

The goals of the New Mexico Piñon Project include:

- Articulate the mission, vision, values, and operating principles of the agency.
- Connect the agency's policies, practice, training, supervision and quality assurance with our mission, vision, values and operating principles.
- Provide a guide to the daily interactions among staff, children, families, stakeholders and community partners working to achieve defined safety, permanency and well-being outcomes.
- Define how outcomes will be measured both quantitatively and qualitatively.
- Incorporate the principles and practices of system of care in the provision of child welfare services. Child welfare services are child focused and trauma-informed. They are family-centered and community-based using a culturally competent array of services and supports.

What is the New Mexico Piñon Project?

The New Mexico Piñon Project is the Children, Youth and Families Department's (CYFD) plan for establishing a child welfare practice model. A child welfare practice model contains definitions, explanations, and expectations for how CYFD will operate and partner with families and other stakeholders in child welfare services. The purpose of an effective child welfare practice model is to define how CYFD engages families, youth and the community in developing and delivering an evolving array of services that meets the unique needs of those served by CYFD and leads us to achieve good outcomes for the families we serve.

Why are we doing this?

CYFD wants to be our best. We want each staff member at every level of our agency to be on the same page in his or her understanding of our policies, procedures and practices and the reasons behind them in order to hold him- or herself and each other accountable for providing the best services to children and their families.

A practice model provides a framework when facing circumstances that fall outside the norm when making critical decisions.

Where can I get more information?

Visit our website at www.cyfd.org/pinonproject.



New Mexico Child Welfare Practice Model



MISSION

We serve children, youth and families by protecting children and youth from abuse and neglect; pursuing timely permanence; and promoting well-being.

VISION

Children and youth in New Mexico live in a family environment free from abuse and neglect.

OUTCOMES

Safety:

Children and youth are protected from abuse and neglect and live with their families whenever possible.

Permanency:

Children and youth live in safe and stable environments and maintain their connections with their families and communities. Children and youth live in family environments, preferably with their own families, and when that is not possible, with stable relatives or adoptive families. Children and youth will achieve timely permanence.

Well-Being:

Children and youth are provided appropriate services to meet their educational, physical and mental health needs. Families have enhanced capacities to provide for their children's needs.



VALUES

Safety

Child and youth safety is paramount. Managing safety begins with our first contact and continues throughout the life of the case. We assess safety threats; child and youth vulnerabilities; protective capacities and develop safety plans based on these factors.

Preserving Connections

All children and youth will have enduring relationships that provide a family, stability, belonging and a sense of self that connects them to their past, present and future.

Child- and Youth-Centered Practice

Our practice is centered on the best interests, well-being and needs of each child and youth we serve. As age and developmentally appropriate, the child and youth's views, thoughts and ideas are expressed and taken into consideration in planning and service provision.

Family-Focused

We recognize that all families have strengths and will have a voice in decisions about their children. We work with and support the entire family.

Organizational Competence

Children, youth and families receive services from highly trained and skilled staff. Our staff will have a supportive, respectful and positive environment.

Customer Service

Customer service begins at the first point of contact and extends throughout all of our relationships. We are respectful, courteous, communicative and professional with each other, our children, youth and families, our community partners and the public. We engage our families, foster parents, and others as part of the team planning and caring for our children and young people to achieve positive outcomes.

Trustworthy & Accountable

We are fair and compassionate and act with respect and integrity. We are transparent and responsive to our children, youth and families as well as our partners and communities within the limits of confidentiality. We avoid personal bias and reach factually supported conclusions in a timely and thorough manner.

Culturally Competent Practice

We understand, respect and serve children, youth and families within the context of their own family rules, traditions, history and culture.

Data-Driven Decision Making

We collect and use reliable and valid data to inform decision making, to direct continuous quality and practice improvement and to evaluate our efforts in terms of safety, well-being, and permanency outcomes for children, youth and families.

Evidence-Informed Practice

We use evidence-informed practices for effective service planning and service delivery for children, youth and their families.

Shared Responsibility

The entire community shares the responsibility of keeping children and youth safe and protecting them from abuse and neglect. Children and youth are best served when they are part of and supported by their community with services that are accessible and individualized. We recognize that community partnerships are essential to ensure child and youth safety, permanency and well-being.