

**NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES**

**Technical Assistance Site Report**

Prepared for Colorado Department of Human Services  
By Todd Holder, NRCCPS  
January 20, 2006

## Technical Assistance

The Colorado Department of Human Services requested resource center technical assistance for the following 1) to conceptualize and develop a strategy for engaging and educating local agency administrators and managers, court representatives and community stakeholders regarding the state-of-art of safety intervention and implication for safety intervention policy development, 2) build safety related competencies within the Administrative Review Division (QI) in order to effectively implement a qualitative review of safety practice and decision-making, 3) consultation related to the development of safety practice and decision-making standards for Ongoing CPS, and 4) complete necessary revision/ edits to state safety policy for inclusion into Volume 7.

This request for technical assistance represent a continuation of extensive work that occurred in 2005, related to examining and modifying Colorado's safety model and the development of safety intervention policy and practice guidelines. This request seeks to build upon earlier resource center- state office work by developing practice and decision-making standards for ongoing safety management and considering strategies for effectively implementing more of a systematic model for safety intervention.

## Site Visit

The technical assistance site visit occurred on January 20, 2006. Participating in the site visit meeting was Todd Holder, from NRCCPS, State Office Administrators and County Child Welfare Directors, Administrators and Supervisors.

The site visit involved facilitating a discussion regarding implications for revising Colorado's safety intervention policy. The meeting was scheduled to address concerns of County child welfare Directors regarding proposed changes to the safety policy. The meeting also sought to provide information related to the evolution of the state of the art of practice and decision-making since Colorado's safety model was implemented in 1999.

Specifically discussion during the meeting related to the following:

- Major development in safety intervention in the last several years;
- Current trends in States' refining safety intervention approaches;
- What information exists regarding "what works" when it comes to safety assessment, safety planning and management;
- The extent to which Colorado's safety model is consistent with the current state of the art for safety;
- Conclusions from Colorado's Safety Advisory Group regarding deficits to the status quo for safety practice and decision-making;
- Implications for safety policy and liability;
- Results for several statewide studies on safety (i.e. model design, policy, practice guidelines and implementation of safety model);
- Implications for the approach to safety and recurrence of maltreatment; and

- Development of safety intervention policy and implications for workload and workload management.

The meeting concluded with a preliminary consideration for the continued development of safety policy, specifically the need to include standards for practice and decision-making related to safety management during ongoing CPS. There was also discussion regarding strategies for implementing changes to the safety model/ policy, with an emphasis on enhancing safety intervention competency among supervisors.

## Next Steps

- The Safety Advisory Workgroup is scheduled to meet on February 28, 2006 to discuss next steps for policy development and model implementation. Specific planning will occur regarding the addition to the Safety Advisory Workgroup of ongoing CPS administrators and supervisors to conceptualize the approach for ongoing safety management.
- Prior to the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting a review will be completed on the latest draft of the safety policy with consideration given to comments provided from County Directors.