Jefferson Center served more than 19,000 people in need. Center staff has expertise in numerous areas including children and family issues, adults with serious mental illness, suicide prevention, early intervention, juvenile justice, and trauma treatment. For more information about Jefferson Center, visit [www.jcmh.org](http://www.jcmh.org).

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