

Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Child Welfare Evidence-Based Recidivism Reduction Initiatives and Cost Effective Expenditures {(CRS 16-11.3-102(5))}

Friday, August 8, 2008

Presenter:
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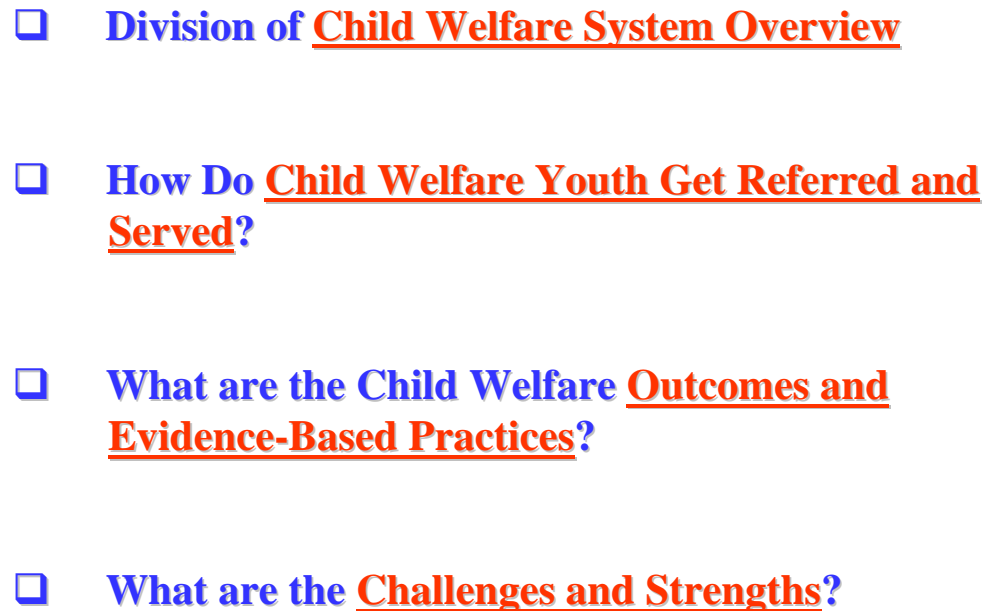
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Overview: An Integrated Perspective

Youth and Young Adults

Cross-Systems Professional

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- ❑ Division of Child Welfare System Overview
 - ❑ How Do Child Welfare Youth Get Referred and Served?
 - ❑ What are the Child Welfare Outcomes and Evidence-Based Practices?
 - ❑ What are the Challenges and Strengths?

Division of Child Welfare-Description and Vision

Program Description:

Child Welfare is a division located in the Office of Children, Youth and Family Services. It consists of **a group of services** intended to protect children from harm and to assist families in caring for and protecting their children.

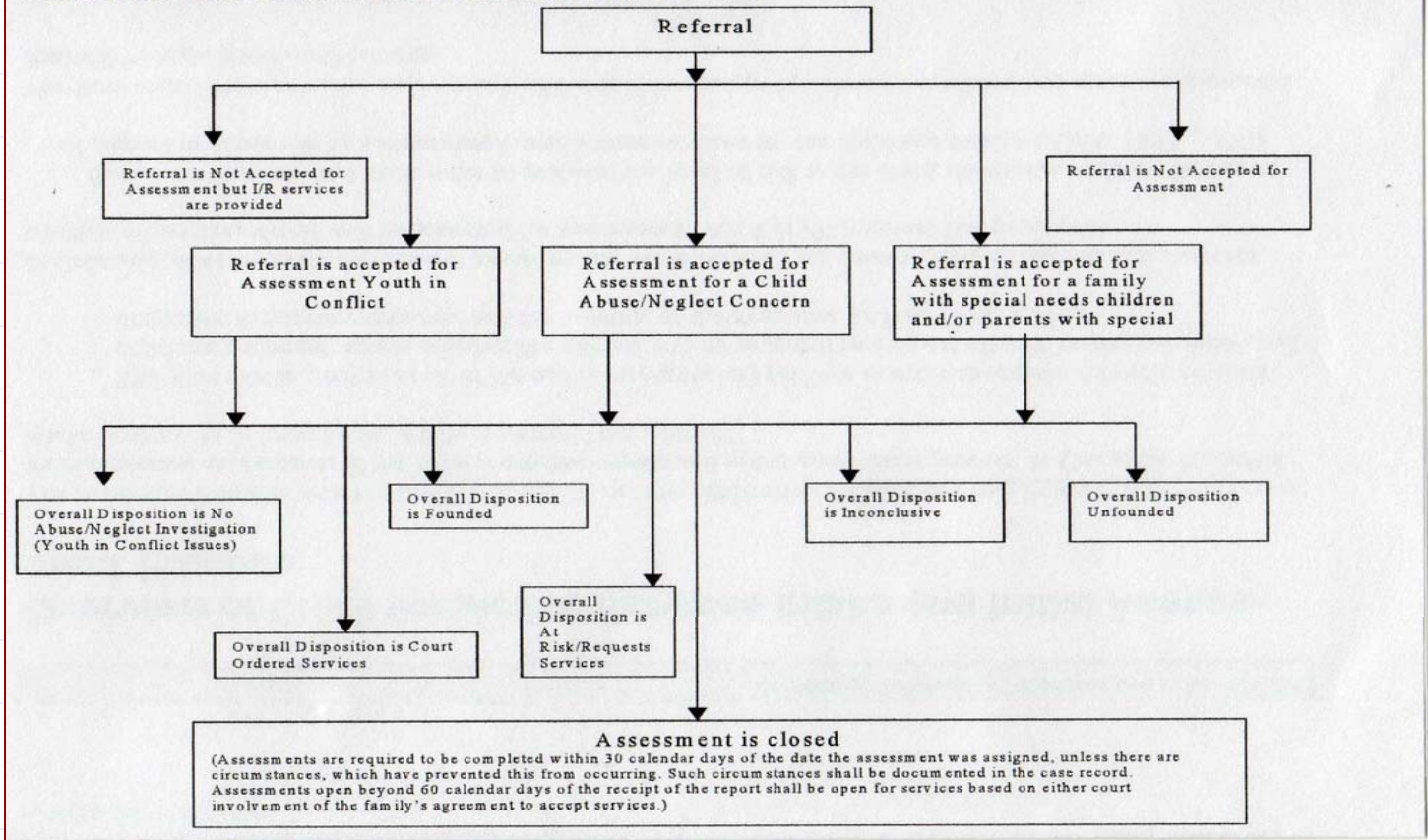
Taken together, these programs comprise the main thrust of Colorado's effort **to meet the needs of children who must be placed or are at risk of placement outside of their homes for reasons of protection or community safety**. The delivery of Child Welfare Services in Colorado is primarily a state-supervised, county administered system.

Division of Child Welfare Vision:

Colorado's Children live in a safe, healthy, and stable environment.

How Do Child Welfare Youth Get Referred and Served?

Chart 1: Colorado's Referral and Assessment Decision Points



Youth-In-Conflict Service Populations



Youth-In-Conflict Service Populations

- Children (Youth) Beyond-Control-of-Parent/s (BCOP) or Guardian/s
- Children (Youth) whose behavior is such that there is likelihood...

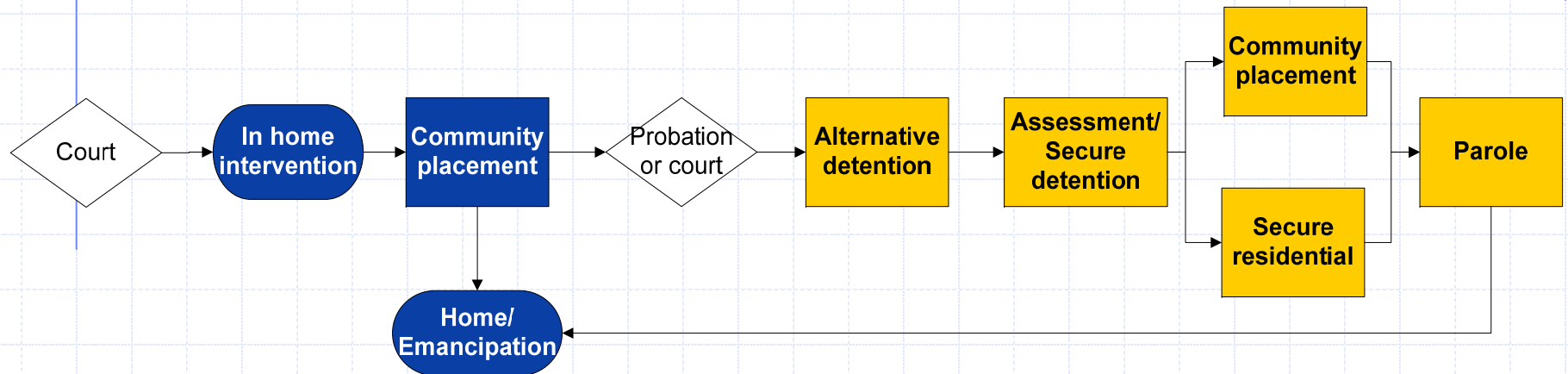
They may cause harm to themselves,

Or (may cause harm) to others,

Or who have committed acts that could cause them to be adjudicated a delinquent child (youth) by the court.

Source: Volume 7.201.2

How Might Child Welfare Youth Move In Cross-Systems of Care?



Child Welfare

Youth Corrections

Outcomes and Evidence-Based Practices Strategies

**"It Takes a Village to
Raise a Child...**

**and a Community
To Raise a Youth,
To Be a Young Adult."**



Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan (PIP)

SAFETY Outcomes:

- ✓ 1st and Foremost, Protected From Abuse and Neglect
- ✓ Safely Maintained In Their Homes, Whenever Possible

PERMANENCY Outcomes:

- ✓ Permanency and Stability in Living Situations
- ✓ Continuity of Family Relationships and Connections (Tribe) are Preserved (ICWA; Active Efforts, Placement Preference, etc)

WELL-BEING Outcomes:

- ✓ Families Have An Enhanced Capacity to Provide for Their Children-Youth
- ✓ Receive Appropriate Services to Meet Educational Needs
- ✓ Receive Adequate Services to Meet Physical and Mental Health Needs



Cross-Systems Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Delinquency (Safety Outcome)

Link Between Dependency and Delinquency

FACT

**“Children who have been
abused and/or neglected
have a 59% greater
likelihood of arrest as juveniles,
than non-abused/neglected
children.”**

Source: Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)



Cross-Systems Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness (Permanency Outcome)

Lessons Learned: Since 2001, 820+

By Age 18 (Emancipation)...

Average:

7 Child Welfare

+5 Youth Corrections

11 Cross-Systems Experiences

= "Being Homeless Your Whole Life"

Surveys:

- ✓ 63% "Are Motivated To Succeed"
- ✓ 63% "Have Hope for the Future"
- ✓ 59% "Are Not Satisfied with Current Life/Work Situation"
- ✓ 82% "Succeed With Rent Vouchers"



Cross-Systems Youth and Young Adults Experiencing In-Stability (Well-Being Outcome)

Link Between Education and Success

"Foster Care Youth and Young Adults "

70% Want to Go To College

54% Finish High School

2% Finish a Degree

Source: Foster Club, www.fosterclub.org



How Are Cross-Systems Issues Like Truancy (Well-Being Outcome) Addressed?

Cross-Systems Truancy Practices A Snapshot-In-Time Survey June, 2006

"It Depends"

**"Offender studies show...
that raising offenders' education
level lowers recidivism rates."**

Source: Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations
"Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Enhancing Training and
Education Programs for Special Populations", July 2007



How Do Cross-Systems Youth Get Served? Youth and Young Adult “Voice and Choice”

“Why do youth have to do bad things to get the services they need?”

“I could have gotten knocked up or locked up and then received services.”

**La Terra, Age 23
Colorado Foster Care Alumni**

Governor’s Child Welfare Action Committee
Colorado Youth-Young Leadership Team
Planning Session July 31, 2008



The YES! Youth Empowerment Systems Academy Center of Excellence: State Youth Leadership Team

Statewide Youth and Young Adult Barriers and Needs Survey 2008

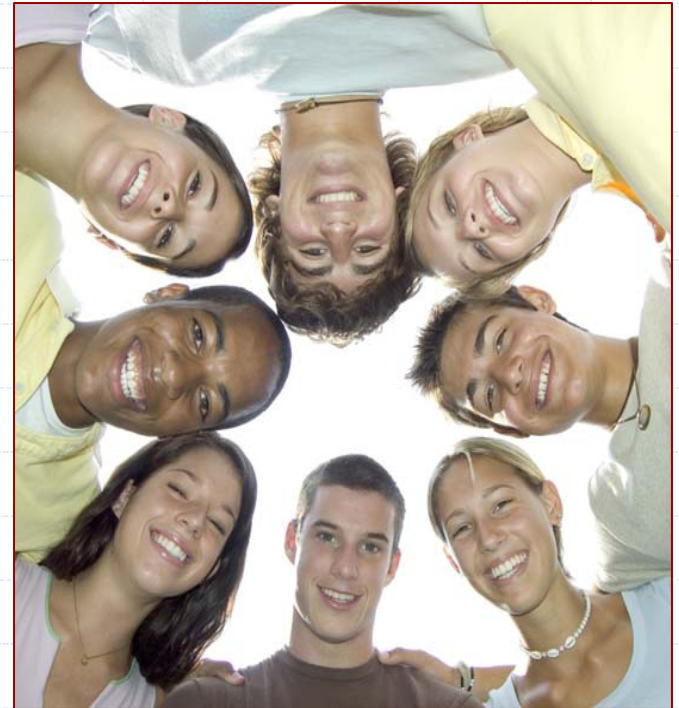
Out of 64 Diverse Colorado Youth,
Their Top Concerns

Hearing Youth "Voice and Choice" (61%)

Knowing Available Youth Resources (17%)

Receiving Transportation Supports (15%)

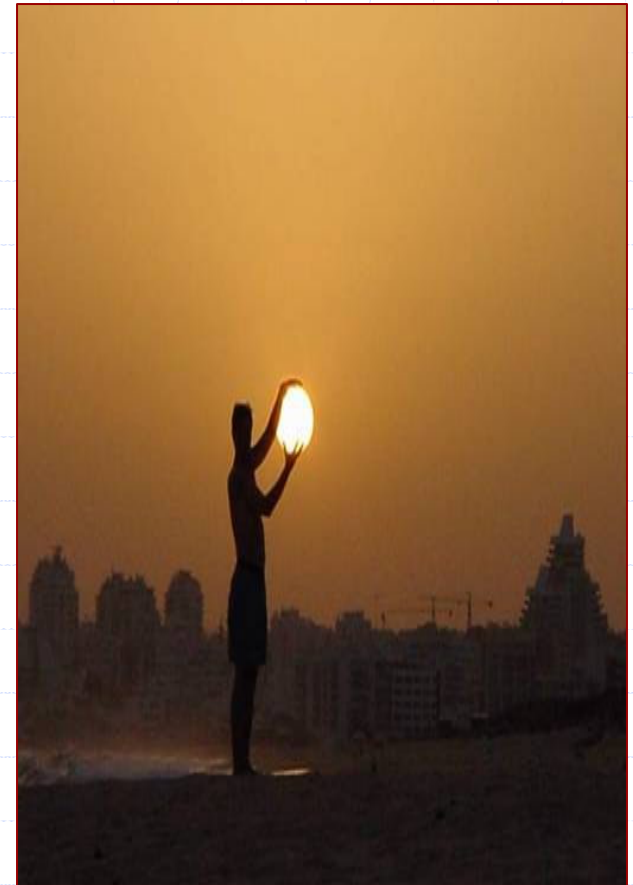
Receiving Transition Funding Supports (7%)



Cross-Systems Challenges (Barriers)

Where Might We “Best Invest” Our Energy?

- ✓ **Framing:** Use a “CommUnity Investment” versus Agency Framework Approach To Define Issues
- ✓ **Definitions:** Use Inclusive Gate Keeping Eligibility Words To Provide Needed Services, Very Early On
- ✓ **Policy:** Use Services Integration Language and Support Funded Mandates in All Legislation
- ✓ **Programming:** Use Templates Requiring Integrated Services Collaboration in All Requests for Proposals (RFPs; Contracts) and Request for Applications (RFAs; Grants)
- ✓ **Practices:** Use Restorative Practices and Processes with Victims, Offenders, and Communities; To Repair Harm/s Done, Reduce Risk/s of Re-Occurrence, and Re-Connect with the Community to Make Victims Whole and Reduce Re-Entries and/or Time In Our Systems of Care



What Are Colorado Strengths We Can Build On? The Youth and Young Adults We Serve, TOGETHER..."Our Kids"



- Survival Skills
- Adaptability
- Coping Skills
- Flexibility
- Basic Social Skills
- Resiliency
- "Street Smarts"
- Undeterred Hope

"The Million Dollar Question"

Question: How much money do you think a foster care youth could earn by working and saving in a savings account before reaching emancipation age at 18?

\$?

Helping...Their Hope!

