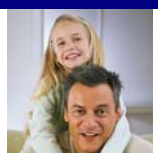
Child and Family Services Review Newsletter

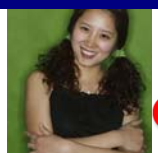
A Regular Publication from the Division of Child Welfare

Safety



Permanency

Well-being



September 25, 2007
Volume 1, Issue 4

"The urgency you feel to make changes is just the extent that change will be made. Do not sit this one out. Do not play it safe. Understand the world and change it where it needs to be changed . . . Make our society better. Make a world worthy of the children that your generation will bear." Carl Sagan

CFSR Regional Kickoff Schedule

Region 3: September 26 and 27, 2007

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Message from the CDHS Executive Director

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all county departments and stakeholders for participating in the CFSR Kickoff Meetings.

As we move forward with the CFSR process we will be promoting a collaborative process that will focus on shared goals and activities that help to improve outcomes for Colorado's children and families. The principles guiding the collaborative process include:

- The safety, permanency and well being of children are a shared responsibility.
- Child Welfare agencies don't serve children and families in isolation.
- Family centered and community based practices are integral for improving outcomes for children and families.

As part of the required CFSR process, we will now focus on completing a thorough self-assessment of our child serving system.

Through this process we will have the opportunity to take a candid look at what we are doing well and also identify areas that need improvement. I encourage you to bring all stakeholders to the table for your individual and regional discussions. This is an opportunity to share with each other the outstanding work that you are doing with children and their families in your communities. Only by involving all stakeholders will we have a complete and true assessment of our system that will also provide us with critical information in formulating a plan for continuous improvement.

I appreciate your hard work and dedication to Colorado children in this very important process.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Beye,
Executive Director, CDHS ■

CFSR Kickoff May 23, 2007	CW Conference June 6-8, 2007	CFSR Meeting June 8, 2007	Regional Kickoffs July - October, 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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Frequently Asked Questions

Thanks to Pamela Neu, Colorado Department of Human Services for contributing this information.

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

A. Since Caseworkers and Supervisors have contact with children, youth and families every day, they impact the outcomes of the CFSR in many ways.

Supervisors:

- Understanding the CFSR
- Familiarity with clients' and families' unique individual needs
- Up-to-date and organized case files
- Document, Document, Document. If its not in Trails, it didn't happen
- Ensure caseworkers meet timelines and follow rules and regulations (90-day, state reviews, federal guidelines, court reviews)

Caseworkers:

- Ensure consistent, regular contact with children, youth and families
- Involve birth parents and other meaningful parties in the entire case planning process
- Document, document, document. If it's not in Trails, it didn't happen
- Provide for regular visitation between parents and kids
- Ask what providers require to meet the child's needs
- Develop specific and individualized Family Services Plans with measurable and achievable outcomes
- Minimize placement moves by addressing provider/children's needs
- Identify the overall goal of the case, while addressing safety, permanency and well-being ■

Top Ten Reasons for Community Involvement

Thanks to Barbara Drake, El Paso County Director for sharing this information at the Region 4 Kickoff.

10. It makes us look good in the review if the whole community is involved.
9. With full community involvement we can complete a comprehensive self-assessment within the required deadlines – we need all of you in order to get this work done.
8. A stand-alone document from a county department is not reflective of the whole community's efforts in child welfare.
7. The state will be working within judicial districts – which we already do and love to do.
6. Full community involvement brings a diversity of opinions about the community and how we are doing – varying perspectives that make for a meaningful review.
5. We need an honest look at our community – where we live, work and play – what's good about it – what could be improved for children and families.
4. Your input is needed – no one can tell your story like you.
3. We want to pass the CFSR with flying colors – we would not be honest to say there might not be money involved if we do not pass.
2. We will only improve our child welfare services and system with full community involvement.
1. Children and families thrive in a community that is fully committed to their well-being. ■

Important Next Steps

- **Regional Assessments must be completed and returned to the State by November 15, 2007**
- **Colorado will Receive the State Data Profile from the ACF in November 2007**

Regional CFSR Meetings

We have enjoyed five of the six scheduled Regional Kickoff Meetings. The meetings have been very exciting. Through the kickoff meetings, information has been provided about the CFSR process to over 300 professionals and the information is spreading rapidly across the State. It is important to remember to include foster parents and youth in this process.

We have one more kickoff left and then the work will begin on the Statewide Assessment. It is crucial to receive input from stakeholders including: parents, youth, tribes, judicial, foster care and adoptive parent associations, education, health department, Medicaid, mental health agencies, child welfare advocacy organizations, child welfare initiatives, foster and adoptive parents, law enforcement, attorney(s), probation, fatherhood initiatives, business leaders, residential providers, pastors, church leaders, substance abuse providers.

The Regional Assessments must be completed and returned to the State by November 15, 2007. ■

2007 Regional CFSR Meetings Schedule

Region 1:

The **Regional Kickoff Meeting** was held July 23 – 26, 2007. The meeting regarding **Safety and Permanency** for Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel (7th, 9th, 14th and 21st Judicial Districts) was held on:

When: Monday September 24, 2007, 8:30 to 4:30
Tuesday September 25, 2007, 8:30 to Noon
Where: Double Tree Grand Junction
743 Horizon Drive,
Grand Junction, CO 81506

The meeting regarding **Safety and Permanency** for Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan (6th and 2nd Judicial District) is scheduled for:

When: Wednesday September 26, 2007, 8:30 to 4:30
Thursday September 27, 2007, 8:30 to Noon
Where: Double Tree Durango
501 Camino Del Rio
Durango, CO 81301 Ph#: 1-970-259-6580

Region 2:

The **Regional Kickoff Meeting** for Kit Carson, Logan, Morgan, Sedgwick, Phillips, Washington and Yuma Counties (13th Judicial District) was held on:

When: Friday September 7, 2007, 8:30 to 12:30
Where: Northeastern Junior College
100 College Ave.
Sterling, Colorado 80751

The **Regional Kickoff Meeting** for Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties (8th, 19th, and 20th Judicial District) was held on:

When: Wednesday September 12, 2007, 8:30 to Noon
Where: Weld County Southern Office
4209 County Rd. 24 ½
Longmont, Colorado

Region 3:

Regional Kickoff Meeting for Baca, Bent Cheyenne, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers (15th and 16th Judicial Districts) is scheduled for:

When: Wednesday September 26, 1 to 4 pm
Where: Otero County Court House
13 W. 3rd, Ground Floor, Conference Room
La Junta, Colorado

Region 3:

Regional Kickoff Meeting for Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Huerfano, Las Animas, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache Counties (3rd and 12th Judicial Districts) is scheduled for:

When: Thursday September 27, 9 to Noon
Where: Alamosa County Administration Building
8900 Independence Way
Alamosa, Colorado

Region 4:

The **Regional Kickoff Meeting** for Chaffee, Custer, El Paso, Fremont, Park, Pueblo, and Teller counties (4th, 10th, and 11th Judicial Districts) was held on:

When: Wednesday, August 29, 2007, 9 to noon
Where: Community Partners Building
2330 Robinson
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Region 5:

The **Regional Kickoff Meeting** for Clear Creek, Denver, Eagle, Gilpin, Jefferson, Lake, and Summit counties (1st, 2nd, and 5th Judicial Districts) was held on:

When: Friday, September 14, 2007, 10:00-3:00
Where: Jefferson County Fairgrounds
15200 West 6th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401

Region 6:

The **Regional Kickoff Meeting** for Adams, Broomfield, Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln counties (17th and 18th Judicial Districts) was held on:

When: Friday, September 21, 2007, 1:00 to 4:30
Where: The Franciscan Event Center
6553 S. Revere Parkway
Englewood, Colorado 80111 ■