

H.B. 572

Justice Involved Mental Health Amendments

Representative Eliason



BACKGROUND

- Utah had the highest estimated rate of any mental illness (30%) in the U.S. (23%).
- 1 out of every 7.3 Utahns suffers from a substance use disorder (14%).
- An estimated 71% of Utahns with substance use disorder received no treatment.

WHAT HB 572 DOES

IMPROVES MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING IN JAILS

- Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to study and recommend standardized, evidence-based screening tools used in jails
- Ensures screenings identify:
 - Mental health disorders
 - Substance use disorders
 - Appropriate community-based treatment options
- Requires reporting to the Legislature on outcomes and effectiveness

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Coordinate behavioral health initiatives so they are comprehensive, aligned, effective, and efficient across the full continuum of care: prevention and early intervention, crisis response, treatment, and recovery support.

CREATES A STANDARDIZED CONSENT FORM FOR INFORMATION SHARING, AND A STATEWIDE LIST OF TREATMENT SERVICES

- Directs the state to create a HIPAA-compliant consent form allowing justice-involved individuals to voluntarily share mental health or substance use information with:
 - Courts, first responders, health care providers, adult probation, and parole

STRENGTHENS DIVERSION TO TREATMENT

- Requires better communication between treatment providers, courts, and law enforcement when someone is diverted into treatment
- Ensures accountability when someone:
 - Is participating in treatment
 - Stops participating
 - Leaves treatment early

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION'S 2026 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS (NOT ALL WILL BE FUNDED)

Prioritized 2026 legislative requests	Resources
1. Relieve facility backlog by expanding State Hospital capacity: Building costs for 60 beds and operational costs for first 30 beds.	\$88,800,000 one-time \$5,000,000 ongoing
2. Fund first 2 of 13 needed mobile crisis outreach teams (MCOTs).	\$800,225 ongoing per team
3. Develop 2 additional rural behavioral health receiving centers	\$3,450,000 one-time per center \$1,200,000 ongoing per center
4. Establish grant program to fund peer recovery support services	\$10,000,000 ongoing
5. Fund 5 rural Utah pilots to develop humane crisis transport solutions	\$600,000 one-time funding
6. Sustain and grow suicide prevention training	\$100,000 ongoing
7. Fund family outreach specialists for suicide surveillance	\$299,700 ongoing
8. Support Live On Utah suicide prevention campaign	\$850,000 ongoing
9. Fund Center for School Health and Wellbeing Partnerships	\$3,500,000 ongoing
10. Expand behavioral health screening for children	\$1,970,000 one-time \$475,000 ongoing