

Not One More Child Meeting Notes – February 13, 2017

Senate Bill 28

- The bill authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS) to share information with military installations especially cases of known or suspected child abuse/neglect involving members of the Armed Forces.
- The impact in El Paso County is expected to be minimal since El Paso County DHS already has close working relationships with area military installations, as well as formal agreements.
- Attached is a fact sheet, and here is a link to the preamended bill:
http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017A/bills/2017A_028shhs_01.pdf
- Kempe Center, Rep. Dan Nordberg and Sen. Cory Gardner

Child Abuse Prevention Month (April)

- The El Paso County Board of County Commissioners will read a Proclamation at their April 4th meeting. The meeting begins at 9 a.m., and the Proclamation will be read, and public comments shared, after a few other items on the agenda are handled. The meeting is in the auditorium at Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs. Wear blue!
- Former Commissioner Clark and is reaching out to the Colorado Springs City Council and Fountain to see if there is interest in Proclamations. Logan Laszczyk, School District 11, is checking with school districts to determine the best way to approach school boards for Proclamation marking Child Abuse Prevention Month. Contact kristinaiodice@elpasoco.com if you would like draft language.
- El Paso County is coordinating a team to install a permanent art piece of a giant pinwheel in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The hope is to have the installation celebration on April 4th, in conjunction with the Proclamation by Commissioners.
- Several “wear blue” days are planned to increase awareness: April 4, April 10 (DHS staff meeting)
- DHS is encouraging NOMC partners and others to pledge to help distribute the NOMC “Community Cards” across the region. Cards have been updated with the state child abuse/neglect reporting hotline.
- The pinwheel has come to serve as a physical embodiment, or reminder of the healthy starts we want for all children and has become one of the national symbols for child abuse prevention. For information on the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign across Colorado, visit <https://www.illuminatecolorado.org/pinwheels>. If your organization or group plans to plant a garden, contact kristinaiodice@elpasoco.com so we can share details.
- Peaceful Households is holding its annual Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Conference on April 24, 2017, at the Antlers Hotel. The conferences costs \$85 until March 24, then the cost increases to \$95 (includes lunch and parking). More information online at <http://www.peacefulhouseholds.org/annual-conference-2017>
- One of many ideas in the works is collecting bears and other stuffed animals to represent the number of children served by child welfare. The collection would be displayed somewhere as an

illustration of the work being done in the community. The stuffed toys would then be distributed so they could be given to children.

- National Public Health Week is the first week in April – Public Health will look to highlight programs that help families, such as nurse visitation.
- If your organization or group is planning an event or something that coincides with Child Abuse Prevention Month, please contact kristinaiodice@elpasoco.com so it can be added to the calendar. Please share ideas, too!
- DHS will be collecting stuffed bears and animals to represent the number of children served by child welfare. The toys will be distributed to the children served.
- Cases of Love – The team behind the effort last year (including Savio and a local daycare) has started making plans; at this time the date of the big drive isn't set (possibly late April). If you'd like to donate a suitcase or bag in new or good condition for foster children to use, you may bring it to the next NOMC meeting and DHS will make sure they are distributed to the children when they are being placed outside their homes. More details will be shared with the group when available.
- Easter Baskets – The project is a work of love for several churches in the region. They meet and put together the baskets in March. If you'd like to contribute to the effort, you may bring a filled basket for a child to the next NOMC meeting and DHS will make sure they are distributed to those families in need.

State Child Abuse Prevention Month Efforts

- The state is finalizing plans for a major event to kick-off National Child Abuse Prevention Month in Colorado. Details will be shared as soon as possible; April 4th is the tentative date for an event in Denver.

CDHS Statewide Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline 1-844-CO-4-KIDS

- Colorado Hotline 1-844-CO-4-KIDS enters its third year with significant changes, with calls from family, friends, neighbors increasing across the state.
- With the passage of HB 16-1224, Colorado's definition of "child abuse and neglect" now includes child sex trafficking.
- A new website has launched: www.co4kids.org
- The next Hotline campaign will be for two years, and highlights "We all play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect." It uses bright colors and the perspectives of community members including caseworkers, mandatory reporters, foster and adoptive parents, individuals, friends, family and neighbors.
- Toolkit for Community Partners, including materials and information, is expected to be available online soon.
- Research shows the general public thinks human services departments doing a good job, but not everyone "knows" exactly what we do.

- The 2016 Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Public Opinion Research Report is online at <https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=c3RhdGUuY28udXN8Y2Rocy1kY3d8Z3g6NGE5ZWU4YmE1MmUwY2lwNg>

Overview of Child Protection Data 2016

- Krystal Grint reviewed child protection numbers from 2016. Below are some highlights.
- In 2016, El Paso County received 27,165 calls from concerned citizens, up slightly from 26,986 calls in 2015.
- Mandatory reporters for El Paso County made up 42% of all calls to the hotline system in 2016.
- Another 50% of El Paso County calls were made by non-mandatory reporters (often family, friends, neighbors) up from 22 percent in 2015. (8% of callers were unknown/anonymous.)
- El Paso County received 15,665 referrals in 2016.
 - o Out of those referrals, 6,310 were assigned for assessment.
 - o The next county to receive the second largest number of referrals was Denver County at 11,386. (Of those, 4,716 were assigned for assessment.)

DHS Lobby Project

- Two sections of the walls in the Department of Human Services lobbies at Citizens Service Center are bright blue, and feature two different animal murals.
- Former Commissioner Sallie Clark donated the wallpaper murals. DHS volunteers spent time on two Saturdays in January painting the walls and pasting up the murals.
- The intent is to make the busy lobby areas friendlier for children. Bookshelves will be stocked with donated books, so that children have something to do while waiting with their parents. They will also be encouraged to take a book home, to foster parent-child reading time.

Faith Based Community

- Angel Tree thanked everyone for their generosity in helping kids be kids during the holidays. The gift cards for the older kids were the only gifts some received.
- Kerry MacIntyre (kyndrashope@usa.com) is trying to make connections with organizations and others who work directly with families to try and set up a baby box program in the region. Baby boxes have been used in other states: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/12/nyregion/new-jersey-parents-cardboard-bassinets.html?_r=1
- Kerry is also looking for more ways to share special \$700 doll that shows what happens when a baby is shaken. She has visited high school classes in Falcon School District 49 but is hoping to visit more campuses and groups.

CarePortal

- CarePortal helps link the Department of Human Services caseworkers to churches who can help those in need. Caseworkers make requests for families, and the churches use their congregation network to fill the request. Video: <https://vimeo.com/156324868>

- In the first 90 days, the tool has helped 277 children in 77 families. There are 11 churches and more than 1,000 responders assisting with requests.
- El Paso County is the first and currently the only county in Colorado using CarePortal.
- Mike Worley can be reached at 719-659-2781 or mike@beautifulredemption.com.

Additional Discussion

- Catholic Charities' Family Resource Campus offers more than 75 programs and services for families. Posters are available with tear-sheets with the phone number and website for those needing assistance. Contact Kathy Thayer at kthayer@ccharitiescc.org or (719) 866-6428.
- CASA's 2017 Light of Hope Fundraiser is April 26. Contact Jill Cheetham to reserve your seat or host a table; 719-447-9898 ext. 1026 or jillc@casappr.org. Sponsorships also available for this event. More information is online at <https://www.casappr.org/event/2017-light-hope-fundraiser/>
- Lutheran Family Services – A Taste of Hope – Thursday, May 11, 2017; for more information and to purchase tickets visit <http://www.lfsrm.org/events> or call 1-800-579-9496

The Not One More Child large group will next meet **March 13**.

Wear blue for a group photo in anticipation of Child Abuse Prevention Month!

Notonemorechild.net