



## **Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy 2.0**

### **Focus on Prevention**

Gov. John Hickenlooper's Child Welfare Plan "Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy 2.0" places an emphasis on prevention services to support families even before they become part of the child welfare system.

When child abuse or neglect reports are made to county agencies, some cases are opened for assessment and services while others are screened out because there is insufficient evidence of child abuse or neglect. Even as a case is appropriately screened out, children can remain at risk. While some communities have services for at-risk families and children, services statewide are limited.

Prevention services are necessary to support families with basic issues such as unemployment or poverty, which can place the family at risk for abuse and neglect.

Data shows incidents in neglect are growing especially in the birth to five years of age group of children. Of children who have died due to maltreatment, more than 80 percent were under the age of five, and more than 50 percent were under two years of age or younger.

CDHS plans to provide additional services that can help families address a broad range of socio-economic, educational, cultural and health factors that impact their stability and safety.

### *SafeCare*

SafeCare is an in-home prevention service for parents to assist them with the challenges of parenting and inter-family relationships. Services offered include child behavior management, planned activities training, home safety training, and child health care skills, all designed to stabilize families and prevent child maltreatment.

All SafeCare services and offerings are voluntary and meant to assist families that are not yet part of the child welfare system.

Program resources include home visits, family coaches and access to other services that may be of need to a family, i.e., food assistance, work assistance, child care assistance, etc.

SafeCare is used in other communities across the country, and had demonstrated strong success in eliminating child maltreatment.

SafeCare will be made available to Colorado communities through the partnership and expertise of the Kempe Center.

### *Nurse Family Partnership*

Nurse-Family Partnership introduces vulnerable first-time parents to caring maternal and child health nurses. The program allows nurses to deliver the support first-time moms need to have a healthy pregnancy, become knowledgeable and responsible parents, and provide their babies with the best possible start in life. Currently, Nurse Family Partnership reaches about 2,500 first-time moms-to-be across the state.

CDHS proposes a bridge between Nurse Family Partnership nurses and county caseworkers to help ensure that first-time moms-to-be have access to county-provided assistance programs.

Under the direction of Dr. David Olds, this new enhancement of Nurse Family Partnership will help nurse and caseworker colleagues work in tandem, when needed, to improve the safety and well-being of both mom and baby.

### *A Community Response Program*

CHDS proposes a community response program that will draw on public, private and community supports to keep kids safe. This proposal is a promising practice for preventing child maltreatment and strengthening family functioning by increasing a family's protective capacities.

A community response program will serve families that have been reported to a county child protective agency for alleged child abuse or neglect but are either screened out or closed after initial assessment. Participation in the program will be voluntary, and the program will work to reach out to families earlier, when they are facing stress, in an effort to prevent child abuse and neglect.