



**Date:** April 13, 2016

**To:** County Department of Human/Social Services Directors

**From:** Lorendia Schmidt, CAPTA Administrator

**Title:** Expert Case Consultation Services and Contact Information

**Regarding:** Consultation and Technical Assistance Regarding Complex Referrals, Assessments and Cases

**Key Words:** consultation, child welfare, referral, assessment, case

**Number:** [IM-CW-2016-0021](#)

### **Information Memorandum**

**Information being conveyed:** In order to assist county departments of human/social services with decision-making related to complex or challenging child welfare assessments and/or cases, the Division of Child Welfare offers multiple support services at *no cost* to county departments, including:

- Expert Case Consultation:
  - Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Staffing (CANES)
  - State and Regional Team (START)
- Pediatric Medicine Consultation
  - Kempe Child Protection Team
- Consultation, technical assistance, and practice support:
  - Office of Children, Youth & Families
  - Division of Child Welfare
  - Domestic Violence Program
- Secondary Trauma Support:
  - David Conrad, LCSW
  - Denver Children's Advocacy Center

## **EXPERT CASE CONSULTATION**

### **CANES Program**

#### **Illuminate (Formerly Prevent Child Abuse Colorado and Colorado Drug Endangered Children)**

*Contact Information:*

*Anne Auld, 303-413-3460, <http://www.illuminatecolorado.org/CANES>,  
[aauld@illuminatecolorado.org](mailto:aauld@illuminatecolorado.org)*

The Child Abuse and Neglect Expert Staffing (CANES) program utilizes a multidisciplinary team of experts to engage in critical thinking surrounding the dynamics and concerns at play in complex and challenging child abuse and/or neglect cases. The CANES may be utilized at no cost to county departments to determine next steps in a complex, challenging, and/or difficult referral, assessment, or case. The CANES program will facilitate the consultations using the Consultation and Information Sharing Framework to organize and analyze available information. By utilizing a diverse team of experts, CANES can ensure that questions are being asked that inspire solution-focused critical thinking and enhance creativity in managing child welfare cases.

### **START Program**

#### **Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect**

*Contact Information:*

*Jennifer Koch-Zapfel, 303-864-5185, [Jennifer.Koch-Zapfel@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:Jennifer.Koch-Zapfel@childrenscolorado.org)  
<http://www.kempecenter.org/> and follow the “Education and Training” tab*

The START Program (STate And Regional Team) provides counties, law enforcement agencies, and case workers with expert consultation regarding egregious cases of child abuse/neglect. Some examples may include, but are not limited to:

- County requesting a second opinion regarding an egregious child injury or rare medical condition;
- County seeking guidance with interpreting a complex psychiatric evaluation;
- County seeking guidance on developing a treatment plan for a child with severe mental health issues; and/or,
- County and/or law enforcement agency seeking guidance regarding civil and criminal proceedings.

## PEDIATRIC MEDICINE CONSULTATION

### **Pediatric Consultations – University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Kempe Child Protection Team**

Contact Information: Dr. Antonia Chiesa and Dr. Andrew Sirotnak, 720-777-0050,

[Antonia.Chiesa@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:Antonia.Chiesa@childrenscolorado.org) or [Andrew.Sirotnak@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:Andrew.Sirotnak@childrenscolorado.org)

Dr. Chiesa and Dr. Sirotnak are available to county departments, as well as to medical providers, law enforcement investigators, and courts, to consult on medical-related assessments and cases. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Reviewing medical documents and existing diagnoses;
- Testifying in court as a pediatric expert on child abuse;
- Training to medical or community providers regarding child abuse/neglect and non-accidental trauma;
- Conducting on-site fatality or egregious incident case review; and/or,
- Providing case consultation when there are concerns related to the withholding of medically-indicated treatments.

## **CONSULTATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND PRACTICE SUPPORT**

Staff members at the Office of Children, Youth & Families (OCYF) are available for case consultation, technical assistance, and practice support to workers throughout Colorado.

*Organization Chart:*

<https://sites.google.com/a/state.co.us/humanservices/home/strategic-plan>

If at any time a county or community partner is unable to locate a form or document, has a question, or needs assistance, please do not hesitate to complete the [Contact Us](#) form on the Division website to receive assistance.

### **Office of Children, Youth and Families**

- **Adoption/Foster care recruitment and retention** - CDHS Recruitment and Retention Specialists can provide individualized marketing support and training customized to meet a county’s specific needs. Areas of expertise include: social media strategies, targeted recruitment for foster and/or adoptive parents, generalized foster care recruitment, rural recruitment techniques and skills, child-specific recruitment techniques, and foster parent retention strategies. Contact Information: [www.COFosterandAdopt.org](http://www.COFosterandAdopt.org), [www.COHeartGallery.org](http://www.COHeartGallery.org), or the Adoption/Foster Care Recruitment and Retention Specialist, 303-866-5930, [Beverly.Gmerek@state.co.us](mailto:Beverly.Gmerek@state.co.us).

- **Judicial** – OCYF has created a new position to help with focus on crossover youth, congregate care, Program Area 4, and continued collaboration with judicial and other stakeholders to provide cross-divisional support and to enhance communications and coordination across all of the Divisions within OCYF. This position can be a resource to counties to help answer questions and guidance around judicial engagement, including the Court Improvement Program, DANSR systems reform grant, Best Practice Court teams. This position can be contacted to provide contact information for other programs in the Office, including the Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) and the Juvenile Parole Board. Contact Information: OCYF Judicial and Legislative Administrator, Gretchen Russo, 303-866-3197, [Gretchen.Russo@state.co.us](mailto:Gretchen.Russo@state.co.us).
- **Medical practices** - Medical best practice and policy consultation available through the Medical Director by contacting the OCYF Health Professional. Contact Information: Health Professional IV, Sally McGovern, 303-866-5397, [Sally.McGovern@state.co.us](mailto:Sally.McGovern@state.co.us).

## Division of Child Welfare

- **Child Protection Services (CPS) Unit** – Technical assistance with process and practice related to: referral, assessment, safety/risk assessment, case/treatment planning, differential response, institutional abuse assessments, on-going casework, and visitation. Contact Information: CPS Unit Manager, Lucinda Wayland Connelly, 303-866-4054, [Lucinda.Connelly@state.co.us](mailto:Lucinda.Connelly@state.co.us).
- **Financial Unit** – Technical Assistance related to federal funding, technical assistance with regards to eligibility for expenditure of federal (e.g. IV-E) and state (e.g. child welfare block) funds. Contact Information: Financial Unit Manager, Mary Alice Mehaffey, 303-866-3326, [MaryAlice.Mehaffey@state.co.us](mailto:MaryAlice.Mehaffey@state.co.us).
- **Hotline System Unit** – Hotline support, Hotline County Connections Center, and other technical assistance and support related to the child abuse and neglect reporting hotline (1-844-CO-4-KIDS). Contact Information: Hotline System Unit Manager, Jack Hilbert, 303-813-5801, [Jack.Hilbert@state.co.us](mailto:Jack.Hilbert@state.co.us).
- **IV-E Waiver** – Information related to the IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project, including kinship supports, trauma-informed care, Permanency Round Tables (PRTs), and family engagement. Contact Information: IV-E Waiver Administrator, Tyler Allen, 303-866-2154, [Tyler.Allen@state.co.us](mailto:Tyler.Allen@state.co.us).
- **Permanency Unit** – Technical assistance with process and practice related to general permanency issues, as well as, Collaborative Management Program (CMP), post-adoption support, congregate care reduction, Core services,

foster care, kinship care, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), ICAMA (Interstate Compact on Adoption Medical Assistance (ICAMA), Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and PRTs. Contact Information: Permanency Unit Manager, Jason Lester, 303-866-3197, [Jason.Lester@state.co.us](mailto:Jason.Lester@state.co.us).

- **Placement Services Unit** - Critical incidents, information on facilities (group homes, CPAs, homeless youth shelters, RCCFs, etc.), licensing applications, licensing complaints, licensed 24-hour provide monitoring, Medicaid issues, and Stage II licensing investigations. Contact Information: Placement Services Unit Manager, Dennis Desparrios, 303-866-7925, [Dennis.Desparrios@state.co.us](mailto:Dennis.Desparrios@state.co.us).
- **Youth Services Unit** - Adolescent and youth transition/case planning, Chafee program, Children's Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP) waiver, human trafficking, independent living arrangements, National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), positive youth development, unaccompanied refugee minors (URM), youth in conflict, and youth violence prevention. Contact Information: Youth Services Unit, Kristen Melton, 303-866-5139, [Kristen.Melton@state.co.us](mailto:Kristen.Melton@state.co.us).

### **Domestic Violence Program**

Domestic Violence Program (DVP) staff will consult with counties and connect them to community-based domestic violence resources. Examples of support may include domestic violence and open child welfare involvement, how to engage with abusive parents and their effect on children, building safety for children and their non-abusive parents, and working collaboratively with community-based victim advocacy programs. Contact Information: DVP Director, Brooke Ely-Milen, 303-866-2855, [Brooke.Elymilen@state.co.us](mailto:Brooke.Elymilen@state.co.us).

## **SECONDARY TRAUMA SUPPORT**

**David Conrad, LCSW, 303-724-7634(w), 303-503-7192(c),**

[David.Conrad@ucdenver.edu](mailto:David.Conrad@ucdenver.edu)

David Conrad is a licensed clinical social worker at the University of Colorado Denver. Dr. Conrad is contracted by the State to be available to counties for secondary trauma support, including individual consultations, stress debriefings, secondary trauma trainings, and group workshops. Caseworkers are able to call directly or e-mail at any time to seek support. Caseworkers do NOT need to receive prior approval from his/her supervisor. In addition, Dr. Conrad is able to tailor workshops for teams or counties based on the needs of the audience. Some examples of Dr. Conrad's work include:

- Meeting with a team in a county after a child fatality to debrief the situation;
- Responding to a phone call from a worker and debriefing after the death of a family member on her caseload;
- Meeting with supervisors in a county once a month, for six months, to help develop skills to support teams; and,
- Offering a half-day introductory training to a county regarding secondary trauma and identifying techniques to decrease the effect of secondary trauma on the workers and supervisors.

**Maple Star Colorado**, 303-882-0392, [MReinbold@maplestar.net](mailto:MReinbold@maplestar.net)

Maple Star is contracted by the State to be available to counties for secondary trauma support, including individual and/or group consultations and stress debriefings. Caseworkers are able to call directly or e-mail Maple Star at any time to seek support. Caseworkers do NOT need to receive prior approval from his/her supervisor. Megan Reinbold is the first point of contact (see contact information) and she will gather basic information and then refer to one of their clinicians.

**Dr. Jerry Yager**, 303-996-8581(w), 720-261-6109(c), [Jerry@denvercac.org](mailto:Jerry@denvercac.org)

Dr. Jerry Yager works with the Denver Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC) and is contracted by the State to be available to counties for secondary trauma support, including individual and/or group consultations and stress debriefings. Caseworkers are able to call directly or e-mail Dr. Yager at any time to seek support. Caseworkers do NOT need to receive prior approval from his/her supervisor. If Dr. Yager is unavailable, then Dr. Gizane Indart, also with DCAC is also a point of contact: 303-996-8580 (w); 720-212-4389 (c), [Gizane@denvercac.org](mailto:Gizane@denvercac.org).

**Contact for questions regarding this Information Memorandum:**

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**Memo Website:** <https://sites.google.com/a/state.co.us/cdhs-memo-series/home>

