



Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001
Phone: 303-795-4284
Fax: 303-738-7894
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

For release: July 27, 2010

Contact:

HALEY MCKEAN

Communication Services Specialist

Direct: 303-636-1945

Mobile: 303-726-6608

E-mail: hmckean@co.arapahoe.co.us

Arapahoe County Commissioners pass resolution to oppose state takeover of social services

County reaffirms its commitment to excellence in local administration of child welfare, public assistance and child support enforcement programs

Littleton, Colo.— Amidst increasing dialogue about the future of Colorado's social services system, Arapahoe County's Board of County Commissioners has unanimously passed a resolution to affirm the county's support for a locally-administered human services system, and its commitment to excellence in the delivery of child protection, child support enforcement and public assistance programs.

The resolution was passed at a public hearing on July 6, 2010 and expresses the County's commitment to excellence, quality improvement and enhanced accountability of local and state government in the delivery of human services. View a copy of the resolution below, or find it under 'What's New' at www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

This action comes in response to a recommendation released in 2009 by Governor Ritter's Child Welfare Action Committee to conduct a massive overhaul of Colorado's state-supervised, county-administered human services system and place the entire system in the control of the State.

"The Board strongly believes that it is most logical for social services to be delivered by local government rooted in a community, where there is a better understanding of the factors that impact families and children," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman. "Local governments have the ability to be more flexible and responsive to meet the needs our most vulnerable populations."

The Arapahoe County Department of Human Services has worked long and hard to develop relationships with community partners, ranging from law enforcement agencies to mental health care providers, courts, non-profits and other local governments. In 2008, the County joined forces with Jefferson County to form a collaborative foster care program that would streamline resources and improve support for foster families and children.

Arapahoe County also is fully in support of 27 other recommendations that arose from the Child Welfare Action Committee to improve the child welfare system, and is engaged in partnership with the state and Colorado Counties Inc. to produce rule, legislative and policy change to bring many of those recommendations to fruition. The County has already started using the Child Welfare Caseworker

Training Academy and is one of five counties involved in the pilot project for Differential Response. Arapahoe County is also involved in an initiative led by the Colorado Division of Child Welfare to build a new Child Welfare Practice Model that will streamline how counties approach child protection cases.

#