

### *Spotlight on Elevating the Practice*

October is “Legal Professionalism Month” in Colorado and this proclamation has led us to give a lot of thought to what professionalism means in the context of Dependency and Neglect cases. Even the term “professionalism” is fraught with historical biases about who gets to be a “professional.” And in cases that are as complicated and as emotionally challenging as D&Ns, meeting the baseline standards often isn’t enough to elevate the practice or to benefit families.

We would like to use this opportunity to ask you to think about those characteristics that elevate D&N practice, that build relationships, and that encourage self-reflection. How do you embody, or not, those characteristics? Who on your team and in your courtroom elevates the practice? How can we **all** be better in the service of Colorado families?

The below article asks us to shift from a crisis-based model of practice to one based in compassion; compassion for each other, for the families, and for ourselves. We ask you to reflect on how you practice compassion and on how you can do better.

From Crisis to Connection: Using a Compassion-Based Framework to Better Support Families in Need, and Ourselves  
by Vivek Sankaran and Sheri Fremond- Found in the NACC Quarterly Newsletter

### *Resources and Trainings*

CQI Quick Sheet: Creating a Theory of Change

Supporting Parents in Recovery During the Holidays- an ORPC Webinar

#### CIP Website

CIP Staff  
Megan- CIP Coordinator  
Jess-CIP Legal Strategist

### *2024 Convening and CQI Workshop*

The 2024 Virtual Convening will be on **April 4th and 5th, 2024**. The second half of the 5th will be reserved for teams to gather for community and relationship building. CIP may provide funds for food for these gatherings. Look for an application soon!

The 2024 CQI Workshop will be **held May 1st - 3rd**. Look for application materials later this fall!

### *BPCT Community of Practice*

The purpose of the BPCT Community of Practice is to provide a dedicated space for your teams to come together to learn from one another's wisdom and experience, and to dig a little deeper into the science of Change Management.

At the October 18th CoP, the participants decided on the following Minimum Specifications

#### **We must....**

- Have an agenda
- Have a learning component
- Have concrete takeaways between meetings
- A solution focus
- Ensure continued attendance
- Respect each other
- Have a structure in place for safe conversations
- Be creative, kind, compassionate

#### **We must not....**

- Go into breakout rooms without direction
- Diminish others
- Fixate on problems and just complain
- Exclude districts
- Fail to value other's input
- Cause harm, judge, dehumanize
- “Should” others (e.g., you should try this/that; don't presume what others have tried)

#### **Future Dates**

- December 12th 12-1: Theories of Change
- February 13th 12-1: Topic TBD by group
- April 17th 12-1: Topic TBD by group

#### Link for CoP

