

Colorado System of Care: Where are we now?

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF)
Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)



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Acronyms

BHA - Behavioral Health Administration
BHASO - Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations
CANS - Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths tool
CO-IHBT - Colorado Intensive Home Base Treatment
CO-SOC - Colorado System of Care
CSU - Colorado State University
ESA - Enhanced Standardized Assessment
EFFT - Enhanced Functional Family Therapy
HCPF - Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
EHFW - Enhanced High Fidelity Wraparound
IHBT - Intensive Home Based Treatment
ICC - Intensive Care Coordination
NWIC - National Wraparound Implementation Center
EMST - Enhanced Multisystemic Therapy
PRTF - Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
QRTP - Qualified Residential Treatment Program
RAE - Regional Accountable Entity
SOC - System of Care
WCC - Workforce Capacity Center



What is System of Care:

The whole is greater than the sum of parts

Care coordination in Current System



Well intended, but has minimal quality outcomes for children with complex needs

Care coordination in System of Care



Have hands-on and in-depth coordination of intensive treatment and support services
= strong quality outcomes

SOC Philosophy: Core Values

- Family and Youth Driven
- Community-based
- Culturally and Linguistically Competent



SOC Philosophy: Core Principles

- Comprehensive array of services and supports
- Individualized and strength-based services and supports
- Evidence-based and evidence-informed practices
- Trauma-informed
- Least restrictive and natural environment for the child, youth and family
- Partnerships with the child, youth and family
- Interagency collaboration
- Care coordination
- Developmentally appropriate services and supports
- Data driven and accountability; and
- Protection of a child, youth and family rights and advocacy.



BHA/HCPF Partnership in CO-SOC

- Identification Tool
 - Standardized Assessment
 - Intensive Care Coordination
 - Stabilization Services
 - Intensive Home-Based Treatment
 - Support Services
 - Behavioral Services
- BHA
leads



Differentiation between HCPF and BHA in implementing CO-SOC

Non-Medicaid Youth Focus

- Youth without Medicaid are not part of the Settlement Agreement, however BHA is working toward implementing parallel services for this population
- Goal for same services, regardless of payor
- SAMHSA funds most of BHA's side; subject to SAMHSA/Federal implementation and reporting guidelines
 - Differences in implementation and lessons learned
 - Braiding with SB19-195 funds; subject to SMART Act reporting

What has been accomplished?



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What We Have Done:

Planning Colorado System of Care

- *G.A. et al. v. Bimestefer* Settlement Agreement in February 2024
- HCPF required to develop and implement a systematic model for delivering Intensive Behavioral Health Services to Medicaid members under age 21
- Services required to include intensive care coordination, intensive in-home and community services, and mobile crisis intervention and stabilization services

Implementing Colorado System of Care

- Initiated statewide implementation of CO-SOC; CO-SOC services launched November 1, 2025
- Initial population of eligible youth identified and enrolled
- Operationalized key services, including ESA, EHFw, and IHBT
- Established Workforce Capacity Center
- Collaborated with Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs), providers, state partners and key stakeholders





“To this amazing team: thank you for standing by our family. Your unwavering support has shaped our lives, bringing new opportunities for growth and connection we never thought possible. We are profoundly grateful for the impact you've made on our life story.”

The Engebretsons



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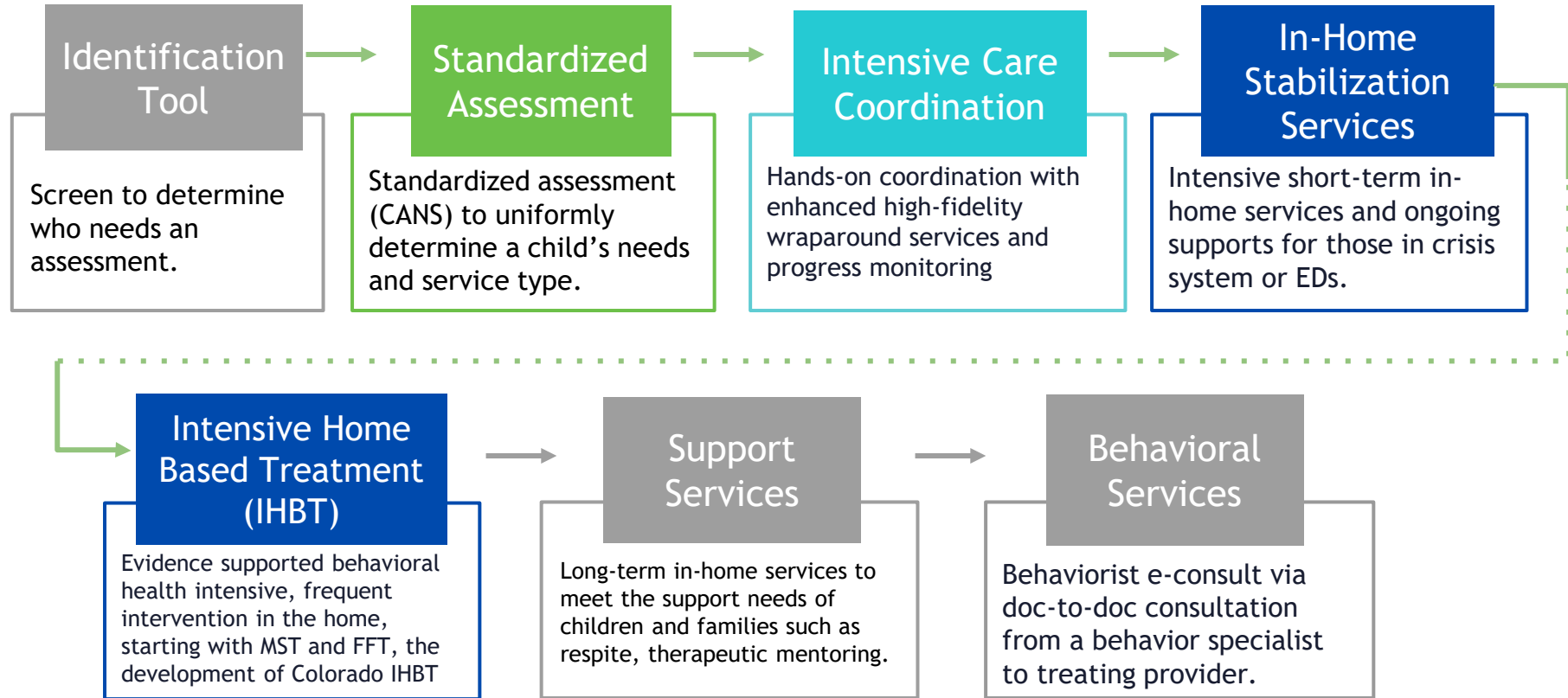


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At a Glance (August 2026)

Youth/Families Served through CO-SOC Services:	65
CO-SOC Agencies delivering ICC-EHFW Services using the NWIC Model:	5
CO-SOC Certified Providers trained at the WCC:	91

On Track: Colorado System of Care



On Track: Implementation Update

- RAEs have contracted with providers for NWIC EHFV in every region (Paragon, Diversus Health, Savio House, Turning Point, Mile High Behavioral Health)



PARAGON



DIVERSUS
HEALTH



Savio



turningpoint



Mile High
Behavioral
Healthcare

- HCPF started to officially serve members under the Colorado System of Care in November 2025.
- Colorado State University designated as the Workforce Capacity Center
 - Work with FFT, LLC and Rocky Mountain MST Network
 - Purchased NWIC PEARLS Family Support Partner Curriculum
 - Purchased CO-IHBT Curriculum
 - Work with NWIC on Enhanced High Fidelity Wraparound curriculum and implementation



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On Track: CO-SOC Service Array

- Purchased the Colorado Intensive Home Based Treatment (CO-IHBT) curriculum
- Expanding Intensive Care Coordination with the NWIC model for Enhanced High Fidelity Wraparound (EHFW)
- Expanding services and supports in alignment with the Individualized Care Plan such as Intensive Home Based Treatment (IHBT) which includes:
 - Enhanced Multisystemic Therapy (EMST)
 - Enhanced Functional Family Therapy (EFFT)



BHA Funding for CO-SOC

- SAMHSA SOC Grant funding (FFY 2024-2028)
 - WCC funding for NWIC EHFV curriculum
 - Provider network contracting and FTEs
- Current state: 'presumed eligibility'
- Future state- funding for all CO-SOC services for non-Medicaid youth/families
- Number of BHASO providers and regions
- Numbers of youth served
- SB19-195 Funding for NWIC PEARLS curriculum
- SB19-195 Funding for Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) work with the University of Chicago
- Rural Health Transformation funding for NWIC Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) curriculum

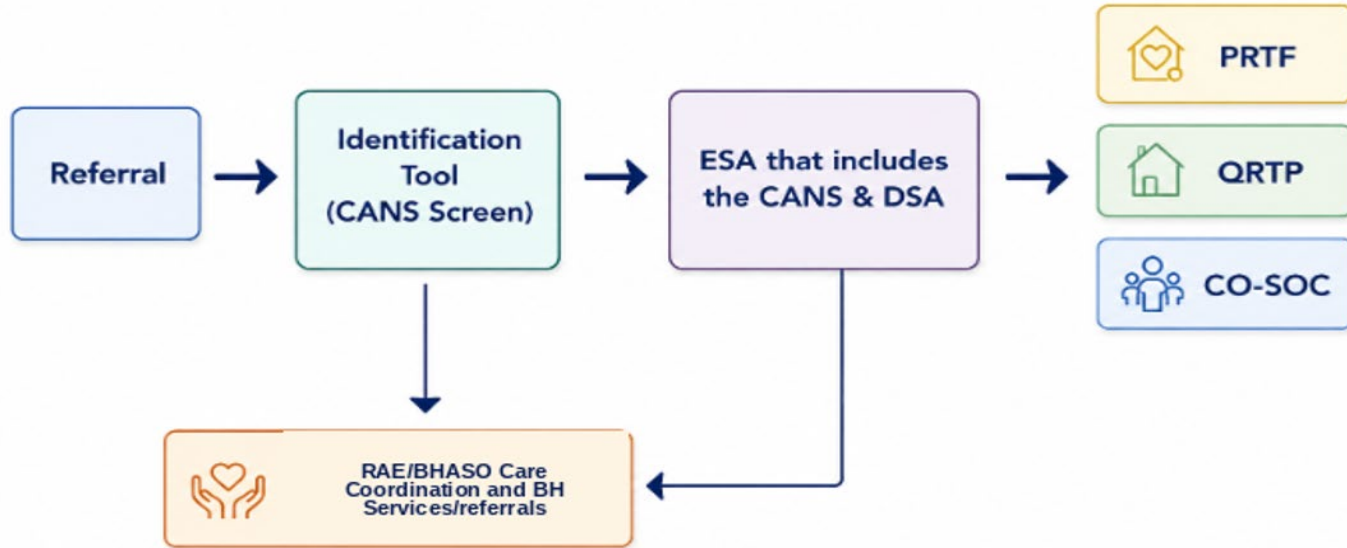


Standardized Assessment Process

- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) framework as foundational to statewide identification, standardized assessment, process service planning, and future decision support.
- Piloting digitization efforts:
 - Digitized CANS with BHASO provider network
 - Developed the Identification Tool (CANS based screener)
- Testing the CANS Decision Support Application (DSA) used as part of the Enhanced Standardized Assessment (ESA)
- The ESA includes the utilization of the CANS and is part of the CO-SOC pathway to care



Vision: Pathway to ESA and Intensive Services Behavioral Health Services



Mobile Crisis and Stabilization Services

- Reviewed the Colorado Crisis System (CCS) and aligned with next steps for MCSS in CO-SOC
- Strengthened cross-agency coordination and shared operating expectations
- Confirmed CCS as the infrastructure supporting the upcoming work for more youth-specific MCSS
- Identified initial crisis-system gaps and priorities for youth-specific enhancements
- Planned to launch CO-SOC Crisis Strategy Workgroup in Fall 2026



CO-SOC Eligible Population- BHA

Youth aged 0 up to 21st birthday, not Medicaid-eligible

Service-Based Pathways

The youth is currently receiving support through:

- The Children and Youth Mental Health Treatment Act (CYMHTA).
- Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT) services in the community, funded by a source other than Medicaid. (see [this document](#) for details about IHBT)
- Youth Post Crisis Support Services (YPCSS).

Hospital and Residential Pathways

The youth is experiencing one of the following transitions or challenges:

- Transitioning out of residential care (stepping down).
- In an extended stay (as defined by CRS 27-50-101.13.5)) or "boarding" in a hospital (as defined by CRS 27-50-101.8.5) due to behavioral health needs.
- Currently admitted to an inpatient psychiatric hospital.
- Approved for residential treatment but is currently on a waiting list for treatment.
- Did not meet medical or clinical necessity for residential treatment.

System Involvement Pathways

- The youth is in the custody of, actively involved with, or currently or recently screened by, the County Department of Human or Social Services (Child Welfare).



Medicaid CO-SOC Eligible Population

Medicaid members age 10 through age 20 who are eligible for Enhanced High Fidelity Wraparound (EHFW) in accordance with the fidelity model maintained by the National Wraparound Implementation Center (NWIC), **and**

Residing in or will be discharged to reside in a “family-like setting.” Family-like setting includes, but is not limited to: Foster care, kinship care, and legal family/guardian in a home environment, **and at least one of the following:**

- Been denied QRTP or PRTF services for clinical reasons within the past 2 months (or aligned with other guidance for discharge from PRTF or QRTP)
- Been approved for PRTF or QRTP services and are waiting for treatment
- Are discharging from QRTP, PRTF, or OHIRT
- Are returning to Colorado from an OHIRT
- Are experiencing an Extended Stay as defined by C.R.S. 27-50-101(13.5)
- Have experienced a stay of seventy-two (72) hours or more in an Emergency Department.



Medicaid Implementation Strategy:

- CO-SOC Strategy Working Groups:
 - CO-SOC HCPF and RAE Strategy Working Group
 - EHFWSupervisors, HCPF, RAEs, and NWIC Strategy Working Group
 - QRTP/PRTF, RAE, and HCPF Strategy Working Group
 - QRTP/PRTF, RAE, HCPF and EHFWSupervisors Strategy Working Group
 - EHFWSupervisors and Intensive Home-Based Treatment Strategy Working Group
- CO-SOC Advisory Committees
 - Lived Experience
 - Implementation
 - Statewide Leadership
- Weekly data tracking from the RAEs



Workforce Capacity Center at Colorado State University

- Hired WCC Team:
 - Co-Directors, Program Manager, Certification Manager, Program Coordinator, Extension Outreach Specialist, EHFV Coach, and IHBT Coach
- Developed operational plan detailing training, coaching, TA, CQI, fidelity monitoring, and certification procedures across all CO-SOC modalities
- Completed Landscape Analysis of statewide behavioral health services, educational opportunities, and reach in rural and frontier communities
- Contracted with 7 CO-SOC providers and distributed nearly \$400,000 in Network Capacity Expansion funds
- Established data tracking system and designing dashboard/reporting functionality for CO-SOC training and certification data



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WORKFORCE CAPACITY CENTER
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



WCC Website



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Stay Connected: HCPF

- [Colorado System of Care \(CO-SOC\) Website](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Announced in Lawsuit Involving Intensive Behavioral Health Services](#)
- [Colorado System of Care Implementation Plan v.1 May 2025](#)
- [Subscribe](#) to the Colorado System of Care (CO-SOC) for Children and Youth Behavioral Health Newsletter
- If you have questions: hcpf_co_soc@state.co.us



Stay Connected: BHA

- System of Care Team: cdhs_coact_soc@state.co.us
- Mary Kay Meintzer, LPC, LAC, ACS, Children, Youth and Families Division Director, marykay.meintzer@state.co.us

Discussion and Q&A



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Thank you!



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