Crossover Youth Practice Model

MANUAL

Mesa County, Colorado

21st Judicial District

125 North Spruce

Grand Junction, CO 81502

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

HISTORY:

In 2008, the 21st Judicial District created a Best Practice Court Team (BPCT). Initially, the BPCT focused on the Dependency and Neglect system. Shortly after its formation, the BPCT expanded to include the Juvenile Delinquency system. Over the years, the BPCT talked about the challenges of crossover youth and in April of 2013 the BPCT created a specific subcommittee to explore the Crossover Youth Practice Model.

In July 2013, Mesa County was selected by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR), Georgetown University as a site to implement the model. The Colorado State Court Administrator's Office and CJJR are providing assistance with the project.

The Crossover Youth Practice Model Committee originally consisted of the following individuals representing their respective agencies:

Don Castro (Chair): Probation Department
Kevin Kennedy: Magistrate
Cathy Haller: School District 51
Brandi Ehlers: Senate Bill 94
Trish Mahre: District Attorney's Office
Michael Maestas: Probation Department
Kevin Bavor: Police Department
William McNulty: Juvenile Magistrate
Steve Chin: Criminal Justice Services
Valerie Robison: District Court Judge
Joe Kellerby: Department of Human Services
Nora Welch: Family & Adolescent Partnership
David Hayden: Mind Springs Health
Kara Smith: Public Defender's Office
Melissa Lovato: Division of Youth Corrections
Jed Balestrieri: Hilltop Residential Youth Services
Twanya Otero: Partners
Wayne Weyler: Sheriff's Office

VISION:

Ensure Mesa County's crossover youth receive individualized and timely services to promote their safety, success, and well-being.

MISSION:

Improve outcomes for crossover youth in Mesa County by engaging youth and families and providing a strength based approach through early identification and collaboration.

CROSSOVER YOUTH POPULATION:

Mesa County's Target Population is: Youth who have "open" involvement with the Child Welfare system and crossover to juvenile justice.

The *broader definition* of "Crossover Youth" is youth who have previous founded maltreatment and/or have dependency and neglect actions, and have come to the attention of the juvenile justice system. Research shows that regardless of whether or not they have current DHS/Child Welfare involvement, they are at greater risk for juvenile justice involvement by the mere fact that they were previously abused or neglected.

"Reverse Crossover Youth" are youth who have juvenile justice involvement, and are subsequently referred to Child Welfare for intervention and/or services.

CROSSOVER YOUTH PRACTICE MODEL PRINCIPLES:

1. We serve every child individually based on their history and experiences, seeking to achieve a sense of normalcy for all youth on a daily basis.
2. We believe the most advantageous place for youth to grow up is in their own family. We seek to ensure that all youth are provided a safe, nurturing, and permanent family environment and community. When immediate family is not available other viable extended family and community resources will be identified.
3. We believe that youth and families have strengths, and systems must learn about and use these strengths in order to effectively meet their needs. We must ensure that these strengths are being utilized to address the entire context of youth and family functioning.
4. We ensure authentic, intentional, and meaningful involvement of youth and families in policy and practice development, service planning and delivery.
5. We use an integrated approach between juvenile justice, child welfare, the courts, education, and behavioral health believing that partnerships are the best way to meet the needs of crossover youth and their families.
6. Our practices guarantee fair and equitable treatment for all youth and families regardless of race, ethnicity, and national origin. Service delivery honors and respects the beliefs and values of all families.
7. We actively seek to reduce racial disproportionality and eliminate disparities within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
8. We provide opportunities for professional development and ensure adequate supervision for all staff. This is essential in ensuring workforce efficacy.
9. We ensure that policy and practice decisions are based on reliable data and evidence.
10. When out of home placement is necessary, it should be time limited, in the least restrictive environment with appropriate supports, while maintaining a focus on youth permanence.

GOALS:

Reduce the number of youth crossing over and/or becoming dually-adjudicated by;

- Identify crossover youth and connect them to the appropriate services.
- Increase collaboration and communication between involved agencies.
- Increase continuity of services for marginalized youth and families.
- Increase awareness of issues unique to crossover youth via training.
- Evaluate progress each year and develop new goals.
- Reduce the use of congregate care.

DATA COLLECTION:

- Collect and track data to identify any minority overrepresentation.
- Track and ensure all youth who have been detained will be identified as Crossover Youth prior to the detention hearing.
- Track and ensure all Summonsed youth will be identified prior to sentencing; for Diversion cases, identification will be prior to first meeting.
- Track and ensure collaboration between SB94, DHS, Court, and Probation (when relevant), is occurring prior to sentencing (to include joint assessment, family engagement, and joint planning).
- Track and ensure the Court is utilizing a Resource Affidavit to identify placement options when there is an open JV case.
- Annually SB94, DHS, Diversion, and Probation will be trained on CYPM data collection (if necessary or when there is a change in the agency or person responsible for collection).

Information Gathering, Collaboration and Sharing:

It is our goal that Crossover Youth and their families are valued and heard. It can be stressful and confusing for youth and families who are involved in multiple systems; our goal is to make the process less stressful, confusing and intrusive with the intent that outcomes are more positive. We should therefore be mindful of what information we share, with whom, when and why so that information sharing is used to achieve positive outcomes for the youth and their families, and ultimately results in a benefit to the youth, family and community. We commit to carefully consider the purpose of any releases of information requested in deciding the appropriate length of time for any releases instead of overbroad releases encompassing more information than needed and more time than required for the purpose at hand.

CROSSOVER YOUTH PRACTICE WORKFLOW

Phase 1	Arrest, Identification, Detention
Phase 2	Decision Making Regarding Charges & Case Assignment, Assessment, Case Planning
Phase 3	Case Supervision, Ongoing Assessment, Planning for Permanency, Transition, Case Closure.

CROSSOVER YOUTH PROTOCOLS

Phase 1

SENATE BILL (SB) 94 SCREENING TEAM

The following ***screens*** and ***assessments*** will be completed when SB 94 initially screens youth:

- ✓ Juvenile Detention Screening and Assessment Guide (JDSAG)
- ✓ Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment (CJRA) Pre-Screen
- ✓ Global Appraisal of Individual Needs - Short Screener (GAIN-SS)

Phase 1

SENATE BILL (SB) 94 SCREENING TEAM

The following is done after the initial screen but within 48 hours for detained youth; for Summonsed youth prior to the Advisement:

To ***identify*** crossover youth the screener will do the following:

- ✓ TRAILS search for active Department of Human Service (DHS) case, referral history, & maltreatment findings.
- ✓ Delinquency cases/history (district level only) is researched in COPS
- ✓ If there's an active case with DHS, the SB94 Intake Screener will note on the screen form, and on the initial report that the juvenile is a "Crossover Youth."
- ✓ If the youth is detained, start initial assessment for appropriateness for pre-trial release supervision.

Once identified, the screener will do the following to ***notify***:

- ✓ Will notify DHS via *email* AND by *calling the hotline* of youth who have been screened, detained and identified as a crossover.
- ✓ Will provide the DHS supervisor with the juvenile's name, date of birth, reason why the juvenile was screened, the court date and time of the detention hearing.
- ✓ Will contact the family, parents or guardians with information about the hearing and verification of information presented in the detention hearing report.
- ✓ Will send an email to the DHS staff and then prior to the hearing notify the school district (Cathy Haller), Probation, DA's, public defenders, Diversion and the courts that a hearing is occurring.
- ✓ If the information is made available we will also notify the GAL, Probation Officer, attorney through a delinquency and the youth's therapist may be notified if the youth discloses and authorizes contact.

Phase 1

GRAND MESA YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

Youth detained at Grand Mesa Youth Services Center will undergo further ***assessment*** for mental health via the MAYSI-2.

- ✓ Youth will have access to a Mental Health Clinician (Ariel Clinical Services) if presenting concerns due to feelings of self-harm, stress, or drug/alcohol;
- ✓ ***Ariel*** will contact DHS to determine health and medical needs;
- ✓ ***Ariel*** will collaborate with DHS and notify SB94 of concerns.

Phase 1

COLLABORATION PRIOR TO DETENTION HEARING

Phase 2

DHS Caseworker will immediately begin efforts to identify a ***release*** and services plan.

- ✓ A social history will be shared prior to a hearing to help inform SB94, the identified staffing team, Public Defender, or other attorneys, and then through their counsel to the District Attorney and/or DA Diversion if involved, once a release of information is signed.
- ✓ Immediately communicate with parties involved (Family, CASA, GAL, SB94 Case Manager, Probation Officer, Public Defender, and providers).
- ✓ Schedule a ***family engagement meeting*** and invite the appropriate parties (family, any involved professional) to begin planning with the family.
- ✓ Contact Grand Mesa Youth Services Center (GMYSC) to discuss any special medical, mental health or prescription needs of the youth.
- ✓ The Caseworker will contact the provider (if youth is in out of home placement) within *24* hours to discuss their concerns, gather information, and provide future action plans.
- ✓ ***Locate Resource Affidavit*** (when active JV case).

Phase 1

DETENTION SHELTER HEARING

SB94 and DHS will be present at all Detention Hearings.

SB94 will prepare a Detention Hearing packet for all youth detained and docketed for an initial detention hearing. This includes: Current Charges, Past District court and municipal cases, arrest info (warrant or affidavit), JDSAG, CJRA Pre-screen, GAIN-SS and notification of Crossover status. This is disseminated to:

- ✓ Court, DHS, District Attorney, Public Defender, GAL, if assigned OR requested, City Attorney (if requested), AND Juvenile's family/guardian.

The ***Court Clerk*** will enter the Crossover trigger into Eclipse identifying the youth and case.

DHS will ***notify*** the Court of dual cases (if there's also a D&N) and results of *diligent search* and identified placement options/resources in the *Resource Affidavit*.

If there's an open D&N case, the ***JD Judge/Magistrate*** will inquire of available placement options or resources as identified in the Resource Affidavit completed in the JV case.

SB94 and ***DHS*** will coordinate with the family a time that both can meet with the family in the family home to complete any assessments together to ensure the family does not have duplication in answering assessment questions. At this time, and on a case by case basis, the DHS Case Manager will notify the SB94 worker of the next family engagement meeting.

Phase 2

RELEASE WITH SERVICES

If SB94 is recommending pretrial release supervision the **SB94 case manager will**:

- ✓ Check with the DHS representative to determine if there is a current *signed ROI* or: Obtain the Common Informed Consent to Release and Share Information from the juvenile and family for identified Crossover Youth in order to further exchange information between parties for case planning and staffing with agencies and with the family. This release will be good for 1 year from date signed unless date limited by family or revoked prior to the 1 year expiration.
- ✓ Work with DHS representative to ***arrange an initial family engagement meeting*** and invite other involved professionals (CASA, GAL, school district, therapist or service providers, if involved); ideally within 48 hours but no later than within 7 days
- ✓ If the youth is held in detention prior to the next return to Court, the SB94 case manager will present a joint release plan representing SB94 and DHS at the next hearing.
- ✓ A safety management meeting will occur with the DHS Caseworker around highest risk domains and protective factors (CJRA) with discussion on how to jointly address those areas.
- ✓ A full CJRA will also be completed prior to the next hearing and the results will be presented to the Court. Youth who initially score low risk to recidivate will not be administered a full CJRA.
- ✓ Contact will be made with School District 51 (Cathy Haller) to address transitional needs of youth. DHS caseworker's contact information will be provided.
- ✓ Funding streams may be utilized through DHS, SB94, and HB1451.
- ✓ ISST Referral for services or sentencing recommendation.

Phase 1

CASE FILING
(Decision Making Regarding Charges)

DA'S OFFICE:

- ✓ A filing of a Petition is required within 72 hours of detention hearing;
- ✓ If SB94 involved, DA's Office will know risk information and Crossover status.
- ✓ If the juvenile meets Diversion criteria, Diversion will be offered. Each case will be handled on an individual basis.

Phase 1

DIVERSION

- ✓ Diversion officers will contact DHS (Hotline) to see if there is dual involvement. If SB94 screened the youth, then Risk and Crossover status will be known.
- ✓ If there is dual involvement, Diversion Officers and DHS will create a joint plan for success. Frequency of meetings will be determined at the initial meeting.
- ✓ DHS will review placement options with Diversion Officer as identified in the Resource Affidavit (if JV case). This information may be worthwhile when respite is needed.
- ✓ If the youth's behaviors escalate, a community (ISST) staffing may be requested for additional support. Members of ISST include SB94, Probation, DYC, DHS, School District, Mind Springs Health, Partners, WIA, and Ariel.
- ✓ Funding streams may be utilized through DHS and HB1451.

Phase 2

ADVISEMENT THROUGH ADJUDICATIONS

For Summoned Youth:

- ✓ If the youth was screened by SB94 and released on a Summons, the Court and DA's Office will be provide Risk and Crossover Status by SB94.
- ✓ To identify Crossover youth who were never screened by SB94 and initially Summoned into Court by law enforcement or DA's Office, the Court will refer the youth to FAP to complete a CJRA. Through the assessment process and by collecting collateral information the youth may be identified as "Crossover." Assessment information is filed with the Court, thus notifying of Crossover status and risk to recidivate.
- ✓ When the Court receives the assessment information from FAP, the Court Clerk will enter the Crossover trigger into Eclipse identifying the youth at the next court hearing.
- ✓ When youth are identified as Crossover, FAP will notify DHS and will be included in service planning. DHS will take the lead and notify and invite appropriate parties for family engagement.
- ✓ Funding streams may be utilized through DHS, and 1451.

For Summonsed or Detained:

- ✓ Upon adjudication, the Court may refer the case to1451 for a community staffing (services, Out of Home Placement, or Delinquency Review).
- ✓ If the youth is granted probation the assigned DHS case manager will contact Probation within 3-5 business days to schedule an appointment to review assessment information.

Phase 3

POST SENTENCE

- ✓ Post Sentence, Probation will obtain a Release of Information (ROI) for DHS and SB94 (when relevant) and obtain and review assessment(s) information, Resource Affidavit (if JV case), and Diligent Search information with DHS case manager prior to administering probation assessments and developing a case plan. If pretrial services were provided, Probation will also communicate with the SB94 worker
- ✓ Probation, DHS, the youth, and parent/guardian, will jointly enhance the case plan that targets delinquency factors identified in the CJRA, and with a focus on family/permanency. The case plan will capture meaningful reinforcements and describe the process for determining sanctions for noncompliance. During case planning potential barriers will be identified and strategies will be developed to overcome them. The case plan will establish frequency of contact not only for the youth, but for Probation and DHS.
- ✓ Education needs will be identified by Probation, DHS, youth, and parent/guardian. Probation and DHS will jointly meet with the school district at least initially. The frequency and need for joint meetings at the youth's home school will be established at the initial meeting.
- ✓ The Resource Affidavit will be further developed to identify Protective Factors/Strengths. Probation will notify DHS of updated information, which may be provided to the Court when relevant.
- ✓ If the youth is in out of home placement either through a JV case, or JD case, Probation and DHS will discuss what the expectations are. When there is a disagreement on what "Compliance" should entail, each agencies supervisor should meet in attempt to resolve the disagreement.
- ✓ In lieu of out of home placement, Probation and DHS agree to exhaust alternatives.
- ✓ Funding streams will be identified by probation in communication with DHS.
- ✓ Probation will participate in Permanency Roundtables when invited by DHS.
- ✓ Prior to a youth aging out of juvenile services, Probation, DHS and other agencies shall meet to identify supports necessary for transition to adulthood. If necessary, a community (ISST) staffing may be initiated by probation or DHS to assist with problem solving and funding.