



INFORMATION MEMO

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Title: Predictive Analytics | | Office/division: OCYF/Division of Child Welfare |
| Memo number: IM-CW-2020-0033 | | Program area: Permanency Services |
| Keywords: Adoption, Permanency, Legally Free, Predictive Analytics | | |
| Issue date: August 24, 2020 | Effective: August 24, 2020 | Expires: August 23, 2021 |

Intended recipients

All County Human Services Directors

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum from the Division of Child Welfare (DCW) is to inform all county human/social service directors about the Predictive Analytics follow-up efforts.

Action

Please forward pertinent information to administrators, caseworkers, and other staff members as necessary. The DCW Permanency Specialist will continue to send quarterly reports to the county, requesting updates on each child(ren)/youth identified on the report in order to further collaborate in finding legal permanency for these children/youth.

Background

In 2015, a research study was conducted by the Colorado Department of Human Services to examine factors that impact permanency for legally free children/youth in the child welfare system. Data regarding legally free child(ren)/youth was gathered from the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) from January 2008 through August 2014 to identify predictive variables. The study identified distinct factors impacting permanency specific to age groups, ethnicity, gender, permanency goal, and length of stay. Using the predictive factors, an algorithm was created to calculate the risk of emancipation. The algorithm was then applied to the legally free population in child welfare to identify child(ren)/youth with a high risk score for emancipation.

A list of these children/youth is generated and reviewed quarterly.

The overall goal of predictive analytics is to identify trends, themes, and/or systemic barriers that impede permanency efforts. Upon the children/youth being identified via predictive analytics, the county will be notified by the DCW Permanency Specialist via email. The DCW

1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203 P 303.866.5700 www.colorado.gov/CDHS

Jared Polis, Governor | Michelle Barnes, Executive Director

Permanency Specialist will work in collaboration with county departments to support these child(ren)/youth. Collaboration between DCW and each county starts with an update from the county regarding each child(ren)/youth identified in the quarterly Predictive Analytics report. When the update is reviewed, the DCW Permanency Specialist reaches out to the county/caseworker for additional follow-up (if necessary) and to discuss how DCW can best support the county in helping the child(ren)/youth achieve legal permanency. It is DCW's intent to support the county department's efforts to provide for these child(ren)/youth and families with this data and information.

In January of this year, a survey and template was completed by all of the counties who had children/youth identified on the Predictive Analytics report. The survey was created in an effort to gather further information about what the county's understanding of the Predictive Analytics Program is and what other support DCW could provide the county with regards to these child(ren)/youth. A couple of supports that are currently being accessed by counties from DCW are: DCW attendance in Permanency Round Tables, Team Decision Making Meetings, and staffings and also case consultations while additional case supports are being built. Another survey and template will be sent to counties in October of 2020 for new child(ren)/youth updates and to gather additional information on any new child(ren)youth who are identified in the October 2020 Quarterly Predictive Analytics Report.

Attached is the research study that was previously mentioned, *"Factors affecting permanency for legally free children & youth: A study of Colorado's legally free population across age groups, 2008-2014"*.

We look forward to our work together to continue to improve the safety of Colorado's children and families.

Attachments

[Study](#)

Supersedes

N/A.

Contact

Matt DeHerrera-Lopez, Permanency Specialist, 303-866-3637, or matthew.deherrera@state.co.us

Korey Elger, MSW, Ongoing Child Protection Manager, 303-866-5956, or korey.elger@state.co.us

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

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 re-issued if necessary. Access the CDHS Memo Series at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/cdhs-memo-series>

