

KEVIN S. Coordinated Action Doña Ana County Pilot

RECOMMENDATIONS

Final DAC Pilot Monthly Meeting - May 12, 2024

The child welfare system strives to provide temporary care for children who cannot safely remain with their families. However, the system faces many challenges that impact child wellbeing. The following recommendations provide strategies that can transform the child welfare system in New Mexico. **The Pilot asks for these recommendations to be adopted in Dona Ana County for a two (2) year period.**

#1 Care for CYFD staff

CYFD staff needs increased resources, training and support in order to perform the demanding work associated with working with families and children who experienced trauma. Make employee mental health a priority by adopting a trauma informed approach and also Reflective Supervision. Also, fully address the under-staffed reality that overwhelms employees by hiring needed positions.

#2 Foster (Resource) parents

Foster (Resource) parents are a critical component of the child welfare-system. Currently, Dona Ana County needs to substantially increase the number of foster (resource) parents. In addition, foster (resource) parents need robust ongoing support and training.

#3 Access to Services

In order to ensure children and families have access to all services needed, we must ensure that our systems are effective. Utilizing data to evaluate systems can ensure access to services.

#4 Community support for CYFD and the Health Authority

Any agency dealing with trauma cannot adequately serve children or families without community support. In order to ensure all of the recommendations are fulfilled, a 3rd party organization can assist with support, training and data review. LC3 can assist CYFD and the Health Authority with this type of support.

#5 Adequate Funding

To ensure concrete change in the child welfare system, the above recommendations must be supported with funds necessary to make needed change happen. Adequate funding of the recommendations will ensure a positive outcome for our children.

