

July 27, 2023

Meghan Morrissey  
Behavioral Health Transportation Policy Advisor  
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

Dear Meghan,

I am writing to highlight the comprehensive education and training that Colorado Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers undergo, which equips them with the necessary skills and knowledge to handle behavioral health transport effectively. As an engaged member of the community and an advocate for the provision of quality healthcare, I believe it is essential to recognize the efforts made by our EMS professionals in addressing the unique challenges associated with behavioral health emergencies.

Colorado's EMS system is known for its high quality EMS training and commitment to providing innovative and high-quality care to all individuals in need. EMS providers undergo a comprehensive training curriculum that encompasses both foundational medical knowledge and specialized training in behavioral health response. These educational requirements are designed to equip EMS personnel with the necessary tools to handle diverse medical emergencies, including behavioral health crises, and include:

- Initial education of EMS providers follows the most current version of the [National EMS Education Standards](#). This standard incorporates training in psychiatric or behavioral health emergencies and psychosocial aspects of age-related assessment and treatment modifications for the major or common diseases and/or emergencies, emergency medical and trauma care, and medical-legal ethics for confidentiality and consent.
- EMS providers licensed or certified in Colorado undergo a fingerprint-based FBI/CBI background check, per [6 CCR 1015-3](#), Chapter 1, section 5.2.
- EMS providers maintain current CPR at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level. This level of training is designed for the healthcare professional and exceeds the training in a Community CPR & First Aid training course. [6 CCR 1015-3](#), Chapter 1, section 5.2.
- EMS providers are required to meet continuing education requirements for renewal of their certification or license.

The education of Colorado EMS providers surpasses the requirements necessary for the provision of secure transport contained in the Behavioral Health Secure Transportation regulations, 6 CCR 1011-4, and the exemption requirements listed in part 3.2(A) and 3.2(B).

Their robust training curriculum, encompassing conceptual knowledge, practical skills, and ongoing professional development, ensures that they can effectively respond to behavioral health emergencies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I strongly believe that recognizing the expertise of Colorado EMS providers in behavioral health transport is crucial for fostering a comprehensive and sustainable healthcare system. Should you require any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,



Peter Myers  
Deputy Director  
Health Facilities & Emergency Medical Services Division

References:

[EMS Provider Description](#)

[National EMS Education Standards](#)

[Colorado EMS Rules 6 CCR 1015-3](#)

