



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Memorandum

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TO: Colorado's Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee

FROM: Amanda King, Senior Research Analyst, 303-866-4332

SUBJECT: Existing Child Welfare Task Forces and other Entities

Summary

Legislative Council Staff identified 45 entities established in state law prior to the 2023 legislative session related to the child welfare system. Legislative Council Staff included entities that may only be tangentially related to the child welfare system, including entities primarily focused on the juvenile justice system and on early childhood supports and education. The entities serve a variety of purposes and may be responsible for oversight of child welfare functions, studying various aspects of the system and making recommendations for improvements, and developing resources for families related to education and prevention. The entities include boards, commissions, committees, councils, panels, task forces, teams, and working groups.

Table 1 provides:

- a list of the identified entities;
- a brief description of each entity, including noting any entity that is set to repeal in 2023;
- the primary department responsible for each entity;
- the state law that creates each entity; and
- links to reports required by state law, if available.

Additionally, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has created several internal boards and commissions that advise the department on programs, policies, and priorities. Information about the internal boards and commissions can be accessed through the following website: <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/our-partners/boards-and-commissions/internal-boards-and-commissions>.

**Table 1
Entities Established in State Law Addressing the Child Welfare System**

Name	Description	Primary Department(s)	C.R.S. Section	Related Reports
Adoption Intermediary Commission	Address training standards and other matters related to confidential intermediaries and licensed child placement agencies.	Human Services	19-5-303	
Bed Allocation Working Group	Annually allocate the number of juvenile detention beds to each catchment area in the state based on the number of juvenile beds.	Human Services and Judicial	19-2.5-1405	
Child Protection Ombudsman Advisory Board	Address matters related to the Child Protection Ombudsman, including ensuring compliance with state and federal laws relating to the child welfare system.	Judicial	19-3.3-102	Office Of Colorado's Child Protection Ombudsman Annual Report
Child protection teams	Review investigatory reports of child abuse cases, including the diagnostic, prognostic, and treatment services being offered to the family in connection with a report of child abuse.	County departments of human or social services	19-3-308	
Child Welfare Allocations Committee	Address matters related to data used in the funding model to determine the appropriate level of funding required to fully meet all state and federal requirements concerning the comprehensive delivery of child welfare services.	Human Services	26-5-103.5	2019 and 2020 Child Welfare Allocations Funding Model Report¹
Child Welfare Allocations Funding Model Evaluation Group	Evaluate the funding model to determine the appropriate level of funding required to fully meet all state and federal requirements concerning the comprehensive delivery of child welfare services.	Human Services	26-5-103.7	2021 and 2022 Child Welfare Allocations Funding Model Report
				2023 Interim Report by the Child Welfare Appeals Workgroup
Child Welfare Appeals Workgroup	Consider necessary changes to practices, rules, and state law to ensure that appeals in cases concerning relinquishment, adoption, and dependency and neglect are resolved within six months after being filed.	Judicial	19-1-109	2021 Report to the Colorado Supreme Court on Recommendations to Reduce Delay and Improve the Quality of Appellate Litigation and Court Handling of Appeals in Child Welfare Cases
Citizen review panels	Review and make recommendations regarding grievances concerning the conduct of county department personnel in performing their duties related to dependency and neglect cases.	Boards of county commissioners	19-3-211	
Collaborative Management Program Teams	Coordinate and manage the provision of services to children and families who would benefit from integrated multi-agency services through local-level interagency oversight groups and individualized service and support teams.	Human Services	24-1.9-102	

¹The statutory requirement for the Child Welfare Allocations Funding Model Report was moved from Section 26-5-103.5, C.R.S. to Section 26-5-103.7, C.R.S., in 2021.

**Table 1 (Cont.)
Entities Established in State Law Addressing the Child Welfare System**

Name	Description	Primary Department(s)	C.R.S. Section	Related Reports
Collaborative Management Program Statewide Steering Committee ²	Support the development and sustainability of a uniform system of collaboration at the state and county levels, to effectively and efficiently collaborate and share resources, and to manage and integrate the treatment and services provided to children and families who benefit from multi-agency services.	Human Services	19-3-304.4	
Collection of Fees for the Residential Care of Children or Youth in Out-of-home Placement who are not Adjudicated Dependent or Neglected Working Group	Provide feedback and recommendations regarding the collection of fees for the residential care of children or youth in out-of-home placement who are not adjudicated dependent or neglected.	Human Services	19-1-115	Working Group Recommendations on Fees for Residential Care of Children in Out-Of-Home Placement not Adjudicated Dependent or Neglected Report
Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Board	Address topics related to child abuse prevention.	Early Childhood	26.5-3-204	Report due by November 1, 2026.
Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ)	Among other things, study whether existing criminal statutes address abuse of a child or youth in a facility and issue corresponding recommendations concerning any identified gaps in law that may need to be addressed. Facility includes a residential child care facility, specialized group facility, foster care home, family child care home, noncertified kinship care providers, or a facility or community placement for a juvenile committed to the custody of the DHS. The CCJJ repeals July 1, 2023.	Public Safety	16-11.3-102	CCJJ Annual Report The June 2019 CCJJ Annual Report included recommendations from the Abuse of Youth in Custody Subcommittee.
Colorado State Child Fatality Prevention Review Team	Review child fatality cases, if a local or regional child fatality review team has not conducted a review of the case, if the child fatality occurred in Colorado, and if the fatality was the result of certain causes.	Public Health and Environment	25-20.5-406	Colorado Child Fatality Prevention System Annual Legislative Report
Community advisory boards	Include a community involvement component in the development of reintegration plans for youth in the Division of Youth Services, which may include the creation of community advisory boards.	Human Services	19-2.5-1410	
County boards and district boards of human services	Address the public assistance and welfare duties, responsibilities, and activities of county or district departments of human or social services.	Boards of county commissioners	26-1-116	

²Section 19-3-304.4, C.R.S., refers to the Collaborative Management Program Statewide Steering Committee, but the steering committee is not created in state law. The following DHS webpage provides information about the steering committee: <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/collaborative-management-program-statewide-steering-committee>.

**Table 1 (Cont.)
Entities Established in State Law Addressing the Child Welfare System**

Name	Description	Primary Department(s)	C.R.S. Section	Related Reports
Delivery of Child Welfare Services Task Force	Address matters related to the delivery of child welfare services to ensure alignment with the federal "Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018." This task force repeals June 30, 2023.	Human Services	26-5-105.8	Quarterly Report For The Delivery Of Child Welfare Services Task Force
Department of Human Services Child Fatality Review Team	Review cases in which a suspicious incident of egregious abuse or neglect against a child, near fatality, or child fatality due to abuse or neglect occurred when the child or family had previous involvement with child welfare services within three years prior to the egregious incident. Make recommendations for changes to laws, rules, and policies that will support the safe and healthy development of Colorado's children.	Human Services	26-1-139	Child Maltreatment Fatality Review Reports
Division of Youth Services community boards	Address community involvement in DHS Division of Youth Services' facilities within a region.	Human Services	19-2.5-1403	
Domestic Abuse Task Force	Review recommendations from the Domestic Violence Program and child welfare workgroup to define domestic abuse and recognize the impact domestic abuse may have on the emotional and developmental well-being of a child. ³	Human Services	19-3-304.3	Best Practices And Training For Recognition Of Domestic Abuse As Child Abuse Report
Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission	Improve policies related to early childhood and school readiness, including the areas of health, mental health, parental involvement, family support, child care, and early learning. This commission repeals July 1, 2023.	Legislature	26.5-1-403	2022 Early Childhood and School Readiness Interim Committee Final Report
Early Childhood Leadership Commission	Ensure and advance a comprehensive service delivery system for pregnant women and children from birth to eight years of age using data to improve decision-making, alignment, and coordination among federally funded and state-funded services and programs for pregnant women and young children and their families.	Early Childhood	26.5-1-302	
Family preservation commissions	Hold periodic meetings and evaluate the family preservation program within a county or city and county and identify any recommended changes to the program.	Boards of county commissioners	26-5.5-106	
Family resource center advisory councils	Establish rules concerning the operation of a family resource center. Family resource centers establish programs that focus on the needs of family members, such as family preservation programs; support family stability and unity; and coordinate efforts to connect families to services and supports that encourage the development of early childhood and other family support systems.	Early Childhood	26.5-3-104	
Foster Youth Successful Transition to Adulthood Grant Program Advisory Board	Review the Foster Youth Successful Transition to Adulthood Grant Program.	Human Services	19-7-314	

³The child welfare workgroup is not created in state law.

**Table 1 (Cont.)
Entities Established in State Law Addressing the Child Welfare System**

Name	Description	Primary Department(s)	C.R.S. Section	Related Reports
High-quality Parenting Time Steering Committee	Serve as the executive committee of the High-quality Parenting Time Task Force. This steering committee repeals July 1, 2023.	Human Services	19-3-903	A report was due October 1, 2022, but has not been received by Legislative Council Staff. A request for the report has been submitted to DHS.
High-quality Parenting Time Task Force	Study a number of topics related to parenting time and recommend best practices to ensure that families across the state have consistent access to high-quality parenting time where children are in out-of-home care. This task force repeals July 1, 2023.	Human Services	19-3-903	
Juvenile community review boards	Review community placements of juveniles committed to the custody of the DHS.	Boards of county commissioners	19-2.5-1402	
Juvenile Intensive Supervision Advisory Committee	Assist the Judicial Department in developing assessment criteria for placement in the juvenile intensive supervision program.	Judicial	19-2.5-1409	
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council	Review grant applications for collaborative projects to reduce violence, crime, and delinquency among youth.	Public Safety	24-33.5-526	Report due by June 30, 2023.
Juvenile Parole Board	Grant, deny, defer, suspend, revoke, or specify or modify the conditions of any parole for any juvenile committed to the DHS in a manner that is in the best interests of the juvenile and the public.	Human Services	19-2.5-1201	
Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems	Oversee the Task Force Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems, recommend legislative changes, and develop and propose areas of study for the task force.	Legislature	18-1.9-103	2022 Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems Report
Local health and human services advisory boards	Provide an ongoing process or forum for continued coordination and collaboration at the local level concerning the delivery of human services.	Boards of county commissioners	24-1.7-102	
Local juvenile services planning committees	Develop a plan for the allocation of resources for local juvenile services within a judicial district for the fiscal year.	Judicial	19-2.5-302	

**Table 1 (Cont.)
Entities Established in State Law Addressing the Child Welfare System**

Name	Description	Primary Department(s)	C.R.S. Section	Related Reports
Local or regional child fatality prevention review teams	Conduct individual, case-specific reviews of fatalities of children from birth through 17 years of age occurring in the jurisdiction of the local or regional review team for the purpose of identifying prevention recommendations related, at a minimum, to the certain causes of child fatality.	County or district public health agencies	25-20.5-404	
Mandatory Reporter Task Force	Analyze the effectiveness of mandatory reporting and its relationship with systemic issues, and analyze best practices and recommend changes to training requirements and reporting procedures.	Judicial	19-3-304.2	First-year status report due January 1, 2024.
Placement alternative commissions	Annually prepare a plan for the provision of alternative services to prevent continued involvement with the county child welfare system. The goals of the plan should be to prevent imminent out-of-home placement of children and encourage reunification of children with their families.	Boards of county commissioners	19-1-116	
Placement of Juvenile Offenders Criteria Working Group ⁴	Establish a set of criteria for both detention and commitment for the purposes of determining which juvenile offenders are appropriate for placement in the physical or legal custody of DHS.	Human Services and Judicial	19-2.5-1404	Juvenile Offender Secure Detention Report
Pre-adolescent Services Task Force	Examine gaps in services for juveniles who are 10 years of age or older but under 13 years of age, determine if any gaps would be created if the minimum age of prosecution of juveniles is increased from age 10 to age 13, and make recommendations for addressing the gaps in services identified. This task force repeals July 1, 2023.	Human Services	19-3-304.4	Pre-Adolescent Services Task Force Examinations And Recommendations Report
State Board of Human Services	Adopt rules related to a number of topics related to human services, including but not limited to establishing guidelines for the placement of children from locations outside of Colorado into this state for foster care or adoption and governing the operations of the Statewide Adoption Resource Registry.	Human Services	26-1-107	
State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision	Advise and exercise oversight and advocacy concerning that state's participation in Interstate Commission for Juveniles activities and other duties as determined by that commission, including but not limited to, development of policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within the state.	Human Services	24-60-702	
Task Force Concerning the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems	Among other things, study best and promising practices to promote positive social and emotional outcomes for individuals with behavioral health disorders who are involved or at risk of involvement or continued involvement in the criminal or juvenile justice systems, with the focus on better understanding and addressing necessary resources and actions for implementation to prevent initial or continued involvement with the criminal or juvenile justice systems.	Multi-departmental, including Human Services and Judicial	18-1.9-104	

⁴This working group is referred to by DHS as the Colorado Youth Detention Continuum Advisory Board.

**Table 1 (Cont.)
Entities Established in State Law Addressing the Child Welfare System**

Name	Description	Primary Department(s)	C.R.S. Section	Related Reports
Timothy Montoya Task Force to Prevent Children from Running Away from Out-of-home Placement	Analyze the root causes of why children run away from out-of-home placement; develop a consistent, prompt, and effective response to recover missing children; and address the safety and well-being of a child upon the child's return to out-of-home placement.	Judicial	19-3.3-111	First-year status report due October 1, 2023.
Tony Grampsas Youth Services Board	Choose entities to receive grants through the Tony Grampsas Youth Services Program. The program provides state funding for community-based programs to provide prevention and intervention services in an effort to reduce incidents of youth crime and violence, the occurrence and reoccurrence of child abuse and neglect, and the need for state intervention in child abuse and neglect prevention and education, among other prevention efforts.	Human Services	26-6.8-103	
Youth Restraint and Seclusion Working Group	Advise the Division of Youth Services in DHS concerning policies, procedures, and best practices related to restraint and seclusion and alternatives to restraint and seclusion.	Human Services	26-20-110	

Source: Legislative Council Staff.