

Colorado Child Welfare Plan

“Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy”

The Colorado Department of Human Services has a new strategic plan for improving the safety and well-being of children and families across the state. This plan includes the practices and objectives that the Department will engage in over the next three years.



Fully implement a common practice approach for Colorado

- Ensure that every child in Colorado is safe and healthy, as that is paramount to everything we do every day.
- Implement one practice approach and philosophy for the entire state to ensure the collaboration of best practices in caring for kids.
- **Expand the Differential Response** model – which allows workers to use more than one method of response to reports of child abuse and neglect, and allows them to better engage family and community members – to additional counties throughout the state.
- **Develop new pathways for adolescents with behavioral health needs.**

Manage our performance

- Use the **County Scorecard** at the local level to drive practice improvement for children and families.
- Implement a performance management strategy – **C-Stat** – that collects and analyzes a variety of real-time data to ensure best practices are identified and shared across the state, thereby ensuring high quality, outcomes-based services for children and families.

Develop our workforce

- A well trained work force is essential to ensuring the safety of children and families.
- Take the **Training Academy** to the next level with an updated, current curriculum that utilizes technology to deliver new research and development statewide.
- Expand the Training Academy to continue to develop our work force, including senior work staff, supervisors, leaders and foster parents.

Reform our funding

- Utilize available resources more efficiently to ensure that we are delivering the right services to the right people in the most cost effective manner possible, as no new funding is foreseeable in the immediate future.
- **Align funding sources with outcomes** for the safety, well-being and permanency of children and families in Colorado.

Engage the Public and our Partners

- We believe the public has the right to know how we are doing our jobs. In addition, we need to communicate outcomes so everyone will know how we are keeping children and families safe and healthy. This includes, sometime in the near future, placing C-Stat information and outcomes online for the public to view.
- Begin work to **draft legislation** that would allow CDHS to publicly share information – good and bad – regarding child welfare investigations.
- **Establish a new governance council** on child welfare to oversee and recommend policy and practice efforts across our system. The council will include county commissioners, foster parents, providers, advocates and families served by the child welfare system. It will be chaired by Executive Director Reggie Bicha.