

Court Improvement Program (CIP) Vision and Goals

Background: The Court Improvement Program is responsible for monitoring and implementing the CIP Strategic Plan. The fundamental goal of the strategic plan is to improve the safety, permanency and well-being for children, youth and families, as well as providing due process. This is accomplished through ongoing and sustainable systems change across the Juvenile Court and Child Welfare System. Projects of the Court Improvement Program involve development of infrastructure at the state and local levels for the delivery of training and technical assistance to all stakeholders. At the local level, Best Practice Court teams work with the CIP to create and implement goals to improve the handling of dependency and neglect cases.

Best Practice Court Teams (BPCT): Best Practice Court Teams are multi-disciplinary teams created by lead dependency and neglect judges at the district court level. All twenty-two judicial districts, the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court, support BPC Teams and some districts have more than one team. Team goals vary depending upon local need, but it is the charge of each BPC Team to set goals that can realistically be implemented to effect system change. ***CIP is encouraging teams to select goals within the six goals of focus of the CIP strategic plan***

CIP's vision and goals for 2019-2021

CIP vision is to provide technical assistance and resources to BPCTs through implementation of the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan includes six primary areas of focus to appropriately allocate resources and technical assistance. The primary focus of the strategic plan includes implementing the Dependency and Neglect Systems Reform (DANSR) and Permanent Home Approach statewide as best business practices for Dependency and Neglect Cases; working with collaborative partners to ensure legal representation, training and education on Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA); Families First Prevention Services Act (FPSA); and implementation of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP). CIP analysts will work collaboratively with Best Practice Court Teams and multidisciplinary stakeholders to build relationships and implement goals and objectives. Technical assistance and problem solving through regular communication and site visits will occur.

The following goals will be the focus of CIP:

1. **DANSR and the 6 Principles:**

DANSR is a recommended best business practices, to achieve increased collective capacity of Colorado's dependency and neglect system to families affected by substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders. **2019 DANSR 6 Guiding Principles** < [Click Link](#)

DANSR Existing Teams (16): Denver, Jefferson, Arapahoe, Boulder, Huerfano, Clear Creek; Garfield; Pueblo; Fremont; Prowers-Cheyenne-Kiowa-Baca; Broomfield, Montezuma; El Paso.

DANSR Potential Sites (7): Teller, Larimer, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Alamosa, Costilla, Weld

2. **Permanent Home:** Implementing the permanent home approach will help identify when a child is placed in their permanent home no later than 12 months after the original out of home

placement date. This approach will provide the court and professionals with the information and data needed to conduct and measure permanent home hearings and finding.

PHOM Teams (4): Denver, Jefferson, Arapahoe; El Paso

3. **Ensure Legal Representation for Children, Youth, Families:** CIP will work with collaborative partners to ensure parents, children and youth, and child welfare agencies, receive high quality legal representation at all stages of child welfare proceedings.

CB Doc < [Click Link](#)

4. **Program Improvement Plan (PIP):** Collaborate with the Department of Human Services to implement the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) process in the following counties:

PIP Counties (6): Denver, Arapahoe, Larimer, El Paso, Fremont, Morgan

The 5 goals for the PIP are:

1. Protect children in their homes
2. Strengthen engagement with families to build capacity to provide for children/youth's needs
3. Children, youth and families receive services to meet their needs.
4. Children/youth live in permanent homes.
5. Increase safety for children and youth through timely response to reports of child maltreatment

Numbers 1-4 Goals may be relevant for 2019 Convening goal setting

5. **Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA):** Collaborate with the Indian Child Welfare Specialist of Colorado Department of Human Services to continue educating and updating best practice court teams regarding ICWA.
6. **Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Education:** We intend to partner with the Department of Human Services and other stakeholders to update and educate the courts of FFPSA using the format of "what, so what, now what?" What is Families First? So, what? why should you care and What to do now. [FFPSA Summary of Road Map](#) < [Click Link](#)