

Boulder County

Differential Response: November 2013 – present

Boulder County Housing & Human Services Mission:

We are dedicated to supporting and sustaining healthy communities that strengthen individuals and families while promoting human dignity and hope for the future.

Background: Boulder County initiated planning for the development and implementation of a DRS in child protective services beginning in January of 2010 when we sent our administrative team, our child protection supervisors, and our lead workers to three days of training with Sonja Parker for training in Collaborative Assessment and Planning in Child Protection using the “Signs of Safety” approach with Larimer and Jefferson Counties. This was an initial endeavor, one of many, that was fully initiated and funded by Boulder County in our consistent pursuit of practice enhancements toward family engagement and Differential Response (DR). In April 2013 Boulder County was notified that the county was selected to proceed with the necessary planning, training, consultation and operational efforts to achieve readiness for full implementation of a DRS. The Boulder County Board of County Commissioners has been in full support of the department’s efforts in this regard since Differential Response was introduced in Colorado, and is anxious for the County to initiate the final element, FAR. On October 31, 2013 we received approval from CDHS Executive Director Reggie Bicha to begin full implementation of the practice model as the first Colorado Expansion County.

County Orientation & Workforce Structure: Boulder County Housing & Human Services is a workforce of just over 400 staff that is structured to meet the diverse needs of the county in both social service and housing areas of need. Because of this uniquely blended department we are well poised for front loaded services to address the most basic concrete needs of families and at risk adults. It is the philosophy of Boulder County to intervene early and well in the least intrusive way with families and individuals to prevent deeper system involvements and to promote sustainable self-sufficiency, safety for all individuals, and independence. Boulder County is fortunate to have a strong community based infrastructure that supports a robust social safety net and a deeply rooted commitment across our population to targeted prevention and intervention that invests in our most vulnerable citizens. Differential Response is a natural fit for our agency and community, and is managed through our Family and Children Services Division.

Boulder County Family and Children Services Division
Safety is our number one priority.

Parents have the primary responsibility for keeping their children safe, but when they cannot we intervene on behalf of the child.

Families are our partners.

Their views, values, and cultural traditions are recognized; they are treated with dignity and respect and are included in all decisions that affect them and their children.

Our philosophy has at its core a focus on early intervention and prevention.

We strive to strengthen families and communities to provide safe and stable environments; by connecting families with assistance they need sooner rather than later, we are helping them stabilize themselves and avoid deeper crisis.

Children have a voice in the decisions that affect them.

Children in our care are connected with the resources necessary for their health, education, well-being, and successful transition to adulthood.

Partnering for Safety.

We have invested in a rigorous training model for our staff to organize their practice for working with families with specific tools and strategies geared toward safety and honest, transparent engagement.

We believe these values support strong families and healthy children, and build strong communities. Our data, over time and since the implementation of DR, demonstrate our strength in Colorado practice and positive outcomes for the safety, well-being, and permanency of the children we serve.

Boulder Safety and Permanency Outcome Comparison

	<u>FY14</u>
Absence of Abuse or Neglect Recurrence	95.6%
Percentage First Placement with Relatives	30.10%
Remain Home	86.9%
Absence of Re Entry into OOH Care	72.7%
Placements Per 100 Assessed	1.4%

