



COLORADO

Colorado Department of Human Services

Child Welfare Referral and Assessment Process



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Department of Human Services

COLORADO REVISED STATUTE 19-3-304

Any person who has reasonable cause to know or suspect

- A child has been subjected to abuse or neglect
- Shall immediately upon receiving such information report or cause a report to be made of such fact
- To the county department, local law enforcement agency, or through the child abuse reporting hotline system



MAKING A REFERRAL

- Demographics
- Presenting problems
- Family strengths and supports
- SEN Referral-Plan of Safe Care Questions

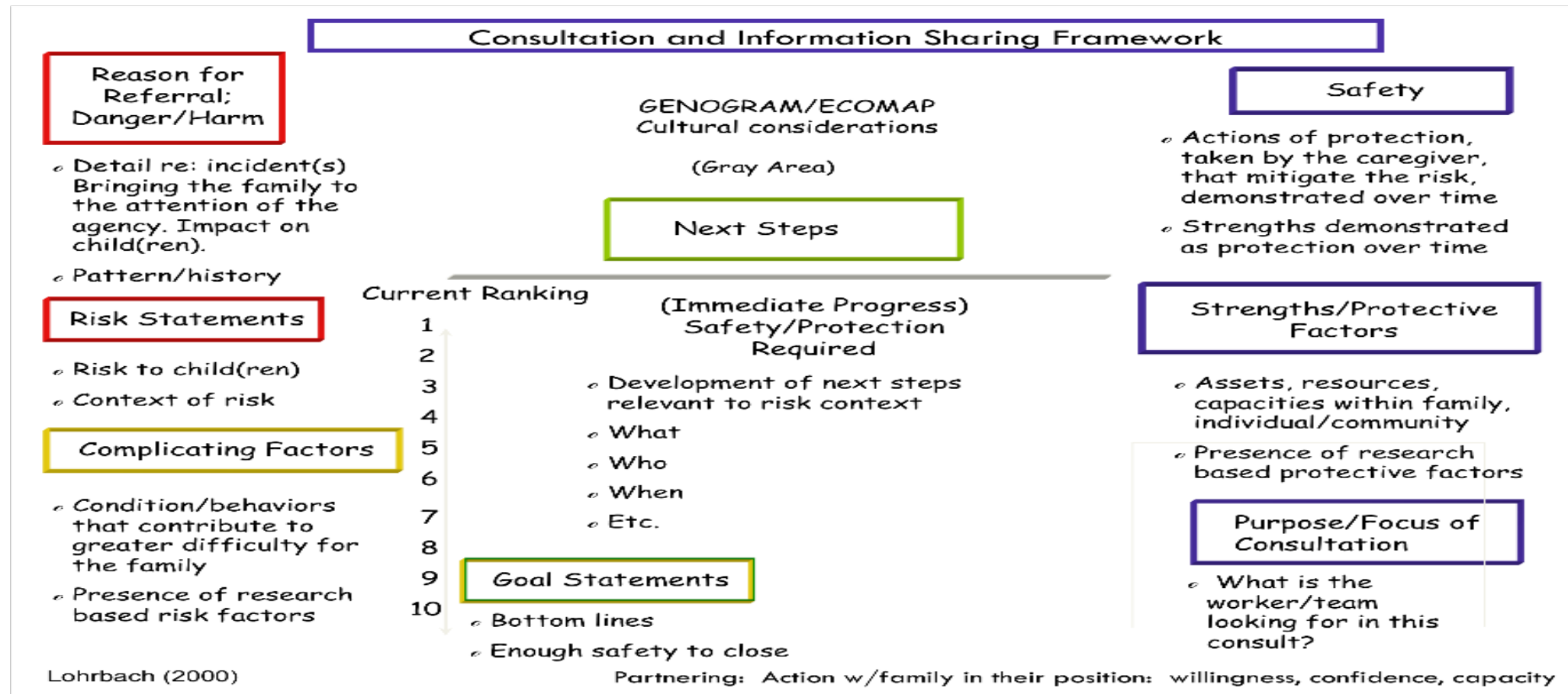


WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SOMEONE CALLS A CONCERN TO THE HOTLINE?

- Initial Review – determine if immediate response is required
- RED Team – dynamic group decision made based on referral information, real time information from those present, and background information
- Screened in – assessment assigned to social caseworker
- Screened out – record remains in state database system



REVIEW, EVALUATE, AND DIRECT



CRITERIA FOR ASSIGNING AN ASSESSMENT

County departments shall screen in and assign a referral for assessment if it:

1. Contains specific allegations of known or suspected abuse and/or neglect
2. Provides sufficient information to locate the alleged victim
3. Identifies a victim under the age of eighteen (18)



COLORADO FAMILY SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Threshold Criteria:

1. Specific and observable threat
2. Out-of-control
3. Child/youth is vulnerable to the threat of harm
4. Harm is likely to occur if not controlled
5. Potential for moderate to severe harm



CAREGIVER'S PROTECTIVE CAPACITY

Caregiver's substance use:

What is the impact of substance use and the caregiver's ability to supervise, protect, and/or care for the child/youth?

Does substance use prevent caregiver from being able to adequately perform parental duties and responsibilities?

Drug use includes the use of prescription drugs, alcohol, and traditional street drugs.



SAFETY INTERVENTION ANALYSIS

No current or impending danger to the child identified

Current or impending danger is controlled for through an in-home safety plan with the family

Further intervention is necessary to manage identified danger as the family's actions do not control for all safety threats and child may be placed in out-of-home care temporarily



COLORADO OF CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE

Values and Focus Include:

- Safety, permanency, and well-being of children and youth
- Family engagement
- Appropriate evaluations to inform treatment plan goals
- Culturally responsive services





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Questions?

Matt Holtman, MSW, LCSW
Suzy Morris, MS

Division of Child Welfare
Matt.Holtman@state.co.us



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