

## **Not One More Child Meeting Notes – March 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](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)**

- A calendar of events is posted online at [www.notonemorechild.net/](http://www.notonemorechild.net/)
- The El Paso County Board of County Commissioners will read a Proclamation at their April 4<sup>th</sup> 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!**
- Additional governing bodies reading Proclamations: Fountain, Manitou Springs, Monument and Colorado Springs. Dates, times and locations are in the online calendar.
- El Paso County is coordinating with a team to install a permanent sculpture of a giant pinwheel in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Installation date to be determined.
- 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. Contact [kristinaiodice@elpasoco.com](mailto:kristinaiodice@elpasoco.com) if you would like pick up cards – English and Spanish available..

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 is 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](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.lfsrc.org/events> or call 1-800-579-9496

The Not One More Child large group will next meet 9 a.m. **May 15.**

[Notonemorechild.net](http://Notonemorechild.net)