Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-0760.01 Jane Ritter x4342 **SENATE BILL 16-147**

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING ESTABLISHING THE COLORADO ZERO SUICIDE MODEL TO REDUCE DEATH BY SUICIDE IN THE COLORADO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries.)

The bill establishes the Colorado zero suicide model (Colorado model) within the office of suicide prevention (office) in the department of public health and environment (department). The goal and purpose of the Colorado model is to reduce suicide rates and numbers in Colorado through system-level training and strategies for health care systems,

including mental and behavioral health systems; physical and mental health clinics in educational institutions; and primary care providers, including pediatricians.

The Colorado model, together with the office of suicide prevention, the office of behavioral health, the department, and the department of health care policy and financing, is encouraged to promote coordination of existing data across health systems.

Health care and mental and behavioral health systems and organizations throughout the state, including hospitals, state crisis services and regional health systems, community mental health centers, community health systems, health management organizations, and behavioral health organizations, including substance abuse treatment organizations, are encouraged to adopt the 7 core tenets of the national zero suicide model.

The office and the department are encouraged to collaborate with relevant entities to coordinate existing data to help gain a more complete understanding of suicide and how to prevent it and to identify groups at the greatest risk. The office shall include a summary of the activities of the Colorado model in the report submitted annually to the general assembly.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(a) Colorado has experienced increased suicide death rates and numbers since 2009, and the trend continued in 2014;

(b) In 2014, the most recent year of data available nationally, Colorado had the seventh-highest suicide rate in the country and is consistently among the states with the top ten highest suicide rates;

(c) In 2014, Colorado recorded its highest number of suicides at 1,058 suicide deaths;

(d) In comparison, the number of deaths in 2014 from homicides was 172, from motor vehicle crashes was 486, from breast cancer was 553, from influenza and pneumonia was 668, and from diabetes was 826;

(e) Suicide is highest in men and middle-aged Coloradans; while

men account for over seventy-five percent of suicides, there are more attempts by women;

(f) Veterans, especially those who seek care outside of the veterans administration system, are at high risk;

(g) Data from the Colorado crisis services system show that nearly one in ten persons using crisis services presented with suicidal intentions, and the Colorado department of human services reports that a staggering seventy percent of mobile services users were suicidal;

(h) The rate of suicide in rural and frontier Colorado counties is higher than in other regions of the state;

(i) Health care settings, including mental and behavioral health systems, primary care offices, physical and mental health clinics in educational institutions, and hospitals, are critical access points to reach those at risk for suicide; and

(j) National data indicate that over thirty percent of individuals are receiving mental health care at the time of their death by suicide and forty-five percent have seen their primary care physician within one month of their death. Primary care is often the first line of contact for individuals who would be less likely to seek out mental health services, particularly men, who are disproportionately represented in suicide deaths each year. National data also show twenty-five percent of those who die of suicide visited an emergency department in the month prior to their death. In Colorado, it is estimated that every year about 250 individuals who died of suicide visited an emergency department prior to death.

(2) The general assembly further finds that:

(a) Suicide is a public health crisis in Colorado and a systems approach is necessary to address this problem effectively;

(b) The "zero suicide" model is a key concept of the national strategy for suicide prevention, a priority of the national action alliance for suicide prevention, and a project of the suicide prevention resource center;

(c) The "zero suicide" model is built on the foundational belief and aspirational goal that suicide deaths of individuals who are under the care of our health care systems, including mental and behavioral health systems, are almost always preventable;

(d) The suicide prevention commission has recommended that health care systems, behavioral health care systems, and primary care providers should be encouraged to adopt the "zero suicide" model, and that the office of suicide prevention should examine and coordinate the use of existing data to identify high-risk groups, improve the quality of care for suicidal persons, and provide a basis for measuring progress, while protecting the privacy of the individual and complying with all HIPAA regulations;

(e) The seven core tenets of the "zero suicide" model are leadership, training, identification and risk assessment, patient engagement, treatment, transition, and quality improvement and data collection; and

(f) Health care systems, including mental and behavioral health systems and hospitals, that have implemented "zero suicide" have noted up to an eighty percent reduction in suicide deaths for patients within their care.

(3) Therefore, because suicide in Colorado is a primary public health concern and is included within the state health improvement plan, the general assembly encourages health care systems, including mental

and behavioral health systems, primary care providers, and physical and mental health clinics in educational institutions, throughout Colorado to:

(a) Adopt the "zero suicide" model and its seven core tenets;

(b) Work with advocacy groups to support the culture shift of health care systems to the "zero suicide" model;

(c) Adopt training requirements that are part of the "zero suicide" model for professionals working in health care and mental and behavioral health care systems, including primary care and emergency department providers in Colorado; and

(d) Take special care to include men of working age, first responders, veterans, and active duty military, who are at higher risk for suicide, in services provided under all "zero suicide"-related models.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-1.5-112 as follows:

25-1.5-112. Colorado zero suicide model - established - goals - responsibilities - funding. (1) THE COLORADO ZERO SUICIDE MODEL, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "COLORADO MODEL", IS ESTABLISHED IN THE OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT. THE GOAL AND PURPOSE OF THE COLORADO MODEL IS TO REDUCE SUICIDE RATES AND NUMBERS IN COLORADO THROUGH SYSTEM-LEVEL ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLORADO MODEL IN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS, INCLUDING MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS.

(2) THE COLORADO MODEL, TOGETHER WITH THE OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION, THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, THE DEPARTMENT, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING, IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT:

(a) A PLAN TO IMPROVE TRAINING THAT IS A PART OF THE ZERO SUICIDE MODEL ACROSS HEALTH SYSTEMS, INCLUDING MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS, HOSPITALS, HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS, AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSURERS; AND

(b) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES REGARDING SUICIDE SCREENING, RISK ASSESSMENT, AND MANAGEMENT, AS DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES AND HEALTH CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

(3) AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO PATIENT SAFETY, HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS, INCLUDING MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS, AND HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT THE STATE, ARE ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT THE SEVEN CORE TENETS OF THE NATIONAL ZERO SUICIDE MODEL, WHICH ARE LEADERSHIP, TRAINING, IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT, PATIENT ENGAGEMENT, TREATMENT, TRANSITION, AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND DATA COLLECTION. THE ZERO SUICIDE MODEL IS BASED ON THE CORE BELIEF THAT SUICIDE DEATHS OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER CARE ARE MOST OFTEN PREVENTABLE AND THAT PROVIDERS AND STAFF MUST DEMONSTRATE A COMMITMENT TO PATIENT SAFETY, AS WITH OTHER WORKPLACE SAFETY MEASURES ACROSS ALL SECTORS.

(4) THE FOLLOWING SYSTEMS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT, ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2019, THE NATIONAL ZERO SUICIDE MODEL AND TO WORK WITH THE COLORADO MODEL:

(a) COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS;

(b) HOSPITALS;

(c) THE STATE CRISIS SERVICES SYSTEM;

(d) REGIONAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS;

(e) SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SYSTEMS; AND

(f) PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

(5) THE OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION AND THE DEPARTMENT ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO COLLABORATE WITH RELEVANT ENTITIES TO COORDINATE EXISTING DATA, INCLUDING UTILIZATION DATA FROM MEDICAID, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOSPITALS, TO GAIN A MORE COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF SUICIDE AND HOW TO PREVENT IT AND TO IDENTIFY GROUPS AT THE GREATEST RISK.

(6) THE OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION SHALL INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COLORADO MODEL IN A REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, AS WELL AS THE REPORT SUBMITTED ANNUALLY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-101 (1) (w) (III) (A) AND AS PART OF ITS ANNUAL PRESENTATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PURSUANT TO THE "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT", PART 2 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 2, C.R.S.

(7) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ACCEPT GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES FOR THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLORADO MODEL. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSMIT ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS IT RECEIVES TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE MONEY TO THE SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATION CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 25-1.5-101 (1) (w) (II). THE FUND ALSO

CONSISTS OF ANY MONEY APPROPRIATED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION. THE MONEY IN THE FUND IS SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-101, **amend** (1) (w) (I) and (1) (w) (IV) introductory portion as follows:

25-1.5-101. Powers and duties of department - cash funds. (1) The department has, in addition to all other powers and duties imposed upon it by law, the powers and duties provided in this section as follows:

(w) (I) To act as the coordinator for suicide prevention programs throughout the state, INCLUDING THE COLORADO ZERO SUICIDE MODEL ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 25-1.5-112.

(IV) In its role as coordinator for suicide prevention programs, the department may collaborate with each facility licensed or certified pursuant to section 25-1.5-103 in order to coordinate suicide prevention services, INCLUDING RELEVANT TRAINING, COORDINATION OF EXISTING DATA, AND OTHER SERVICES AS PART OF THE COLORADO ZERO SUICIDE MODEL ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 25-1.2-112. When a facility treats a person who has attempted suicide or exhibits a suicidal gesture, the facility may provide oral and written information or educational materials to the person or, in the case of a minor, to parents, relatives, or other responsible persons to whom the minor will be released, prior to the person's release, regarding warning signs of depression, risk factors of suicide, methods of preventing suicide, available suicide prevention resources, and any other information concerning suicide awareness and prevention. The department may work with facilities AND THE COLORADO

ZERO SUICIDE MODEL to determine whether and where gaps exist in suicide prevention programs and services, including gaps that may be present in:

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.