



The Division of Child Welfare Services with the assistance of the Mountain and Plains Child Welfare Implementation Center (MPCWIC) is proud to introduce the Colorado Practice Initiative (CPI). Colorado is committed to achieving positive outcomes for children and their families involved with the child welfare system. The Colorado Practice Initiative is an effort to develop a clear, consistent and cohesive approach to practice and service delivery. This framework will be designed and developed collaboratively with child welfare staff and stakeholders across the state. To support Colorado on this journey, the Mountains and Plains Child Welfare Implementation Center is supporting a three-year implementation project, which will explore and define a Colorado practice model and implement specific practice strategies that are directed towards improved outcomes for children and families.

**Goal:** The goal of the Colorado Practice Initiative (CPI) is to improve child and family outcomes at every level of the system by collaboratively creating and implementing a shared practice model. This model will identify, align, and reflect core practice principles, skills and intervention strategies at the state and in the counties. All levels of staff will be involved and the Initiative is inclusive of clients, stakeholders, providers, tribes and other child and family serving systems.

**Rationale:** Colorado can do better for children and families. Multiple studies of the Colorado child welfare system indicate a need for practice and system changes to increase safety of children thereby improving outcomes for Colorado children and families. Recommendations identifying improvements in the system, structure, processes, measurable outcomes, and resources are found in the 2010 “Colorado Division of Child Welfare: Synthesis of Recommendations for System Improvement.” The review and analysis of these recommendations reflect the following broad priorities: a cohesive, clear and consistent approach to practice and service delivery; data-driven decisions and practice, with transparent, measurable outcomes; a collective understanding and ownership of goals, objectives and outcomes; careful consideration and dedication of resources; and the building and maintaining of strong, mutually supportive relationships. These priorities provide the focus and foundation for this practice initiative.

**Approach:** The Colorado Practice Initiative is underway, led by the Colorado Department of Human Services. The Division of Child Welfare initiated the project with a three-year commitment of the intensive technical assistance and support of the Mountains and Plains Child Welfare Implementation Center (through a cooperative agreement with the Children’s Bureau). Colorado’s child welfare practice model will align vision and mission, principles and values, standards of practice, and the strategies, methods and tools necessary to integrate and implement all of these elements.

The CPI is convening multiple design teams, representing state, county, provider, consumer and stakeholder perspectives to guide this effort. Current design teams include:

- Project Executive Oversight Committee
- Project Operations and Implementation Team
- Research and Evaluation Team
- Communications Team
- Practice Model Team

**Significant events through September 30, 2010:**

- Development of initial practice model framework
- Gathering of broad-based, statewide input into the practice model, resulting in a finalized model
- Development of a plan for a phased-in implementation of the practice model
- Selection of a representative group of counties for phase one installation
- Development and design of implementation evaluation and support.

For additional information, or to learn more about the Colorado Practice Initiative visit  
[www.cdhs.state.co.us/childwelfare/cpi.htm](http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/childwelfare/cpi.htm)