



INFORMATION MEMO

Title: Placement Stability Work Group Updates & Request for Pilot Counties		Office/division: OCYF Division of Child Welfare Division Director: Joe Homlar	
Memo number: IM-CW-2022-0038		Program area: PA 4,5, & 6	
Keywords: Placement Stability, Disruption, Pilot, Placement Provider, Children & Youth			
Issue date: October 10, 2022	Effective: October 10, 2022	Expires: October 09, 2023	

Intended recipients

This communication has been sent to all county human/social service directors and subscribers to the Office of Children, Youth and Families community partners email list who elect to receive notification when the Office issues a memo. Please forward pertinent information to staff members as you deem necessary.

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum from the Division of Child Welfare (DCW) is to share an update regarding the work completed in the Placement Stability Work Group (PSWG), offer initial recommendations to improve placement stability, request for county participation in a time-limited pilot to implement the recommendations, and provide an implementation plan for the pilot for prospective counties.

This communication also serves as a formal request for county departments interested in participating in a pilot to implement the recommendations made by the PSWG. This is a time-limited (9 month) pilot during which participating county departments will implement the recommendations from the PSWG into their practice. Information regarding next steps and meetings will also be provided.

Action

The PSWG representation consists of county staff, community placement and service providers, and the Office of the Child’s Representative (OCR). The group commenced in November 2021 and gathered once a month, except for December 2021, until July 2022. Throughout the eight meetings, PSWG reviewed the relevant [data](#) related to placement stability in Colorado, engaged in a [jamboard activity](#) to identify current barriers contributing to placement stability and potential strategies to address them, and participated in a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) resulting in a [process map](#) to pinpoint where to focus



efforts to improve placement stability. Please see the [background context document](#) for detailed information about the work of the PSWG.

Based on the work of the PSWG, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Development and implementation of the transition/stabilization visit as described in the background context document that's linked above.
- Implementation of the newly revised tools (located in the background context document and in the attachments).
- Development and implementation of a communication/action plan when there are risks of a placement disruption:
 - Incorporate into existing meetings such as Family Engagement Meetings (FEMs) or set up a different meeting;
 - Determine who needs to be included in these meetings/communications and how quickly the team needs to act; and
 - Develop an action plan detailing clear next steps to stabilize placement and prevent disruption.
- Development and implementation of a tool for visits with placement providers that assesses needs and reviews what is going well and current level of stability. This tool may look similar to the monthly caseworker contacts. Potential items to include in the template are:
 - A scale to assess where placement is according to stages of disruption;
 - A narrative section to discuss how placement is going; and
 - A follow-up section to include supports needed by caregiver and/or child/youth.
- Solicitation of various sized county departments to participate in a nine (9) month pilot to determine the efficacy of the recommendations.

Request for pilot counties:

As mentioned above, this communication serves as a formal request for county departments interested in participating in a pilot to implement the recommendations made by the PSWG. This is a time-limited (9 month) pilot during which participating county departments (ideally to include representation from large, medium, and small size counties) will implement the recommendations from the PSWG into their practice. Pilot sites will be expected to use the tools, keep proper documentation, and monitor outcomes. The state and pilot counties will use ROM and Trails reports to track and measure outcomes. There will be an initial meeting with all of the pilot sites followed by monthly check-ins to monitor progress, track strengths and challenges, and identify areas where modifications may be needed. Pilot counties and work group members will reconvene in 12 months.

County departments interested in being a pilot county may participate in one of two state and county partnership meetings to establish an implementation plan for roll out of the transition/stabilization meeting and newly revised tools. During this meeting specific county implementation, documentation and measurement of outcomes will also be discussed.

- Monday, October 17, 2022 from 2:00-3:30 pm- meet.google.com/ndn-xtsm-gnk or by phone +1 786-701-6970 PIN: 216 808 956#
- Friday, October 21, 2022 from 11:00am-12:30pm- meet.google.com/eft-fsey-buo or by phone +1 334-392-8676 PIN: 455 839 222#



Background

The federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Round 3 identified placement stability as a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) goal needing improvement. The National Standard for children/youth not experiencing a placement move is 83%. Colorado is at 70% according to a recent case review report (January 1, 2021- June 30, 2021). For children in foster care in Colorado, placement stability decreases (starting at age 3) as they age, and the most impacted are youth 13+. 11.984% of youth aged 12-14 and 45.092% of youth aged 15+ experienced placement moves in 2020.

Placement Stability impacts children and youth in a variety of ways such as [educational and relational stability and permanency](#). Instability leads to poor outcomes in these areas. Colorado is committed to developing an action plan to work toward increasing placement stability and improving outcomes for children and youth in Colorado.

Attachments

- [Placement Preparedness Process Map](#) (page 3)
- [Caregiver Needs Assessment](#) (page 3)
- [Caregiver Needs Assessment definitions](#) (page 3)
- [People Who May Be Involved in the Case](#) (page 4)

Supersedes

N/A

Contact

For more information about this memo, please contact:

Brittany Gardner, Youth Services Specialist, brittany.gardner@state.co.us

Jeannie Berzinskas, Kinship Care Program Administrator, jeannie.berzinskas@state.co.us

An information memo contains important information for counties that is strictly informational and timely. Information memos are active for one year; then they are archived and reissued if necessary. Access the CDHS Memo Series at cdhs.colorado.gov/our-partners/counties/cdhs-memo-series.

