

Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy 2.0

Overview

A Common Practice Approach

- Provide prevention services for child abuse referrals that do not meet the criteria to open an investigation, but the family is in need of additional supports to ensure they remain stable and do not become part of the child protection system. These prevention strategies include a community response program, access to SafeCare and enhanced Nurse Family Partnership collaboration.

Prevention strategies will be coordinated with community partners such as Kempe Center, Nurse Family Partnership, County Departments of Human Services and other local community resource agencies.

ACTION: House Bill 13-1117, Alignment of Early Childhood Programs, supports these prevention strategies. The legislation is sponsored by Rep. Millie Hamner and Sen. Mary Hodge.

- A statewide hotline providing one number to report child abuse or neglect across Colorado, and corresponding public awareness and prevention campaign.

ACTION: Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) will work with legislative and county partners to determine the scope and implementation of a hotline as well as possible statutory changes.

- Additional funding for counties that have previously overspent in their core services allocations. The increased funding will allow counties to provide more resources to keep kids safely in their own homes.

ACTION: Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) will work with legislative and county partners on a proposed budget item.

- Standardized use of RED (Review, Evaluate, Direct) Teams across the state to ensure consistent screening practices and that each referral is properly assessed and assigned.

ACTION: CDHS will provide the necessary training and coaching to increase the number of counties utilizing RED Teams. CDHS will also work with smaller counties to develop a system by which RED Teams can be shared across county lines and/or via technology.

Work Force Development

- Establish new training for mandatory reporters. Currently, mandatory reporter training is primarily provided through the mandatory reporters' place of business.

ACTION: CDHS proposes utilizing the Child Welfare Training Academy and modern technology to create opportunities for specialized classroom and web-based training. Sen. Rollie Heath and Rep. Jonathan Singer have introduced legislation to include coaches as child protection mandatory reporters – Senate Bill 13-012, Child Abuse Reporting Youth Sports Organizations. In addition, CDHS is working with the General Assembly to introduce legislation to include EMTs and Paramedics as mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect.

- Establish competencies and training for child abuse screening.

ACTION: Expand the Child Welfare Training Academy curriculum to include new course offerings for county call takers and call screeners and their supervisors.

- Develop a mobile work force through the use of the latest technology. Right now, most caseworkers must enter information on a desktop in the office.

ACTION: CDHS wants to issue smart technology - tablets and phones - to caseworkers to help increase efficiency and effectiveness.

Funding

- In October, CDHS received a Federal Title IV-E Waiver with \$8 million annually from the Administration of Children and Families. The waiver allows the State to implement strategies over five years that are designed to keep children safely in their own homes whenever possible, alleviating the need for out-of-home or foster care.

ACTION: Implementation of the Title IV-E Waiver requires legislative change. CDHS and its county partners are working with the Joint Budget Committee to pass the needed legislation.

Transparency and Public Engagement

- Develop a public web site displaying statewide and county-specific data.

ACTION: CDHS will work to design and launch a new website that will include county-specific data.

- Refine the child fatality reporting statute to allow for the release of the child's name, date of birth and date of death.

ACTION: CDHS is working with its Legislative partners to introduce legislation for the required statutory changes.