

CDHS Legislative Proposals 2018

*Proposals subject to change, withdrawal, and/or additions.



COLORADO
Department of Human Services

Attach G

Discipline CDHS Employees Who Have Harmed Vulnerable Persons

- CDHS has faced significant difficulties ensuring employees who have a finding of abuse and/or neglect against a vulnerable resident in a CDHS 24/7 facility are kept separated from these clients by no longer being employed by CDHS.
- Allows the proper discipline of CDHS employees who have a finding of abuse and/or neglect. If these employees abuse CDHS residents, they should not be working in state facilities.

Ensuring Protections for Older Youth in the Child Welfare/DYS Systems

- Modifies the statutory definition of institutional abuse to allow and require county departments to assess allegations of institutional abuse and/or neglect of youth, ages 18 to 20, in out of home placement or commitment to the Division of Youth Services.
- Also modifies the criminal code to have law enforcement involvement when appropriate.

Supporting Foster Parents and Youth

- Ensures that foster parents are identified as a vital members of the care continuum.
- Clarifies statute to outline acceptable practices for sharing the right youth information with foster parents.
- Authorizes county departments the option to provide voluntary support services to families in need.
- Prioritizes foster care youth for child care assistance.

Foster Care Performance-Aligned Funding

- Changes cost-share of certified foster care to 90% state-10% county.
- Changes cost-share of congregate care to 70% state-30% county.
- All other services remain at 80% state-20% county.
- Creates a new cash fund for underspending to re-invest in counties to increase permanency.
- Congregate care is 4x more expensive than foster care, but does not produce the best child outcomes.

Strengthening the Colorado Children's Trust Fund

- Clarifies and focuses the mission of the Colorado Children's Trust Fund (CCTF) to prevent child fatalities throughout the state. Updates membership on the CCTF Board, as well as their powers and duties to make it stronger and more influential.
- Establishes a 501(c)(3) arm of the CCTF to secure additional resources from the private and philanthropic sectors to support child abuse and neglect prevention programming at both the local and state levels.

ReHire Colorado Reauthorization

- Extends the ReHire Colorado jobs program that targets Veterans, seniors, and non-custodial parents.
- Small businesses also benefit from ReHire, allowing them to hire workers they normally would not be able to afford. ReHire has connected with over 230 small businesses.
- ReHire is a thoroughly evaluated program that has shown a tremendous return on investment.