

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Jason A. Crow  
1229 Longworth HOB  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Crow:

This letter is in support of a Congressionally Directed Spending request for fiscal year 2023 submitted by Douglas County, Colorado (Douglas County Mental Health Initiative). As a resident of Douglas County for the past 28 years, I have seen the need of mental health services in the county significantly increase. As a long standing volunteer assisting the school district, law enforcement, coalitions, government, and health department, I have been able to hear and witness various needs and concerns from these entities. I am pleased to share that there is a mutual support on opening a Walk in Crisis Center and Crisis Stabilization Unit. This is a great step forward to providing support to our most precious resource, our children. The system (law enforcement, hospitals, and school) have done a lot of work to provide resources to care for our Residents; however, these systems are in need of support as well.

Growth of mental health needs and citizens learning to ask for help is an opportunity to connect families to help they deserve. Douglas County values the mental health of its citizens and is ready to provide services and support in response to these needs.

Thank you for your time and efforts toward our children and families who are in need of clinics and units closer to home. We all wish we would not need these services, but it is okay to not be okay. More importantly, it is okay and very brave to ask for help. I am grateful that Douglas County has heard our cry. This is the help our children need and deserve.

Sincerely,  
Katheryn Wille  
303-906-7227  
[katheryn.shelton@hotmail.com](mailto:katheryn.shelton@hotmail.com)  
Douglas County Resident



The Honorable Jason A. Crow  
1229 Longworth HOB  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Crow:

This letter is in support of a Congressionally Directed Spending request for fiscal year 2023 submitted by Douglas County, Colorado. Our organization is a member of the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative (DCMHI), a 40+ member initiative started by Douglas County government to address unmet mental health needs in Douglas County and prevent people from falling through the cracks.

We have successfully launched a county-wide Co-Responder program that has kept people out of emergency departments and jail and an intensive case management program for adults with complex mental health needs. We are working with AllHealth Network, our community mental health center, to open a Walk in Crisis Center (WIC) and a 16 bed Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) for youth in Douglas County. This would be the first facility of its kind in Douglas County. In order to ensure the success of these two facilities, we are developing an "Enhanced Model of Services" to support people before and after they utilize the walk-in center and make sure youth and their families get the services they need after they are discharged from the Crisis Stabilization Unit.

We are asking for your help to seek Congressionally Directed Spending to fund this "Enhanced Model of Service Delivery." The demand for behavioral health services for children (0-12 years old) and adolescents (13-17 years old) exceeds the capacity for services throughout Colorado, including in Douglas County. This is why we want a WIC and CSU in our County but also the "Enhanced Model of Services" so that children, youth and families move from using the crisis system to being connected with ongoing, non-crisis, behavioral health treatment.

The "Enhanced Service Model" includes direct coordination with Co-Responder teams, safe and secure transportation to the WIC/CSU, intensive in-home and outpatient services, peer support specialists, developing resiliency in youth, parent support, addressing social determinants of health and expansion of the Care Compact, intensive case management program, to serve youth and families and technology that supports access to care. Our organization is a key partner in the provision of these enhanced services and supports this request for Congressionally Directed Spending, so that we can offer a positive path forward for adults, children, youth and families as they emerge from a mental health or substance use disorder crisis. Caring Communities Colorado LLC is committed to providing enhanced services in support of this project and the work of the DCMHI.

Caring Communities Colorado, LLC employs clinicians and case managers that serve the Co-Responder teams. We are committed to collaborating with DCMHI and serving the citizens of the Douglas County Community.

Sincerely,

Shauna Shipps, MA, LPC



The Honorable Jason A. Crow  
1229 Longworth HOB  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Crow:

This letter is in support of a Congressionally Directed Spending request for fiscal year 2023 submitted by Douglas County, Colorado. Our organization is a member of the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative (DCMHI), a 40+ member initiative started by Douglas County government to address unmet mental health needs in Douglas County and prevent people from falling through the cracks.

We have successfully launched a county-wide co-responder program that has kept people out of emergency departments and jail and an intensive case management program for adults with complex mental health needs. We are working with AllHealth Network, our community mental health center, to open a Walk in Crisis Center (WIC) and a 16 bed Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) for youth in Douglas County. This would be the first facility of its kind in Douglas County. In order to ensure the success of these two facilities, we are developing an “Enhanced Model of Services” to support people before and after they utilize the walk-in center and make sure youth and their families get the services they need after they are discharged from the Crisis Stabilization Unit.

We are asking for your help to seek Congressionally Directed Spending to fund this “Enhanced Model of Service Delivery.” The demand for behavioral health services for children (0-12 years old) and adolescents (13-17 years old) exceeds the capacity for services throughout Colorado, including in Douglas County. This is why we want a WIC and CSU in our County but also the “Enhanced Model of Services” so that children, youth and families move from using the crisis system to being connected with ongoing, non-crisis, behavioral health treatment.

The “Enhanced Service Model” includes direct coordination with co-responder teams, safe and secure transportation to the WIC/CSU, intensive in-home and outpatient services, peer support specialists, developing resiliency in youth, parent support, addressing social determinants of health and expansion of the Care Compact, intensive case management program, to serve youth and families and technology that supports access to care. Our organization is a key partner in the provision of these enhanced services and supports this request for Congressionally Directed Spending, so that we can offer a positive path forward for adults, children, youth and families as they emerge from a mental health or substance use disorder crisis. Developmental Pathways is committed to providing enhanced services in support of this project and the work of the DCMHI.

Developmental Pathways is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency serving individuals with developmental disabilities/delays and their families. We are also one of Colorado’s Community Centered Boards (CCB),

connecting people to federal, state, county, and private funding in Arapahoe County, Douglas County, Elbert County, and the City of Aurora. We passionately believe inclusion is for everyone and offer services through Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver programs, locally funded programs, and partnerships with other community organizations. Many of the individuals we serve have additional mental and/or behavioral health needs. We enthusiastically support programs like these that will strengthen our community through inclusion, access, and needed support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew VanAuken', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Matthew VanAuken, MBA; Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer**

14280 E. Jewell Avenue, Suite A, Aurora, CO 80012

O: 303 858-2124 | C: 720-402-2024

Email address: [m.vanauken@dpcolo.org](mailto:m.vanauken@dpcolo.org)

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Jason A. Crow  
1229 Longworth HOB  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Crow:

This letter is in support of a Congressionally Directed Spending request for fiscal year 2023 submitted by Douglas County, Colorado. Douglas County is the founding member of the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative (DCMHI), a 40+ member initiative which collectively addresses unmet mental health needs in Douglas County and prevents people from falling through the cracks. The Board of County Commissioners has prioritized the mental health of Douglas County residents for many years and is committed to working in collaboration with community partners to develop a comprehensive and networked system of care.

We have successfully launched a county-wide co-responder program that has kept people out of emergency departments and jail and an intensive case management program for adults with complex mental health needs. It is through programs such as these that we have observed the significant benefit of partnerships and the impact and importance of connecting people in our community with much needed and coordinated mental health services.

We are working with AllHealth Network, our community mental health center, to open a Walk in Crisis Center (WIC) for all ages and a 16-bed Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) for children (up to 12 years old) and adolescents (13-17 years old) in Douglas County. This would be the first facility of its kind in the County. To ensure the success of these two facilities, we are developing an "Enhanced Model of Services" to support people before and after they utilize the WIC and to make sure youth and their families get the services they need after they are discharged from the CSU. We are asking for your help to seek Congressionally Directed Spending to fund this "Enhanced Model of Service Delivery."

The Board is keenly aware that the demand for behavioral health services for children and adolescents exceeds the capacity for services throughout Colorado, including in Douglas County. Having both a WIC and CSU in our County and the "Enhanced Model of Services" mean that children, youth and families move from using the crisis system to being connected with ongoing, non-crisis, behavioral health treatment and have the opportunity to thrive.

The "Enhanced Service Model" includes direct coordination with co-responder teams, safe and secure transportation to and from the WIC/CSU, intensive in-home and outpatient services, peer support specialists, developing resiliency in youth, parent support, addressing social determinants of health, expansion of the County's intensive case management program to serve youth and families and technology that supports access to care. Douglas County is a key convener in the provision of these enhanced services and supports this request for Congressionally Directed Spending, so that we can offer a positive path forward for adults, children, youth and families as they emerge from a mental health or substance use disorder crisis.

Abe Laydon  
Commissioner District I

George Teal  
Commissioner District II

Lora L. Thomas  
Commissioner District III

*Representative Crow*

*April 19, 2022*

*Page 2*

As County Commissioners, we are committed to providing enhanced services in support of this project and the work of the DCMHI.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Abe Laydon".

Abe Laydon

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Teal".

George Teal

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lora L. Thomas".

Lora L. Thomas



April 5, 2022

The Honorable Jason A. Crow  
1229 Longworth HOB  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Crow:

This letter is in support of a Congressionally Directed Spending request for fiscal year 2023 submitted by Douglas County, Colorado. Our organization, AllHealth Network is a member of the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative (DCMHI), a 40+ member initiative started by Douglas County government to address unmet mental health needs in Douglas County and prevent people from falling through the cracks.

We have successfully launched a county-wide co-responder program that has kept people out of emergency departments and jail and an intensive case management program for adults with complex mental health needs. We are working with AllHealth Network, our community mental health center, to open a Walk in Crisis Center (WIC) and a 16 bed Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) for youth in Douglas County. This would be the first facility of its kind in Douglas County. In order to ensure the success of these two facilities, we are developing an "Enhanced Model of Services" to support people before and after they utilize the walk-in center and make sure youth and their families get the services they need after they are discharged from the Crisis Stabilization Unit.

We are asking for your help to seek Congressionally Directed Spending to fund this "Enhanced Model of Service Delivery." The demand for behavioral health services for children (0-12 years old) and adolescents (13-17 years old) exceeds the capacity for services throughout Colorado, including in Douglas County. This is why we want a WIC and CSU in our County but also the "Enhanced Model of Services" so that children, youth and families move from using the crisis system to being connected with ongoing, non-crisis, behavioral health treatment.

The "Enhanced Service Model" includes direct coordination with co-responder teams, safe and secure transportation to the WIC/CSU, intensive in-home and outpatient services, peer support specialists, developing resiliency in youth, parent support, addressing social determinants of health and expansion of the Care Compact, intensive case management program, to serve youth and families and technology that supports access to care. Our organization is a key partner in the provision of these enhanced services and supports this request for Congressionally Directed Spending, so that we can offer a positive path forward for adults, children, youth and families as they emerge from a mental health or substance

**YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE FOR CARE. COMMUNITY. CONNECTION. CONVERSATION.**

Counseling—Individual, Group, Family  
Psychiatry  
Pharmacy  
Substance Use Treatment  
School-Based Services

Acute Care Services  
Crisis Response  
Disaster Response  
Acute Treatment Unit  
Crisis Stabilization Unit

Community Wellness Services  
Care Navigation  
Case Management  
PsychoSocial Rehabilitation  
Employment Support



use disorder crisis. AllHealth Network is committed to providing enhanced services in support of this project and the work of the DCMHI.

AllHealth Network has been serving Arapahoe and Douglas communities since 1955. We currently operate a WIC and an adult CSU in Arapahoe county. In collaboration with Douglas County, AllHealth Network will serve as the lead organization in development of the WIC and CSU as well as partners in expansion of services for youth and families creating an "Enhanced Model of Service Delivery." Our experience as a Behavioral Health Service provider and longtime member of the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative will be a strong asset to this project. We appreciate your support as we work together to increase services to better meet needs of Douglas County residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bill Henricks", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Henricks, MBA, PhD.  
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jennifer Bock", written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Bock, LPC  
Chief Clinical Officer





The Honorable Jason A. Crow  
1229 Longworth HOB  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Crow:

This letter is in support of a Congressionally Directed Spending request for fiscal year 2023 submitted by Douglas County, Colorado. Our organization is a member of the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative (DCMHI), a 40+ member initiative started by Douglas County government to address unmet mental health needs in Douglas County and prevent people from falling through the cracks.

We have successfully launched a county-wide co-responder program that has kept people out of emergency departments and jail and an intensive case management program for adults with complex mental health needs. We are working with AllHealth Network, our community mental health center, to open a Walk in Crisis Center (WIC) and a 16 bed Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) for youth in Douglas County. This would be the first facility of its kind in Douglas County. In order to ensure the success of these two facilities, we are developing an "Enhanced Model of Services" to support people before and after they utilize the walk-in center and make sure youth and their families get the services they need after they are discharged from the Crisis Stabilization Unit.

We are asking for your help to seek Congressionally Directed Spending to fund this "Enhanced Model of Service Delivery." The demand for behavioral health services for children (0-12 years old) and adolescents (13-17 years old) exceeds the capacity for services throughout Colorado, including in Douglas County. This is why we want a WIC and CSU in our County but also the "Enhanced Model of Services" so that children, youth and families move from using the crisis system to being connected with ongoing, non-crisis, behavioral health treatment.

The "Enhanced Service Model" includes direct coordination with co-responder teams, safe and secure transportation to the WIC/CSU, intensive in-home and outpatient services, peer support specialists, developing resiliency in youth, parent support, addressing social determinants of health and expansion of the Care Compact, intensive case management program, to serve youth and families and technology that supports access to care. Our organization is a key partner in the provision of these enhanced services and supports this request for Congressionally Directed Spending, so that we can offer a positive path forward for adults, children, youth, and families as they emerge from a mental health or substance use disorder crisis. Douglas County Department of Human Services is committed to providing enhanced services in support of this project and the work of the DCMHI.

Douglas County Department of Human Services is a proud partner of the DCMHI and we look forward to increasing the services that could be provided to youth in crisis while not driving them into the child welfare system in order to access services. We would strongly recommend the DCMHI be awarded Congressional Direct Funding to help launch critically needed mental health services.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Makelky', written over a horizontal line.

Dan Makelky, Director of Human Services

April 5, 2022

The Honorable Jason Crow  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Crow:

This letter is in support of a Congressionally Directed Spending request for fiscal year 2023 submitted by Douglas County, Colorado. Our organization – Signal Behavioral Health Network (Signal) – is a member of the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative (DCMHI), a 40+ member initiative started by Douglas County government to address mental health needs in Douglas.

DCMHI has successfully launched a county-wide co-responder program that has kept people out of emergency departments and jail, and an intensive case management program for adults with complex mental health needs. We are working with AllHealth Network, our community mental health center, to open a Walk in Crisis Center (WIC) and a 16- bed Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) for youth in Douglas County. This would be the first facility of its kind in Douglas County. In order to ensure the success of these two facilities, DCMHI is developing an “Enhanced Model of Services” to support people before and after they utilize the walk-in center and make sure youth and their families get the services they need after they are discharged from the Crisis Stabilization Unit.

We are asking for your help to seek Congressionally Directed Spending to fund this “Enhanced Model of Service Delivery.” The demand for behavioral health services for children (0-12 years old) and adolescents (13-17 years old) exceeds the capacity for services throughout Colorado, including many in Douglas County. This is why we want a WIC and CSU in our County, and also the “Enhanced Model of Services” so that children, youth, and families are able to move from using the crisis system to being connected with ongoing, non-crisis, behavioral health care.

The “Enhanced Service Model” includes direct coordination with co-responder teams, safe and secure transportation to the WIC/CSU, intensive in-home and outpatient services, peer support specialists, developing resiliency in youth, parent support, addressing social determinants of health and expansion of the Care Compact, intensive case management program, to serve youth and families and technology that supports access to care. Our organization is a key partner in the provision of these enhanced services and supports this request for Congressionally Directed Spending, so that we can offer a

positive path forward for adults, children, youth, and families as they emerge from a mental health or substance use disorder crisis. Signal is committed to providing enhanced services in support of this project and the work of the DCMHI.

Signal is contracted with the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) as an Administrative Service Organization (ASO) as part of the statewide crisis system and programs serving children, youth, and families with complex, and often acute, behavioral health needs. Through OBH, Signal administers the “I Matter” program – a statewide youth behavioral health program that began this past fall (through passage of Colorado House Bill 21-1258). The program is available to all youth in Colorado, regardless of behavioral health diagnosis, and also serves youth up to the age of 21 if they receive Special Education services. Signal also serves as the State of Colorado’s largest Managed Service Organization (MSO) and has been fulfilling this role since 1997 – managing, expanding, and monitoring substance use treatment, prevention, and recovery services in three of the state’s seven regions (Denver-Metro, Northeastern, and Southeastern Colorado).

Representative Crow, you have been a strong and vocal proponent of mental health issues. You have expressed that, *particularly among adolescents, Colorado’s mental health crisis is one of the top three issues voiced by your constituents*. Signal realizes that these issues are important in order to continue our collective mission of healing, not only of our people and communities, but of our systems of care.

The “Enhanced Model of Service Delivery” offers an integrated strategy for collective mental and behavioral health improvement and Signal is honored to be a part of this initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Darting", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Darting  
Chief Executive Officer  
Signal





April 25, 2022

The Honorable Jason A. Crow  
1229 Longworth HOB  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Crow:

This letter is in support of a Congressionally Directed Spending request for fiscal year 2023 submitted by Douglas County, Colorado. Our organization is a member of the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative (DCMHI), a 40+ member initiative started by Douglas County government to address unmet mental health needs in Douglas County and prevent people from falling through the cracks.

The Douglas County Healthy Youth Coalition (DCHYC) was established in 2016. DCHYC has been receiving Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant funds to address youth substance-use issues here in the county. In 2019 DCHYC members chose to further expand efforts to address rising mental health-related issues among our youth. Since moving in this direction, DCHYC members and partners like the St. Andrew Wellbeing Initiative have become trusted entities advocating for young people in our community, especially those who struggle with mental health challenges and inclusion. Our families would significantly benefit from the "Enhanced Model of Service Delivery" being proposed by DCMHI and our county commissioners. We feel that this type of approach would be extremely beneficial for families and young people trying to navigate crises and stability afterward.

We are asking for your help in securing Congressionally Directed Spending to fund this "Enhanced Model of Service Delivery." The demand for behavioral health services for children (0-12 years old) and adolescents (13-17 years old) exceeds the capacity for services throughout Colorado, including in Douglas County. This is why a walk-in crisis center and youth stabilization unit are needed in our county, but also the "Enhanced Model of Services" so that children, youth and families move from using the crisis system to being connected with ongoing, non-crisis, behavioral health treatment.

The Douglas County Healthy Youth Coalition is committed to raising awareness of and advocating for intervention services like the one being proposed, as well as working collaboratively with our community stakeholders in delivering upstream prevention strategies and services that increase resilience, while reducing mental health and substance misuse among our youth and families.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and you/your teams ongoing commitment and policy actions that support the health and wellbeing of our youth and families. If you have any questions please contact our Coalition coordinator Curtis Hanock, at 720-682-5283 or email us at [admin@dchyc.org](mailto:admin@dchyc.org).

Sincerely,

  
Zac Hess,  
DCHYC Board Chair



Laura Porter,  
DCHYC Youth Leader Board  
President