



INFORMATION MEMO

Title: Motivational Interviewing Child Welfare Pilot 2026		Office/division: OCACS Division of Child Welfare Division Director: Joe Homlar
Memo number: IM-CW-2026-004		Program area: Program Areas 3, 4, and 5
Keywords: Motivational Interviewing, MI, Family First Prevention Services, FFPSA		
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Intended recipients

This communication has been sent to all county human/social service directors and subscribers to the Office of Children, Aging, and Community Services community partners email list who elect to receive notification when the Office issues a memo. Please forward pertinent information on to staff members as you deem necessary.

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum from the Division of Child Welfare (DCW) is to announce the preliminary launch of the Motivational Interviewing Child Welfare Pilot Project and share upcoming opportunities for child welfare staff to engage in question-and-answer sessions with DCW.

Action

To inform counties about the Motivational Interviewing Pilot slated to begin in early 2026 and solicit engagement interest from local county department of human services by completing the [Motivational Interviewing Child Welfare Pilot Interest Form](#).

Child welfare staff (including supervisors and caseworkers) at local department of human services agencies desiring more information, or to have a voice about the program, are invited to participate in one or more of the upcoming discussion opportunities:

- [Monday, January 26th 10-11am](#) (Google Meet Link)
- [Tuesday, January 27th 10-11am](#) (Google Meet Link)
- [Wednesday, January 28th 2-3pm](#) (Google Meet Link)
- [Thursday, January 29th 2-3pm](#) (Google Meet Link)
- [Friday, January 30th 8-9am](#) (Google Meet Link)



Background

With funding from the Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund Board, Colorado is initiating a statewide motivational interviewing (MI) pilot to support child welfare staff and elevate Family First Prevention Services. The purpose of this pilot project is to assess the impact of MI in child welfare, monitor MI fidelity through Lyssn, and develop a reimbursement strategy under the Family First Prevention Services Act. This pilot includes developing caseworker and supervisor MI training for Colorado child welfare staff, delivered through CWTS and the Kempe Center. Additionally, this pilot will support the development of a community pathway for FFPSA through the Family Resource Centers.

Motivational Interviewing is a “well-supported” evidence-based service through the [Title IV-E Clearinghouse](#). Studies have shown that when MI is used within child welfare systems, family engagement increases, there is a higher quality of interactions, a lower risk of repeat maltreatment, and decreased worker burnout.

For a full breakdown of the pilot, please view the attached PDF

Attachments

[Motivational Interviewing Child Welfare Pilot Interest Form](#)

[Title IV-E Clearinghouse](#)

Supersedes

N/A

Contact

For more information about this memo, please contact Noelle Smith, Family First Prevention Specialist at noelle.smith@state.co.us or Amy Sciangula, Prevention and Core Services Administrator at amy.sciangula@state.co.us.

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 reissued if necessary. Access the CDHS Memo Series at cdhs.colorado.gov/our-partners/counties/cdhs-memo-series.

