

COPA Annual Conference

Presentation by Rebecca Meyers
An Overview of the 2015 Legislative Session



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The 2015 Colorado regular legislative session began on January 7, 2015 and concluded 120 days later on May 6, 2015.

- ▶ The “split” chambers with one party in control of each chamber led to several bills that made it through the first house, but failed in the second.

Of the **682** bills introduced, **364** passed, or **53.4%**.

This compares to 2014 when **72%** of introduced bills passed.

3 Bills were vetoed by the Governor.

Colorado State Budget for FY2015-16

- ▶ The Colorado state budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 ([SB15-234](#)) totals almost \$26 billion, with \$9.5 billion from state General Funds. The budget includes the following behavioral health items:
 - ▶ An increase of \$500,000 for co-occurring behavioral health treatment services in 15 southern and southeastern Colorado counties.
 - ▶ Increased funding and staff for the new treatment unit at Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo (CMHIP) for patients who were previously transferred to prison for safety reasons.
 - ▶ Increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates for Special Connections Substance Abuse Treatment services provided to pregnant women

Ongoing Funding

- ▶ Ongoing funding for the following in the amounts noted:
 - ▶ \$29.4 million for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services
 - ▶ \$10.3 million for additional treatment and prevention programs
 - ▶ \$6.3 million for prevention programs by community providers to prevent the illegal and inappropriate use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
 - ▶ \$1.5 million in jail based behavioral health services from marijuana tax revenues

HB15-1032: Licensed Mental Health Professionals Treat Minors

- ▶ Expands the types of licensed mental health professionals that minors ages 15-17 may choose as providers without parental consent to include Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, and Licensed Addiction Counselors. Access to these licensed mental health professionals is expected to improve, lessening the challenge of finding such services for vulnerable youth.

HB15-1043: Felony Offense For Repeat DUI Offender

- ▶ creates a felony offense for repeat DUI offenders after 3 or more prior convictions of DUI related offenses. The bill also requires the court to determine that incarceration is the most suitable option given the facts and circumstances and the defendant's willingness to participate in treatment.
- ▶ For those with interlock-restricted licenses following a DUI related license revocation, it expands the period of time a person must have the interlock-restricted license from 1 year to a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 5 years.

Other Bills Related to Substance Use Disorders (SUD)

- ▶ HB15-1214 requires the Governor to direct the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention to study the use of abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic drugs as a way to reduce abuse and diversion of opioid drug products and to report its findings to the legislature by January 15, 2016.
- ▶ SB15-053 increases access to emergency drugs for drug overdose victims by allowing licensed prescribers to prescribe, and licensed dispensers to dispense, an opiate antagonist, either pursuant to a direct prescription order or in accordance with standing orders and protocols. Naloxone (trade name Narcan) is the primary opiate antagonist that will reverse an overdose.

HB15-1367: Retail Marijuana Taxes

- ▶ Refers a *ballot issue* to the voters to allow the state to retain and spend retail marijuana taxes. This will be Proposition BB on the November 2015 ballot.
- ▶ Outlines the methods to be used for *marijuana tax refunds* IF the ballot issue is rejected.
- ▶ Outlines general areas of spending for marijuana taxes for *future appropriations* decisions to be made by the legislature.
- ▶ Outlines the use of retained marijuana taxes with specific *FY15-16 appropriations* IF the ballot issue is approved.

HB1367: Marijuana Tax Revenues

- ▶ If Proposition BB is approved by the voters, the initial \$52million will be spent in FY15-16 as follows:
 - ▶ \$40 million for BEST (public school capital construction assistance fund)
 - ▶ \$2.5 million for marijuana education campaigns
 - ▶ \$1 million for poison control centers
 - ▶ \$2 million for school bullying prevention and education
 - ▶ \$2 million for student re-engagement grant program
 - ▶ \$1 million for youth mentoring services
 - ▶ \$1 million for Tony Grampsas Youth Services
 - ▶ \$1 million for local government retail marijuana impact grants
 - ▶ \$500,000 to CDHS for detoxification and treatment services
 - ▶ \$500,000 for Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)
 - ▶ \$300,000 for the State Fair
 - ▶ \$200,000 for advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement training
 - ▶ \$6 million to remain in the General Fund

Conclusion

- ▶ In 2016 it is likely that addressing substance use and marijuana dollars will continue. Miles Consulting will continue working diligently with our community partners, general assembly, and many others as we continue to brainstorm in how we can all work together.
- ▶ I want to thank you all for your time and am happy to answer any questions at this time.