

# WE ARE AWARE

The Latest from Colorado Project AWARE

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## **OBH Launches Historic "I Matter" Program to Sponsor 3 FREE Behavioral Health Sessions for Youth and More**

Colorado House Bill 21-1258 established this temporary behavioral health services program to provide access to mental health and substance use disorder services for youth, including addressing needs that may have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is open to youth 18 years of age or younger or 21 years of age or younger if receiving special education services.

The program, called I Matter, is funded by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health. The program provides up to 3 free behavioral health sessions for youth in Colorado and reimburses participating providers, which are licensed clinicians from agencies and independent contractors.

### **You can engage with I Matter in 4 key ways:**

-  **Educate Yourself about the Program:** In June 2021, Governor Jared Polis signed the bipartisan legislation, which dedicated \$9 million to the program as part of the Polis-Primavera administration's Colorado Comeback roadmap. I Matter is funded and administered by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health. The program is funded until June 30, 2022. Read more about it [here](#).
-  **Get Connected:** Youth and their parents can visit the [I Matter platform](#) to take a confidential online survey about their mental health and schedule sessions with a licensed behavioral health clinician, primarily online over telehealth. All Colorado youth ages 18 or younger—or 21 and younger if receiving special education services—are eligible to receive free services.
-  **Spread the Word:** The I Matter program has a statewide public awareness and outreach campaign that includes digital ads on platforms such as TikTok and Snapchat and on-the-ground outreach to schools and youth organizations. Both the awareness campaign and the [IMatterColorado.org](#) website were informed by youth feedback. Help us get the word out to youth! [Order I Matter materials](#), including posters, rack cards, stickers, banners and more, [free of charge!](#)
-  **Share on your District/School Social Media:** We want as many youth as possible to get connected to services. Please download and share [this social media graphic](#) with your networks! [Find additional graphic sizes here](#).

# Welcome Kyle Pacqué - Project AWARE Co-Coordinator



Kyle joins our Project AWARE work as an employee of CDHS, where is the newest member of the Office of Behavioral Health's Prevention Team. He will be serving .5 of his FTE as co-coordinator for Project AWARE, and he will be working on school prevention programming and serving as training specialist related to EBPs with his other .5 FTE. In his role, he will be working to forge alignment in school-based behavioral health programming between both OBH and CDE. Kyle joins us with nearly 10 years' experience as a youth programs and wellness specialist; including but not limited to, the founding of a non-profit organization focused on violence and substance abuse prevention, social emotional learning, and mental health promotion.

 [kyle.pacque@state.co.us](mailto:kyle.pacque@state.co.us)  703.967.4216

## 5 Ways The NOMS Can Help YOU

NOMS (National Outcome Measures), does the sound of the acronym make you shake in your boots? Well here are 5 ways this laborious tool can benefit your district you may not have thought of

- 1 District-Level Demographic Trends for Tier 3 Service Provision**  
It will be incredibly valuable to capture demographic information for who exactly in your district is being referred for this highest level of school-based behavioral health care. It's going to be helpful to examine disproportionality and promote equity in our systems!
- 2 Creates Equity in Information Collected by Providers**  
Streamlining intake forms and processes will create consistency among providers and ensure the same information is being captured no matter what clinician is treating the family or what school the student attends.
- 3 Measures Family Engagement and Participation in Treatment**  
Family engagement is really difficult to evaluate, especially when it comes to participation in behavioral health treatment. NOMS asks specific questions related to the degree to which a family is involved in their student's treatment.
- 4 Treatment Perception for Continuous Improvement**  
Post treatment "how did we do" measures often times are only filled out by those who have grievances for how services were rendered. As part of intervention planning for future years of AWARE and beyond, you can use this feedback in addition to other perception measures.
- 5 Data for Future Funding**  
Mental Health funding is only gaining momentum, and having this level of information on students receiving Tier 3 behavioral health service will strengthen your case for future funding from state and federal funding streams.

## All Things Budget

- Year 2 Budget Templates and Upload Folder can be found [HERE](#) Please submit to Morgan + Matt by Friday 10/29
- Year 1 AFR needs to be completed by 11/1 use these amounts to inform your carryover worksheet due Friday 11/19.



## Evaluate Your Life: News from Mario

In the coming weeks we Mario will be working to analyze all workforce development post-training survey data ahead our work on the annual report. Please make sure you've shared your reports with him for all trainings.

Thank you to all for completing your IPP data - it has been submitted to SAMHSA.

## Upcoming Professional Development

- TBD Panorama
- Wednesday 11/10 [Mental Health Stigma Reduction in Rural Schools](#) (MHTTC Webinar)
- Thursday 12/2 NME Case Consultation Call #3



## Worth a Listen

Brené with Oprah Winfrey and Dr. Bruce Perry on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing  
[Click here to Listen](#)



If you'd like to submit something you think is worth a listen or want to highlight something happening in your LEA in upcoming newsletters email [Morgan](#).

