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Governor

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Children and Youth Information Sharing Collaborative

Colorado Department of Education Colorado Department of Human Services
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Colorado Department of Public Safety Colorado Judicial Department
Governor's Office of Information Technology

Developing strategies for sharing information to optimize services available and delivered to children, youth and families in Colorado

Background

The Colorado Children and Youth Information Sharing is a collaborative effort initiated by the Colorado Collaborative Management Program State Steering Committee and the Colorado Prevention Leadership Council in 2007 in partnership with the Center for Network Development, the developers of the national *Guidelines for Juvenile Information Sharing* (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2006). For a PDF copy of the *Guidelines*, go to <http://www.juvenileis.org/pdf/JuvInfoSharing.pdf>.

In early 2008, the executive directors of five state departments, the commissioner of education and the state court administrator, signed an MOU that included a commitment to work collaboratively on implementing the *Guidelines for Juvenile Information Sharing* and the formation of the Colorado Children and Youth Information Sharing Collaborative.

In late 2008, the Colorado Children and Youth Information Sharing (CCYIS) initiative became linked with the larger data sharing and data protocol initiative of the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT). Currently, the CCYIS is one of three major information sharing initiatives linked with the Governor's OIT and will be in regular communication with the newly established Government Data Advisory Board.

The CCYIS Collaborative was inaugurated in April 2009 with representatives of five state departments, county representatives, a family advocacy organization, and youth representatives. The Collaborative meets monthly and has completed the first 8 of 48 guidelines as of September 2009.

The Center for Network Development (CND), a non-profit organization in the State of Colorado, received a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) that provides funding for two pilot sites for juvenile information sharing testing, validation and implementation. The CCYIS will represent the state level site and the Jefferson County Juvenile Assessment Center will represent the local level site. Both sites, with the assistance of CND will implement and validate the Guidelines for Juvenile Information Sharing and the new Juvenile Justice XML Data Model (JJXDM). Technical Assistance funds will be available from the OJJDP grant that will assist the Governor's OIT with training in the National Information

Exchange Model (NIEM). NIEM will serve as the main architecture for cross-departmental data information sharing.

Currently, the CCYIS Collaborative is working on an inventory of children and youth data systems that includes templates from the Governor's Office of Information technology.

Purpose and Public Policy Needs at the State and Local Level: The main purpose of children and youth information sharing is to structure policy and procedures for efficient, appropriate and timely sharing of accurate information between children and youth serving agencies at the state and local levels to improve services and outcomes of children, youth and families involved in services:

- 1) by assisting local agencies in accessing timely and reliable information for conducting assessments and determining and coordinating appropriate services for children, youth and families;
- 2) by the appropriate and secure sharing of client level information among agencies serving children and youth;
- 3) by sharing data in the aggregate to inform decision making and policy development at the state and local level; and
- 4) by partnering with youth and families to develop effective information sharing practices that will positively impact their lives.

The anticipated outcomes include:

- data sharing agreements between State agencies that provide access to information for policy, program, service, and resource decisions;
- access to client level information on a "need to know basis"¹ through secure methods by government and nongovernment agencies to better coordinate and determine effective services;
- improved access to information by youth and families regarding information that is collected about them; and
- improved health, safety and general well-being of Colorado's children, youth and families.

¹ Definition of "Need to Know": A requirement for disclosure and receipt of private information. The information needs to be directly related to the legitimate stated purpose of the disclosure and the agency need for the information in order to perform its duties and responsibilities (OJJDP, Guidelines for Juvenile Information Sharing, p. 33).