

Child and Family Services Review Newsletter

A Regular Publication from the Division of Child Welfare



Safety



Permanency



Well-being



August 6, 2007
Volume 1, Issue 3



Save the Date!



Several Regions have already scheduled their CFSR Kickoffs!

The Kickoff meetings for Region 1 were held on July 23, 24, and 25th.

The Kickoff for Region 4 has been rescheduled for Wednesday, August 29th.

The Kickoff for Region 5 has been scheduled for September 14th.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is my role in the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Process?

A. This newsletter will address the role of the County Directors and Judicial Officers in the CFSR Process. Future issues will address the role of other stakeholders, such as: Caseworkers, CW Supervisors, Guardians ad litem, Respondent Parents' Counsel. The CFSR requires a collaborative process that focuses on identifying shared goals and activities and establishing a purpose, framework, and a plan for improving child welfare services. Most importantly, this collaborative process should result in changes that promote improved outcomes for children and families. County Directors' and Judicial Officers' roles include but are not limited to:

- Act as the liaison between the local/county groups and the Child Welfare Regional Lead
- Assist in Statewide Assessment Process
- Assist the local/county groups in the development of membership
- Assist in the identification of specific issues that promote or impede compliance
- Assist in development of policy and practice changes related to 2008 CFSR
- Assist in identification of training needs
- Assist in the integration of initiatives supporting families and children
- Develop the Program Improvement Plan
- Serve as a communication conduit to county staff or judicial staff and local communities providing services

Q. Why are there so many CFSR meetings?

A. Before the CFSR Onsite Review there will be at least 5 meetings in each of the 6 regions, between now and the end of November to complete the statewide assessment. There could be more than 5 meetings in a particular region if the region splits into local areas to complete the work.

- The first meeting (3-5 hours) is considered the educational meeting and will also address how the region wishes to

complete its work.

- The second meeting will begin the work of the statewide assessment with an examination of safety outcomes. This meeting is expected to last approximately 4 hours.
- The third meeting will focus on the permanency outcomes and is anticipated to take an entire day
- The fourth meeting will address child and family well-being and will be a full day
- The fifth meeting will address the 7 systemic factors and will take a day

Q. What is the difference between a Regional and a Local Group?

A. Regional groups are made up of Colorado counties, judicial districts, and youth corrections regions, identified to work together for the purposes of the CFSR process. Information about the CFSR process will be exchanged at Regional meetings. Recommended membership for the regional groups includes County staff, judicial, families, youth, and CDHS staff (DCW, ARD, DYC, DCC, ADAD, DMH). Public health, advocacy groups, schools, community groups and providers are also encouraged to attend. Local groups are a subset of the region, such as specific counties. Local and Regional groups will be asked to:

- Help with the development of the statewide assessment
- Identify barriers to reaching CFSR outcomes
- Assess policy and practice changes needed to address barriers
- Serve as a communication conduit to agencies and individuals providing services
- Integrate initiatives supporting families and children
- Develop a Program Improvement Plan
- Identify training and technical assistance needs

CFSR Kickoff
May 23, 2007

CW Conference
June 6-8, 2007

CFSR Meeting
June 8, 2007

Regional Kickoffs
July - November,
2007

Receive State
Data Profile
November, 2007

Statewide
Assessment
April, 2008

State Reviewer
Training
May 27, 2008

Child and Family
Services Review
June 23-26, 2008

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Q. How do we prepare for the Regional Meeting?

Initially you will hear from your Child Welfare Regional Lead to schedule a date and time for the first Kickoff meeting. The Regional Lead will request that you invite all of your stakeholders and staff. Your stakeholders are very important, and should include individuals and agencies in your community that will support and assist Colorado in achieving our outcomes and improving services to children and families.

Q. What is the Statewide Assessment?

A. The Statewide Assessment is a tool for states to use in examining their capacity and performance in improving outcomes for children and families engaged in child welfare services. It is designed to enable states to gather and document information that is critical to analyzing the capacity and performance. The Statewide Assessment is used to:

- Guide site selection by the Children's bureau and the Colorado Department of Human Services for the onsite review
- Provide an overview of the state child welfare agency's organization, capacity, and performance for the Onsite Review Team
- Facilitate identification of issues that need additional clarification before or during the onsite review
- Serve as a key source of information for rating the CFSR system factors
- Provide context for the outcome ratings
- Enable the state and their stakeholders to identify early in the CFSR process the areas potentially needing improvement and to begin developing their Program Improvement Plan (PIP) approach
- Educate stakeholders about state strengths and needs, and enlist their support in developing and making program improvements
- Inform stakeholders and the public about the improvements/progress the state has made since the previous Statewide Assessment
- Openly share with stakeholders and the public, the areas that the state child welfare agency has identified as continuing to need improvement ■

What is a Stakeholder?

The CFSR is a collaborative process. In order to accurately assess our strengths and areas needing improvement and to achieve our goal promoting improved outcomes for children and families, it is critical that we include our stakeholders. Stakeholders include, but are not limited to the following:

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|---|----------------------------------|
| • Parents | • Youth |
| • Foster Parents | • School Personnel |
| • Faith-based partners | • County Attorneys |
| • County Commissioners | • CASA representatives |
| • Mental Health Centers and BHO providers | • ADAD and MSO Providers |
| • County Directors | • Caseworkers |
| • Supervisors | • Tribal Representatives |
| • Division of Youth Corrections Regional Managers | • Judges |
| • GALs | • Respondent Counsel |
| • Family and Child Advocates | • CPAs and Residential Providers |
| • Physicians | • Home Health Nurses |
| • Child Find Representatives | • Police and Sheriffs |
| • Advocacy Groups | |

In collaboration with County Departments of Human Services and other community partners, stakeholders will help improve services to children and families by:

- ✓ Identifying programs and processes that are working and helpful
- ✓ Identifying areas that create barriers to serving children and families
- ✓ Identifying policies and practices needed
- ✓ Identifying resources needed
- ✓ Identifying technical assistance and training needs
- ✓ Serving as a resource to communities to better understand services provided
- ✓ Understanding how communities might better incorporate their services into the delivery of child welfare services ■

Youth-Young Adult Leadership Team (YLT)

YLTs are composed of youth-young adults known as "consultants" who, with adult mentors, help improve the child welfare system statewide. There are six Regional YLTs that meet to consult on system and youth service improvements. The consultants use several tools such as the CFSR to describe what and how services will be provided. The Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) is used to show what we are doing well and need to improve. Many other tools and surveys are also used to track improvements that help figure out what are the best practice paths to take to improve safety, permanency, and well-being for youth, families and communities. For more information on the YLTs, please contact Ricardo Matthias, State YLT Co-Coordinator at 303-866-3151 or by e-mail at:

Ricardo.Matthias@state.co.us ■

CFSR Logo Contest

If you are between the ages of 10 to 21 years of age, and part of child welfare, you are invited to submit your ideas for our new logo. The logo needs to reflect our vision and passion for: "All children and youth to have a safe home and family". It needs to reflect our values of: "Safe Homes, Permanent Connections, and Well-being". It also needs to reflect the diversity of all children, youth, and families of the Tribes and counties of Colorado. Submit your entries by 9/4/2007 to Bob Coulson, 303-866-4706: bob.coulson@state.co.us ■