Delivery of Child Welfare Services Task Force (DCWSTF)

Presentation to the Colorado Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee
July 18, 2023

DCWSTF Overview

- Convened monthly from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2023 (C.R.S. 26-5-100.2-117)
- Membership at least ten members representing state child welfare, county child welfare, the court system, Medicaid, physical and behavioral health, prevention, and placement providers.
- Charge to address 8 child welfare system priorities including efforts related to the implementation
 of the Family First prevention Services Act, the creation of a child welfare funding model,
 maximizing the use of federal funds and Medicaid to serve children, growing prevention services
 and increasing collaboration across the various systems serving children in child welfare.
- Recommendations related to each charge have been presented to ongoing committees to continue the work.
- The final report for the Task Force is being prepared and can be shared before the August meeting.

Medicaid Recommendations

- 1. HCPF, CDHS, OIT work together to take ownership of the resolution of data system issues that were preventing Colorado residents from access their Medicaid benefits
- 2. CDHS, HCPF and County Departments work together to identify why Core dollars are being used to fund Medicaid eligible services
- 3. CDHS create, review and revise best practice guidelines and provide training and resources to County child welfare divisions to ensure timely Medicaid enrollment for children in the custody of the child welfare agency
- 4. HCPF engage in stakeholder engagement to identify and implement services included in the federal Title IV-E prevention services clearinghouse and ensure contracts with behavioral health providers allow for and are held accountable to fidelity of services offered

Medicaid Recommendations (cont.)

- 5. CDHS, BHA, and HCPF explore opportunities to model a 2GEN approach to service delivery, allowing for behavioral health services to continue with the family, should the child become ineligible for Medicaid services due to hospitalization or incarceration
- 6. HCPF ensure that all RAE's provide a consistently structured behavioral health service directory and map to contain detailed information about enrolled providers, treatment/certification/population specialties that is searchable and satisfactory to stakeholders.
- 7-8. HCPF collect data on the timeliness of access and frequency of services, and medical necessity denials, to name a few, provided by the RAE's, which is available to the public for transparency and accountability
- 8. County Child Welfare Departments track data on children who enter the CW system not due to abuse or neglect, but rather to access behavioral health services, and work with HCPF, BHA and CDHS to analyze the data to work to improve access to services

Medicaid Recommendations (cont.)

- 10. HCPF convene and lead a group of stakeholders, including system users, to further research the current access and utilization of Medicaid waivers, the related barriers, and recommend improvements
- 11. HCPF, or the BHA in coordination with HCPF and others, such as a Medicaid consumer, create, manage, and analyze data from, a standardized streamlined and easy to access grievance process, with one phone number/email for all stakeholders, including county departments to express concerns related to Medicaid entitlement
- 12. The service navigation infrastructure identified by the BHA include HCPF/Medicaid services to ensure the appropriate level of engagement is offered to meet the individual needs of children and families, particularly over the phone, and that the RAE's are appropriately incentivized to provide a high level of customer service
- 13. HCPF to research and complete stakeholder engagement to explore modifying the RAE structure to designate one RAE to serve Colorado's children has value
- 14. Counties, CDHS, HCPF support many of the recommendations developed by the Behavioral Health Task Force Children's Subcommittee.

Contact Information

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Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund Board

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Purpose of Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund and Board

- → Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund, defined in statute (C.R.S. §§ 26.5-3-201 26.5-3-208), was established in 1989
- → Purpose of the Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund is to promote primary and secondary prevention programs that are designed to prevent child trauma and maltreatment before it occurs, lessen the occurrence of child abuse and neglect, and mitigate the impacts of adverse childhood experiences to reduce the need for state intervention through child welfare actions and economic support for families experiencing poverty.
- → CO CAP Trust Fund Board comprised of 19 board members representing 7 state agencies, 4 county representatives, 3 family representatives, 3 subject matter experts, and 2 legislators.
- → CO CAP Trust Fund Board has 10 powers and duties in the statute which go beyond advising on the disbursement of the funds in the Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund

Priorities for SFY 2023-2024

- 1) Provide Funding for:
 - Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training across Colorado
 - Development of a Child Maltreatment Prevention Investment Strategy with policy and practice recommendations, including the sub-account for Family First Prevention Services claiming reimbursement
- 2) Align the Prevention Services Array recommendations provided by the Delivery of Child Welfare Services Task Force and the recommendations from the Home Visiting Investment Plan with the Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund Investment Strategy

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