



Colorado KIT System

Overview and Background

What is Colorado KIT (CO KIT)?

Colorado KIT (Knowledge-based Information Technology) is a web-based reporting and evaluation system that allows an assortment of social service organizations to enter and report data about their programs, participants and service outcomes. CO KIT offers real-time operation and instant data access by a large number of social service organizations at multiple levels (State, Regional, and Local). It is comprehensive, flexible, and consistent with national standards (DSS, MDS, Core Measures, Risk and Protective Factors).

What is the Background of CO KIT?

Colorado's Need for a Web-Based Prevention Evaluation Tool

Colorado Revised Statute 25-20.5 specifies the legislative mandates for coordination and streamlining of state processes related to prevention services for children and youth. Among the mandates are the following:

- Provision of outcome-based prevention and intervention services (C.R.S. 25-20.5-106.2.b.II).
- Specification of outcomes anticipated to be achieved by prevention programs that receive state and federal funds and the outcomes to be achieved through the coordination of said prevention, intervention, and treatment programs (C.R.S. 25-20.5-105.1.b).
- Implementation of uniform monitoring and reporting forms (C.R.S. 25-20.5-106.2.a.IV).
- Evidence of the prevention, intervention, and treatment program's progress in meeting its stated outcomes and goals during the preceding fiscal year and in previous fiscal years (C.R.S. 25-20.5-108.2.a.II).

The Colorado Prevention Leadership Council (PLC) - which is comprised of representatives across five state agencies, two institutions of higher education, and statewide resource organizations - is the body charged with implementing the requirements of C.R.S. 25-20.5. In September 2003, the Prevention Leadership Council began discussion of a single reporting and evaluation system. After review of various systems, the PLC settled on working with KIT Solutions to modify their web-based system for agencies of the PLC. As a part of the PLC, a KIT Steering Committee was formed in July 2004 to begin to work on the design for the Colorado KIT.

Performance-Based Prevention System

KIT (Knowledge Based Information Technology) Solutions, Inc. is a software company that develops database systems for the health and human service field. One of their products is called the Performance Based Prevention System (PBPS). CO KIT is an extension of this system. At this writing, PBPS is being used by eleven other states: California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, New York, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia and Washington.

How is CO KIT unique?

Colorado's extension of PBPS - CO KIT - is unique from other states. At this time, Colorado is the only state which offers a common framework for reporting and evaluation of prevention and intervention services for contractors across various programs and social service organizations. Currently, CO KIT is being used by a variety of programs and agencies throughout the state, such as the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment/Prevention Services Division (Tony Grampas Youth Services Program, State Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership, Colorado Children's Trust Fund), Colorado Department of Public Safety; Division of Criminal Justice, Colorado Department of Human Services; Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, and Colorado Department of Transportation (Safety and Traffic Engineering).

What are the Benefits of Using Colorado KIT?

A uniform approach to:

- Creating and documenting program goals and measurable objectives
- Linking goals and measurable objectives with outcomes
- Linking projected outcomes with evaluation scales to measure effectiveness
- Tracking service activities and demographics of people served
- Entering outcome evaluation data
- Accessing data on services and outcome evaluation for reporting purposes

Enhanced capacity for state programs to:

- Manage contracts
- Aggregate and analyze service and outcome data across multiple state agencies
- Report on outcome evaluation findings
- Utilize outcome findings for prioritizing funding allocations
- Collect, manage and report both process and outcome information in an inexpensive and efficient manner

Having all the information in one database will:

- Allow for powerful analysis
- Allow state agencies that fund prevention to easily aggregate across programs to understand the overall impact of their dollars
- Allow evaluators to compare the amount and types of service with individual outcomes to see what works
- The Prevention Leadership Council can look across state agencies to see statewide impacts on common outcomes
- Providers will have real time to make adjustments as needed
- One statewide system with a consistent format in which to enter program information

How Does CO KIT Work?

The program and data entry screens are organized in the same way an agency would typically outline a program. First, goals and outcomes are created, supported by the use of an “outcome builder,” which helps to ensure that these are clearly stated and measurable. Next, descriptive information about programs and services is entered, including the types, amount and duration of services. Because outcome instruments are built into the system, one or more of these is selected for the program, enabling the direct entry of pre-post test data. Finally, participant information is added as individuals enter the program, and attendance tracking is made easy through a batch entry process. The system also contains a separate coalition module that is useful for keeping track of coalition membership, activities and successes.

What are the Phases of CO KIT Implementation in Colorado?

From January – July 2005, the CO KIT system was pilot tested with a small group of providers and funders. By July 2005, CO KIT went “live” and has been used by several state agencies. From July 2006 – June 2007, the Steering Committee will explore ways to build capacity of organizations to conduct quality evaluation activities related to their use of CO KIT. Throughout CO KIT implementation, the PLC and Steering Committee will continually explore and refine the system’s ability to provide analyses and program outcome at multiple levels, including State, Regional, and Local. Eventually, it is envisioned that all prevention providers receiving state funding will use the CO KIT system to track progress.

Who Should I Contact with Questions?

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