



## COLORADO MEDICAL HOME INITIATIVE

The Colorado Medical Home Initiative is a statewide effort to build systems of quality health care for all children in Colorado while increasing the capacity of providers to deliver care to kids in our state.

The medical home model is an approach to health care that ensures that all providers of a child's care operate as a team; that families are critical members of that team; and that all team members understand the importance of quality, coordinated medical, mental and oral health care.

In 2007, the Colorado Generally Assembly recognized a state goal of increasing the number of children who receive care consistent with the Medical Home approach. The Colorado Medical Home Initiative, a joint effort of Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment, Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and community stakeholder advocates is currently working to meet that goal by ensuring that:

- All providers understand the components of the Medical Home approach and implement them in their practices;
- Families understand the components of a Medical Home and advocate for them;
- Provider incentives, resources and needs are effectively aligned to meet state goals;
- Outcomes are evaluated and systems are monitored to assure quality; and
- Research and outcomes are communicated clearly to providers, families, and the community.

The Colorado Medical Home Initiative has organized its work to form the basis for achieving this goal. The Colorado Medical Home Initiative consists of four taskforces:

### **Provider and Practice Management Task Force**

The Provider and Practice Management task force's goal is to ensure that providers and practice administrators will have the information, technical assistance and resources needed to provide quality health care through a medical home for all Colorado children. This group provides outreach to providers including many in both private practice and federally qualified health centers. This task force is currently assessing the technical assistance needs of providers and practices and exploring further development of demonstration projects that would serve as models for practices across the state. This task force is currently surveying providers and actively soliciting feedback that will be useful to continue to develop this medical home approach in Colorado. Providers include family physicians, pediatricians, dentists, mental health providers and other specialty providers.

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### **Family Leadership Task Force**

The Family Leadership task force is dedicated to assuring that the Colorado Medical Home Initiative is culturally responsive and family-centered. This task force has engaged the expertise of family leaders from across Colorado to infuse the family perspective at all levels of medical home implementation. The Family Leadership task force is committed to the development of strong family leaders who can fully participate in efforts of policy and systems change to assure quality health care for children. This task force is currently working on the development of a Family Leadership registry as well as exploring leadership curricula that promotes strong civic engagement.

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### **Evaluation Task Force**

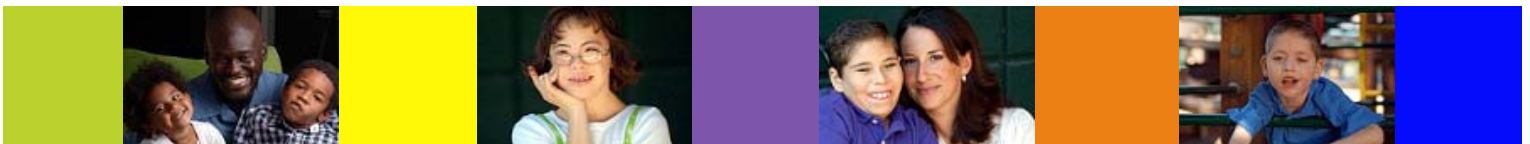
The Evaluation task force is focused on ongoing and systematic evaluation of the Medical Home approach in Colorado. This task force is developing medical home indicators to be used by Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment and Department of Health Care Policy and Financing in assessing how many children are receiving quality care consistent with the Medical Home approach. The Evaluation task force is currently developing an evaluation plan for medical home indicators, identifying data sources for measurement, performing data analysis and compilation and disseminating information.

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### **Messaging Task Force**

The Messaging task force works to develop understanding of and support for the medical home approach by disseminating best practices, outcome data, and progress of the Colorado Medical Home Initiative. This task force is developing communication tools, including a website, printed materials and orientation presentations. This task force is dedicated to supporting the Colorado Medical Home Initiative in a reciprocal communication process with families, communities and providers regarding the medical home approach. The Messaging task force will be working with the group's steering committee to inform and activate providers, families and the community to improve the quality of health care for Colorado's kids.

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