



CBHC

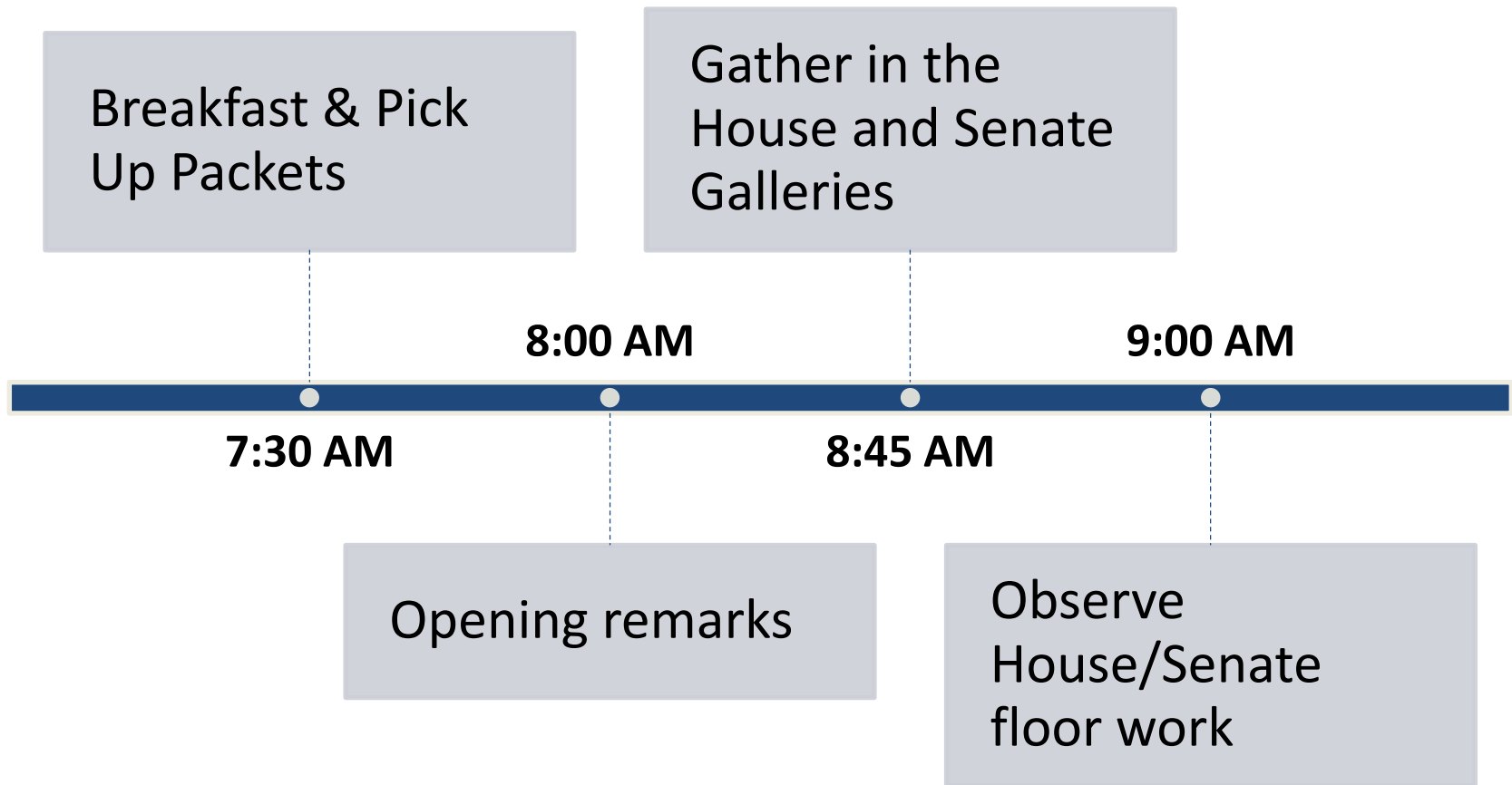
Colorado Behavioral
Healthcare Council

Today's Agenda

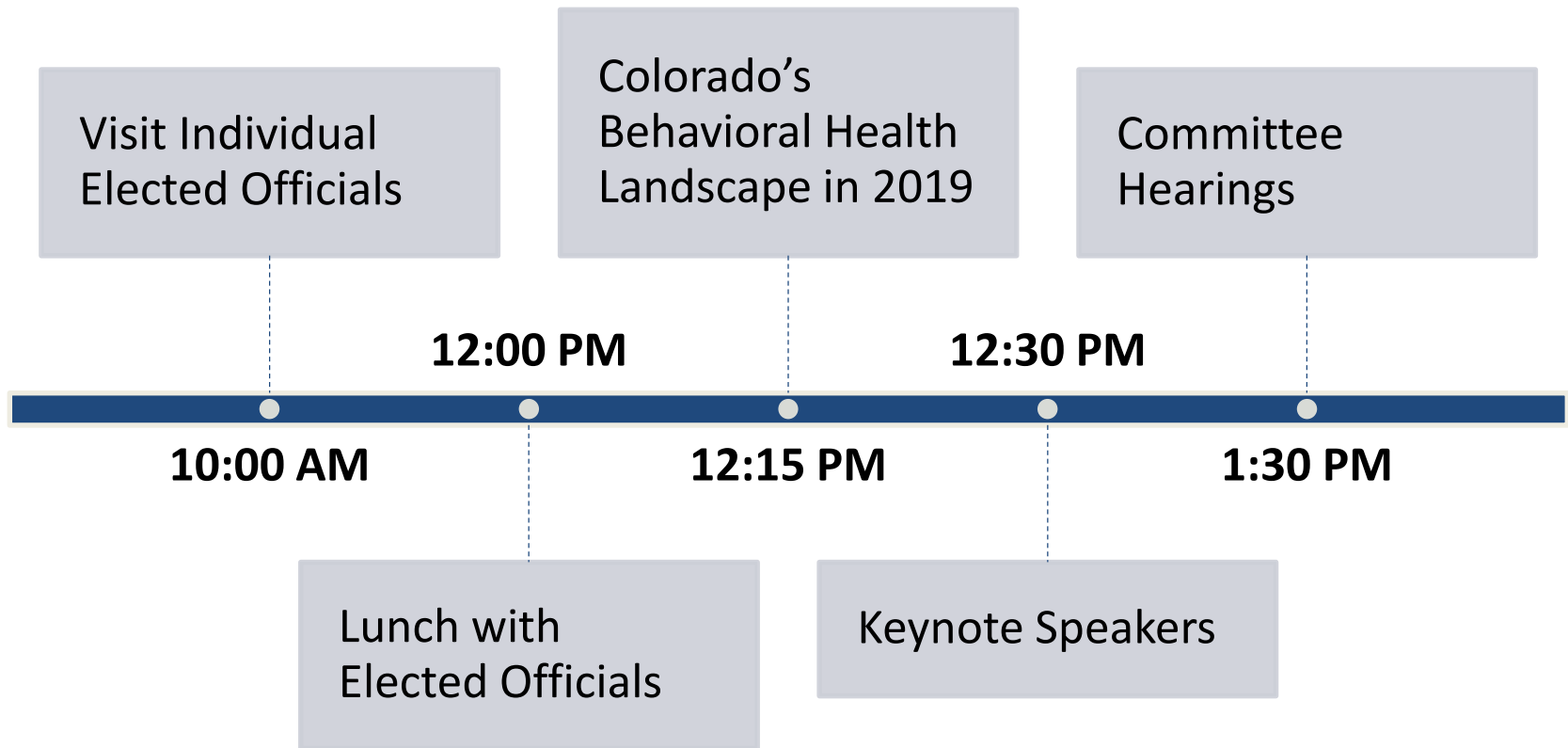
- Agenda for the **2019 CBHC Day at the Capitol**
- Areas of Focus
- Importance of CBHC Day at the Capitol
- Advocacy 101
- Resources



CBHC 2019 Day at the Capitol Agenda



CBHC Day at the Capitol Agenda



CBHC Day at the Capitol Agenda (Cont...)

Logistics

- Registered participants will receive a packet with handouts, relevant information and a nametag
- If you haven't done so already, start setting up meetings with your legislators
- If you have any **questions or need assistance**, please contact:

Frank Cornelia

720-573-9371

fcornelia@cbhc.org

Moses Gur

720-573-9368

mgur@cbhc.org

During Day at the Capitol, use our cell phones to contact us:

Frank (720-454-5740) or Moses (919-906-7258)

Area of Focus: *Behavioral Health Facility Licensure*

Goal:

- To advance legislation based on recommendations developed in a Governor's task force that will **create a behavioral health licensure framework** that is responsive to the needs of all communities, minimizes regulatory burden, & allows for innovation.

Objective:

- Share with legislators the **experiences you have had licensing facilities** through opening and maintenance. Discuss the **importance of innovation, especially in acute care** (e.g., the crisis/detox nexus)

Area of Focus: *Behavioral Health Facility Licensure*

Ask:

Representative Lisa Cutter (D-Unincorporated Jefferson County) will be introducing legislation in February that will consolidate oversight of behavioral health entities (BHEs) at CDPHE and will create an advisory group to guide this multi-phased process.

***We ask that you support this legislation when it
is introduced.***

Area of Focus: *SUD Services*

Goal:

- To advance legislation/budget action that supports your organization's efforts to combat the opioid crisis and to expand access to SUD services.

Objectives:

- **Remind and thank** legislators for their investment in SB202, a new and innovative way to get resources to communities, as well as HB1136, which will increase access to much needed residential care for Medicaid members.
- **Highlight** your effort to expand services or develop new programs using SB202 or other funding and **educate** legislators about areas of continued need.

Area of Focus: *SUD Services*

Ask:

Ask legislators to vote 'yes' on upcoming Opioid Interim Committee bills as well as to support budget action that increase access to SUD services.

We ask that you see us as a resource as you consider the various policy recommendations included in the treatment & prevention bill that will be introduced in the Senate by Priola/Pettersen.

Area of Focus: *Behavioral Health Safety Net Workforce*

Goal:

- **Educate** legislators about the challenges recruiting & retaining a behavioral health safety net workforce & prep them for supporting future budget/policy action.

Objective:

- **Share information** with legislators that demonstrates how CMHC salaries have lagged behind over the past 20 years; add local examples when appropriate.
- **Thank** legislators for their support of SB-024 and describe how loan repayment helps recruit and retain behavioral health professionals.

Area of Focus: *Behavioral Health Safety Net Workforce*

Ask:

Please support budget action and legislation that invests in the behavioral health safety net workforce.

Examples of helpful action include expanded funding for the SB-024 Loan Repayment Program for SUD professionals and increasing the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for community providers.

Area of Focus: *Behavioral Health & Criminal Justice*

Goal:

- **Educate** legislators about your organization's efforts to reverse the criminalization of behavioral health disorders.

Objective:

- **Remind & thank** legislators for their recent investment in this area (e.g. SB97, SB17-207, SB18-249, 250, & 251).
- **Educate** legislators about the current needs in your community, and what programs you are working to stand up or expand (focusing on diversion programs and restoration).

Area of Focus: *Behavioral Health & Criminal Justice*

Ask:

We ask you to join us in opposition to the State's plan to freeze civil beds at Ft. Logan. Investing millions in more institutionally based competency beds is not the answer to the restoration problem.

Instead, we are asking that you support upcoming legislation/budget amendments to ensure that, when appropriate and safe, individuals are released from jail to be restored in community settings and the state investment in community solutions.

Area of Focus: *Mental Health First Aid & Suicide Prevention*

Goal:

- Educate legislators about your organization's efforts to adopt Zero Suicide principles and to expand Mental Health First Aid trainings.

Objective:

- **Remind, educate, and thank** legislators for their recent investments in this area.
- **Educate** legislators about the current needs in your community, and what programs you are working to develop or expand.

Area of Focus: Mental Health First Aid & Suicide Prevention

Asks:

MHFA

CBHC will work with the Joint Budget Committee to expand funding for MHFA by \$500K this year. We ask that you express your support for this request in your caucus.

Zero Suicide

We support Mental Health Colorado's position to dedicate an additional \$861,000 to expand the Zero Suicide framework statewide and ask that you support this effort to reduce the high rate of suicide in Colorado.

Be Prepared to Respond

- ***Emergency Risk Protection Order (ERPO or “Red Flag” Bill)***

As a public safety approach, this is an important issue. However, we need to be careful not to unfairly target individuals living with mental health disorders. This could create a very dangerous precedent. We need to take every step possible to ensure communities and law enforcement are safe, while not further stigmatizing mental health or unduly disincentivizing seeking help.

Be Prepared to Respond

- ***Crisis Services RFP***

The members of CBHC do not support the crisis services RFP as it violates current statute by weakening the crisis response system and reduces financial resources to many rural communities. CBHC has filed a protest and is currently seeking relief from the Denver District Court.

Be Prepared to Respond

- ***Competency Restoration***

CBHC believes limited state resources should be directed to community-based services to develop and enhance resources that allow people to receive the restoration, treatment, and any other services they need in their home communities close to their natural supports. Building more inpatient capacity which will take years to accomplish, be incredibly costly, and further perpetuate the criminalization of mental health disorders as a means for treatment.

An aerial photograph of the Wisconsin State Capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin. The building is a large, light-colored neoclassical structure with a prominent central dome and two tall spires. It is surrounded by green lawns and trees. In the foreground, a multi-lane road with some blurred cars is visible. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Overlaid on the center of the image is the text "Orientation to Day at the Capitol 2019" in a large, white, serif font.

Orientation to Day at the Capitol *2019*

Why is this Important?

The **purpose** of this day is to:

- Develop support among legislators for behavioral health issues
- Educate legislators and reduce stigma
- Protect and increase behavioral health funding and resources so providers are able to deliver more effective services

Why is this Important? (Cont...)

Legislators impact your organization by:

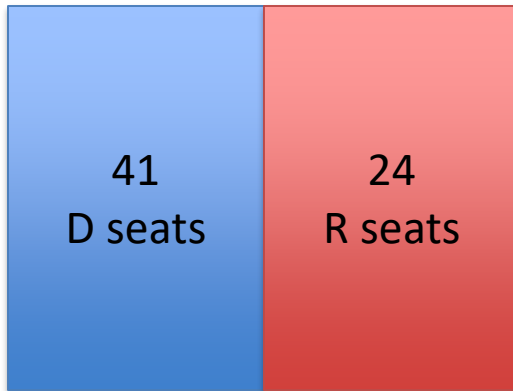
- Sponsoring legislation
- Offering amendments to legislation
- Voting for or against legislation
- Offering public support or opposition for legislation
- Working with regulators to implement new laws

Why Should I Advocate?

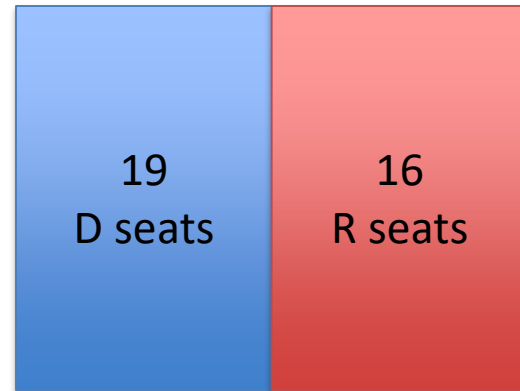
- YOU are the expert
- YOU are the constituent (i.e., the connection to their district)
- Every constituent “voice” matters
- More voices = more influence
- Stories are powerful – legislators need to hear how what you do helps Coloradans every day!
- It’s fun!!

Why Should I Advocate? (Cont...)

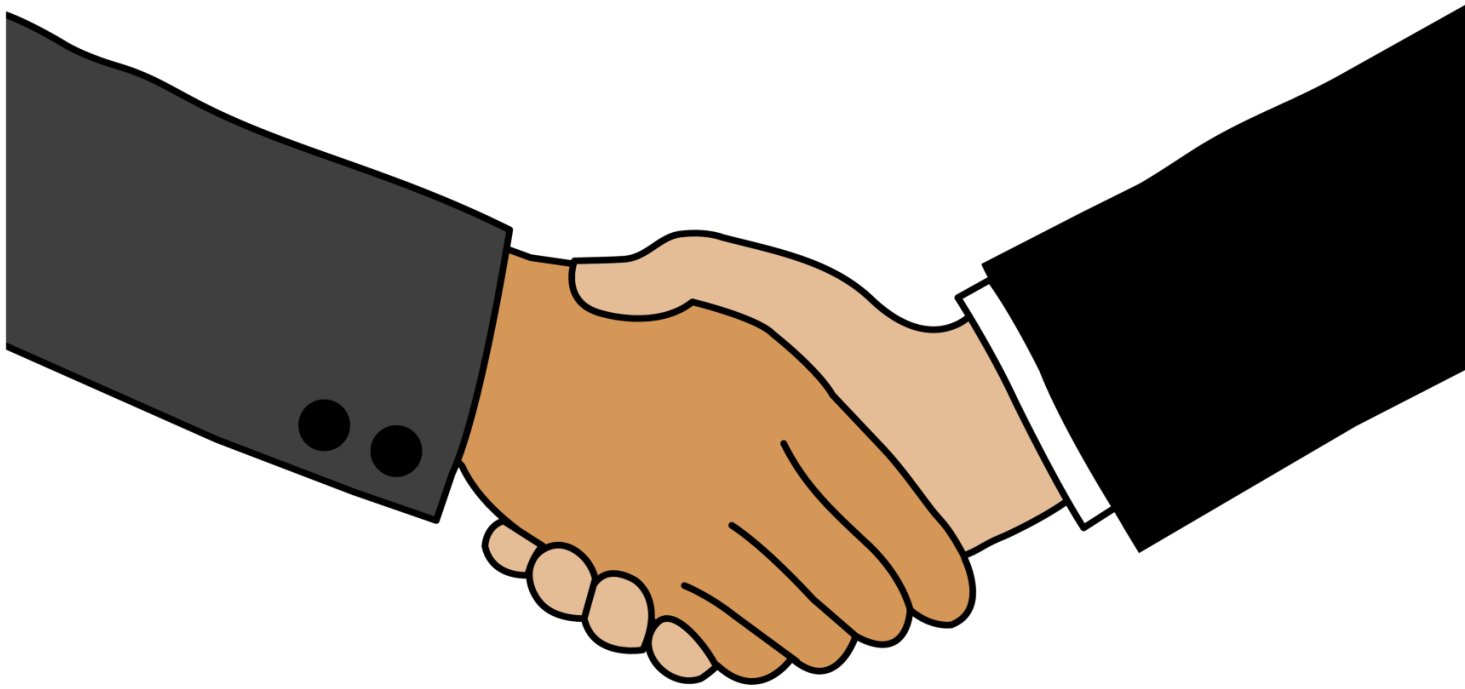
Political environment in 2019: Every vote counts!



House



Senate



Advocacy 101

What To Do

Before Day at the Capitol:

- Set up a meeting with your legislators
- Invite them to lunch

During Day at the Capitol:

- Be succinct, honest, and respectful
- Tell your personal story
- Use data, maps & images
- Turn off your cell phone!

What Not To Do

- Show up late
- Chew gum
- Talk incessantly
- Be political
- Be combative, sarcastic, aggressive or threatening
- Answer a question that you can't – “I don't know, but I'll get back to you” will suffice

Before Contacting Your Legislators

Do your homework – learn these things about the elected officials you will be meeting:

- Their key issues/interests
- Their previous support for behavioral health
- Have they sponsored/supported behavioral health legislation in the past
- Have they served on your board in the past

Contact CBHC's policy team for help!

Meeting with Staff

Staff are a key part of the process!

- Don't decline a meeting with staff in lieu of meeting with the legislator
- Legislators make decisions on a wide variety of issues and often rely on their staff to be the subject-matter experts

During Your Meetings

- Address the legislator by their title (Representative or Senator)
- Be well informed – know what issues you would like to talk about beforehand
- Be concise and respectful of their time
- Leave behind written information about your issues and organization
- Follow up!

Follow Up

Why?

- You and our issues will stand out
- Builds relationships that help secure resources and funding in the future

How?

- Say 'thank you' – send a note or email
- Keep them informed
- Site visits – show them what you do
- Town hall meetings – go see what they're doing

Resources

- CBHC Website

www.cbhc.org

- Colorado General Assembly

www.leg.state.co.us

Thank you for participating!

We'll see you next Wednesday!