



**Public Testimony Opportunities**

Governor Polis asked the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services, Michelle Barnes, to create a Task Force that will evaluate Colorado’s behavioral health system and develop a statewide blueprint to reform the system with the goal of enabling every Coloradan experiencing behavioral health needs to receive timely, high-quality services in their communities. You can learn more about the Behavioral Health Task Force (BHTF) at <http://bit.ly/COBHTE>.

Behavioral Health affects us all. It’s in the relationships and the outreached hand that we come together. It’s where families find healing. Where children find hope. It’s where communities come together. It’s where the status quo is challenged and changed for a better Colorado.

**I am more than a statistic. I am more than a diagnosis. SEE ME.**

The BHTF wants to see you. We want to hear about your journey within the Behavioral Health system, and we want to hear about your day-to-day life. Tell us about the groups where you’ve found support, the resources that helped you find success, and the challenges you are still working through. We must work together to improve our behavioral health system.

**Dates and Times**

The BHTF will be offering at least one public testimony opportunity each month through June 2020. The following dates and locations have been identified thus far:

Date	Time	Physical Location	Video/Telephone Options
Wednesday, August 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	5:00pm – 8:00pm	Douglas County Department of Human Services Department: 4400 Castleton Ct, Castle Rock	<a href="http://bit.ly/2Zl6hUB">http://bit.ly/2Zl6hUB</a> (Meeting Number: 992 187 910 Meeting Password: 12345) or 303-663-7700, Access Code: 992 187 910
Tuesday, September 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	7:30am – 10:30am	Colorado Department of Human Services: 1575 Sherman Street, Denver – 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/9166858148">https://zoom.us/j/9166858148</a> or 1-669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 916 685 8148
Wednesday, October 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2019	1:00pm – 4:00pm	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment: 4300 Cherry Creek S Dr, Denver – Sabin Conference Room	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/9166858148">https://zoom.us/j/9166858148</a> or 1-669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 916 685 8148
Monday, November 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	2:00pm – 5:00pm	DORA Division of Insurance: 1560 Broadway, Denver – 19 <sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/9166858148">https://zoom.us/j/9166858148</a> or 1-669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 916 685 8148

\*\*Note that remote participants can use audio on their computers or phone\*\*

\*\*\*A public testimony opportunity in Southwest Colorado will be scheduled soon\*\*\*



## How to Sign Up for Public Testimony:

Public Testimony opportunities are broadcast by webinar. Members of the public are invited to call in and/or watch by video, as well as attend in person.

**If you wish to testify, you will need to register at [www.calendly.com/BHTF](http://www.calendly.com/BHTF) by 10am on the previous business day.** Visit [www.calendly.com/BHTF](http://www.calendly.com/BHTF) and be prepared to do the following:

- Share your full name, and any group or organization you might be representing
- Provide your phone number and email
- Select a time to speak and indicate if you will be there in person or via phone

**You must register by 10am on the previous business day in order to testify**, regardless of whether you are participating in person or by phone/video. Walk-in participants will only be permitted to join if there is capacity in the room after all registrants who have signed up in advance are present. Last minute remote participants will only be invited to speak if there is time after all registered participants have testified. Your testimony might be recorded, and there may be media present.

## Testifying in Person:

If you are testifying in person, it is best to arrive 15 minutes early. You will need to sign in when you arrive. If you have handouts or copies of your testimony for the committee, give these to staff when you arrive, or before you speak.

## Remote Testimony:

The BHTF Public Testimonies are broadcasts by webinar (webinar link is provided on the BHTF website at <http://bit.ly/COBHTF> or see the table above). All telephone and videoconference participants are muted upon joining the opportunity. The line is unmuted when a remote participant is scheduled to speak.

## Recommendations:

To make the most of your testimony, you may find the following recommendations to be helpful:

- When you are introduced to speak, please state your name and affiliation clearly for public record.
- It can be helpful to provide a printed document of your testimony to share with the BHTF members who are present, but it is not a requirement.
- Clearly share your experience with the Behavioral Health system and your day-to-day life as a peer or family member.
- In general, **you will have 5 minutes to testify**. If you are the spokesperson for a group of agencies, you may have up to 8 minutes to speak. Additional time may be allowed as a reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.
- You may be asked questions by BHTF members or staff.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Senior Advisor for Behavioral Health Transformation at 303-866-2354 or [summer.gathercole@state.co.us](mailto:summer.gathercole@state.co.us).

*Thank you for your interest and providing us with your comments and suggestions as we strengthen our Behavioral Health system in Colorado!*

