

# Colorado Statewide Information Sharing Initiative

What you need to know about information sharing



"to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of State government, citizen service delivery and policy-making by providing guidance and recommendations on how the State should govern and manage data and data management systems."

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## National News

The Center for Network Development (CND) will continue the implementation of the **National Juvenile Information Sharing (JIS) Initiative** during 2010 and 2011 with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). CND has expanded the program to take "lessons learned" from the JIS pilot sites in the State of Colorado and transfer those lessons to additional JIS sites across the country. The sites will be selected through a **JIS Readiness Assessment** process that is underway by CND. The sites that are selected will work with CND to improve the process of implementation of juvenile information sharing in statewide efforts. CND will use the tools and lessons learned developed from the State of Colorado's JIS sites to assist in the implementation of successful JIS, and continue development of NIEM (National Information Exchange Model) conformant data exchanges using the at-risk youth and juvenile justice data model. Go to the National JIS website for more information and project updates: [www.juvenileis.org](http://www.juvenileis.org).

## JAC's Corner

### Jeffco JAC

#### National Initiative in Jefferson County, Colorado

The Center for Network Development (CND) working with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) began a National Juvenile Information Sharing (NATJIS) Initiative project to expand the **National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)** to encompass at risk youth and juvenile justice information sharing requirements. The NIEM is a data model to facilitate information sharing between organizations. This national data model provides a common set of labels for use in information exchanges. This project produced the Juvenile Justice XML Data Model or JJXDM - a model specifically developed for information sharing of youth and juveniles involved in multiple systems.

The Jefferson County Juvenile Assessment Center (JCJAC) assisted in the review and validation of the model. After the initial review and validation of the model, it was ready for piloting. The JCJAC team began defining actual information exchanges using the data model. The process of defining actual information exchanges using the model helped to further validate the juvenile model for use on a statewide and national level. The first data exchange identified and developed at the JCJAC was the **Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-2 (MAYSI-2)** between the JCJAC participating agencies located in the Remington Building in Lakewood. The **MAYSI-2** - a mental health screening tool used by many agencies involved in juvenile justice across the state, including the JCJAC, probation, and the Division of Youth Corrections (DYC). The use of the MAYSI at several points in the juvenile justice process has produced situations where youth were repeatedly assessed using the same MAYSI assessment.

The MAYSI information exchange pilot has two goals, 1.) Determine how often the MAYSI is used and, 2.) Reduce the frequency of MAYSI assessments for any individual child or youth through **improved information sharing**. repository tool has been developed for the pilot project to allow JCJAC participating agencies to access the MAYSI assessments from other co-located agencies conducting MAYSI assessments. The repository provides access using a web interface to search and view the stored assessments in a secure environment.

In addition to the MAYSI data exchange, CND and the JCJAC are working together to further advance the identification, development and implementation of data exchanges in Jefferson County for possible use across the State of Colorado. These data exchanges once validated will be used as model exchanges in other jurisdictions across the United States.

## Weld County-Youth and Family Connections

### Information Sharing Leads to Improved Services and Cost Savings By Kelly Schramm

There is little argument that sharing information across multiple service providers can help to improve services, reduce duplication and improve outcomes. This is especially evident in the working relationship Youth & Family Connections (YFC) has with the Weld County Juvenile Diversion Program.

Due to the populations we serve, YFC often makes contact with many youth and families, prior to their involvement with other youth service agencies and non-profits in Weld County. This connection has proved beneficial to Kirsta Britton, Juvenile Diversion Director with the Weld County District Attorney's Office.

Prior to sharing information with Youth & Family Connections, families often completed the same or similar assessments multiple times as they moved from our services to Juvenile Diversion. Through the implementation of information sharing agreements, families no longer have to complete these assessments more than once. If an assessment is completed at YFC the results can now be shared with Juvenile Diversion. This reduction in processing and paperwork not only means less paperwork for the family, it also means that the Diversion Program can serve just as many youth with 1/2 the staff. This efficiency has resulted in an estimated cost savings of \$45,000-50,000 per year.

Improving information sharing has also helped bridge the gap between District and Municipal courts in Weld County. The Juvenile Diversion program regularly works with YFC Case Managers to determine if a potential client has worked with YFC or has received any Municipal court charges. As an example, Kirsta was working with a young man who was referred to Juvenile Diversion. Based on the District Court information, the young man would have been recommended for unsupervised probation because he was facing one low level charge. However, YFC records indicated that this individual had multiple municipal charges. By having a more complete picture, it was easy to see that this young man was facing a lot more challenges and needed a higher level of intervention to break his cycle of delinquent behavior.

YFC Staff continue to work with the Colorado Children Youth and Information Sharing Collaborative to improve juvenile information sharing practices across Colorado's state agencies and youth services organizations. Recently, the common release of information, developed by Weld County collaborative partners, has been updated so it can be used with participants in the Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Support program (funded through Round III Statewide Strategic Use Funds) and the locally developed Intensive Court Supervision Program.

## State of Colorado Information Sharing Inaugural E-Newsletter!

We are pleased to send this e-newsletter highlighting the efforts and accomplishments of the State of Colorado's Information Sharing Initiatives. We will highlight State efforts but focus on children, youth and family initiatives involved with the Colorado Children & Youth Information Sharing Collaborative (CCYIS). Our goal is to communicate more effectively and regularly with State Agency's management teams and business operation units on the progress of information sharing within the State. We trust that this e-newsletter will be a good first step.

## A Note from the CCYIS Chair

Services for children and youth in Colorado are becoming more coordinated, and in some cases integrated, resulting in enhanced care and outcomes. Prime examples are found in the inspiring work of many county-level Collaborative Management Programs that are operating wraparound services. The issue of information sharing across service providers and across state data systems comes to the forefront in this new way of doing business better.



**COLORADO CHILDREN & YOUTH INFORMATION SHARING COLLABORATIVE**

To address improvements for information sharing, state agencies in collaboration with county and private stakeholders are making progress on setting the foundation for developing important policies and protocols. The Colorado Children and Youth Information Sharing (CCYIS) collaborative is partnering with Colorado Government Data Advisory Board within the Governor's Office of Information Technology on a privacy Subcommittee to address state level privacy policies. This effort is centralized through the Governor's Office of Information Technology with a vision of efficient, appropriate and timely sharing of accurate information between children and youth serving agencies at the state and local levels to improve services and outcomes of children, youth and families.

The State of Colorado, in partnership with the Center for Network Development, is serving as a national pilot for children and youth information sharing along with the Jefferson County Juvenile Assessment Center. This partnership brings together federal funds, professional consultation, and technology experts for advancing our work in addressing policy and procedures for information sharing. The potential is strong for Colorado to influence the national model of children and youth information sharing and be a guide for other states in the nation

You are invited to stay plugged in with the Colorado Children and Youth Information Sharing (CCYIS) initiative by visiting [our website](http://ourwebsite) for regular updates. Interested individuals are also welcome to attend the CCYIS Collaborative meetings and membership in the committees is open to the public. In particular, there is an immediate opportunity for short-term participation on the Privacy Subcommittee.

**José Esquibel**  
Chair, CCYIS Collaborative

## OIT News from OIT

Since 2007, the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) has produced a ground-breaking and progressive agenda for information sharing and information technology management in the State of Colorado. It is recognized by both the Governor and the Colorado General Assembly that in order to more effectively serve citizens, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state government, and to inform policy making, a strong program of information sharing is required across all lines of business the state serves. Moving the state to an enhanced data management future based on shared integrated data will improve the speed and quality of decision making and delivery of services to the state's constituents while reducing the duplicative cost associated with non-integrated systems.

For two years, OIT has been examining the issue of data management and bringing together cross-functional, multi-agency teams, interviewing stakeholders, benchmarking other states, and doing other critical research to determine the most effective way to establish a new data management program in an environment of historically siloed agencies and systems.

Two pieces of legislation - HB 08-1364 (Interdepartmental Data Protocol) and HB 09-1285 (Government Data Advisory Board - GDAB) - have been passed to address these issues. A formal Data Management program was officially established in July 2009 in OIT's Office of Enterprise Architecture, and is headed by the nation's first State Chief Data Officer. The Government Data Advisory Board (GDAB), a multi-agency central governance authority seated in August 2009, is one of the very few such Boards in any state in the country, established in legislation and appointed by the Governor, to provide the central governing structure for enterprise data sharing initiatives.

As Colorado continues to move forward with information sharing and information technology, a progressive data management strategy can provide benefits across enterprises including education, social services, eGovernment services, workforce and economic development, law enforcement, and public policy.

## Plugged In with CCYIS

### What's New in Education

#### Colorado's 2009 AARA SLDS Grant Award

Colorado was awarded \$17.4 million of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) dollars in May 2010 to create a new statewide system to track student and educator data from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary education and the workforce. All states applied and Colorado's award is the fourth largest among the winning states.

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE), working in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT), the Governor's Office of Policy and Initiatives, and the Colorado Departments of Higher Education, Human Services and Labor and Employment, will build a state longitudinal data system that meets the demands of its ground-breaking P-20 education reform agenda by implementing true P-20 education alignment across the state's education systems. The Colorado approach to educational alignment seeks to produce meaningful information on educator and principal effectiveness through the development of the state's first educator identifier system, which will be used to link all Colorado educators, students, and educator preparation programs for the purposes of individual and program evaluation. Colorado also seeks to expand its breakthrough analytical and data visualization tools to support meaningful accountability, transparency and strategic investment.

Project SchoolView™ envisions a flexible enterprise P-20 information and knowledge management system that will equip users to manage and use information for informed decision-making ensuring all students in Colorado are ready for postsecondary or workforce success. Project SchoolView holds the potential to transform the delivery and evaluation of education in Colorado, offering a national model that advances the use of more robust and timely performance data throughout the P-20 education system and capitalizes on the state's impressive student-centered education reforms. More information about the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grant program can be found [here](http://here). Specific information about Colorado's SLDS grant can be found [here](http://here).

### What's New with CSSRC

#### Colorado School Safety Resource Center

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC) was established by state legislation in 2008. As part of its mission, the CSSRC advisory board identified information sharing for school and public safety as one area needing further study and planning. An information sharing work group was designated by the CSSRC in May 2009 to determine the barriers to and facilitate adoption and implementation of interagency information sharing agreements between local jurisdictions and school districts as outlined in HB 00-1119 and SB 00-133. This work group includes multi-disciplinary participation and receives input and information from other agencies and efforts to examine school and public safety issues.

The CSSRC Information Sharing work group solicited specific input from school personnel regarding the status of implementation and understanding of formal information sharing agreements. A survey for school staff was developed in collaboration between the Center for the Study of Prevention Violence/University of Colorado, the Colorado Attorney General's Office, and CSSRC. With the assistance of the Colorado Association of School Boards, a link to an online survey was sent to all superintendents in early fall 2010. Some key results include:

- 62% of the schools responded, most were from the southeast region of Colorado
- Almost half of school districts reported having some type of information sharing agreement (46.4%), most commonly:
  - HB 04-1451 Collaboration Management Program (49.4%)
  - HB 00-1119 Exchange of Juvenile Information (46%)
- The most common reasons listed for not having formal information sharing agreements were:
  - Information sharing is not a problem in our district/community and a formal written agreement is not necessary.
  - We need a simplified model information sharing agreement where we can fill in the blanks.
  - Time and/or staff constraints.
  - We are still unclear about why a written agreement is needed.

The CSSRC Information Sharing work group will be continuing efforts and reaching out to various groups to provide additional training on school and public safety information sharing agreements. Representatives of the Attorney General's Office and the CSSRC are also partnering with the Colorado Children and Youth Information Sharing Collaborative and the Governor's Office of Information Technology's Privacy and Confidentiality Subcommittee to further collaborative work on the information sharing issues related to youth and school safety. More information about interagency cooperation for school and public safety information sharing can be found on the website of the Colorado Attorney General here.

## Quick Links

### Upcoming CCYIS Meetings

- 02/16/2011 @ JCJAC  
9:00 to 11:00 AM
- 03/16/2011 @ JCJAC  
9:00 to 11 AM
- 04/20/2011 @ JCJAC  
9:00 to 11:00 AM

### Resources

- [National Juvenile Information Sharing Initiative](#)
- [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \(OJJDP\)](#)
- [Bureau of Justice](#)

### National Agency News

- [New Web Site to Support Tribal Information Sharing](#)

### Publications

- [Juvenile Information Sharing Guidelines](#)

For more information please contact us at [info@ccyis.org](mailto:info@ccyis.org)