



SUPPORT SB17-16
County Choice Child Protection Teams
Sponsor: Sen. Neville & Jahn, Nordberg

This Legislative Audit Committee bill makes the use of child protection teams (CPTs) optional for all counties, regardless of the number of referrals received by the county. It also adds flexibility to the existing CPT statute so that counties who choose to continue to use CPTs will be able to use them in the way that best serves the children and families in their community.

Problem:

In 2014, a state audit identified concerns over the time, resources, and efforts child welfare workers spent on CPTs. Ultimately, the audit questioned the effectiveness and overall value of these teams in the child welfare system.

Solution:

As amended, SB 16 addresses audit findings by making CPTs optional for counties and allowing counties to use a risk-based approach to reviewing cases with team members.

Background:

- Under current law, all counties receiving more than 50 referrals relating to child abuse or neglect must form a CPT of community volunteers to publicly review assessments and determine whether the county responded to child abuse reports timely, adequately, and in compliance with statute.
- In 2014, a [Child Welfare Audit](#) recommended various policy changes regarding CPTs. The audit recommended that the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) work with stakeholders to assess whether CPTs are still needed.
- When CPTs were created in 1975, there was little quality assurance or other oversight of child welfare. However, since then, Colorado has instituted many layers of state- and county-level oversight and has greatly increased the transparency of child welfare. While more detail can be found in the audit, some of these additional layers of review include the State's Child Fatality Review Team, CDHS' Administrative Review Division, local citizen review panels and CDHS' C-Stat Performance Analyzation Tool.

In light of the significant changes in the oversight and quality assurance of the child welfare system since CPTs were created in 1975, making CPTs optional allows counties to use best practices that balance the best interest of the child with optimally utilizing available resources.

Please SUPPORT SB17-016

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