



November 21, 2012

The Honorable First Last
Home Address
City, State Zip

Dear Honorable Last:

As President of CCI, I represent the sentiments of each and every one of my colleagues when I say that very little in our role as elected public servants is more tragic than the loss of a child.

You may be aware of recent media reports focused on the state's child welfare system, as well as the role of counties as system administrators in partnership with the state. We want to assure you that counties have been and remain committed to working in partnership with our Governor, the General Assembly, the state Department of Human Services as well as our local community providers in collaborative efforts to improve services and provide necessary support for vulnerable children and their families.

Strategic, deliberate and focused efforts launched in 2010 have led to initiatives such as Colorado's new Child Welfare Training Academy, which as of this writing has professionally trained hundreds of case workers statewide; C-Stat, the state's child welfare performance management system which is beginning to drive practice improvement for children and families; and the Child Welfare Practice Model, which has led to quality improvements in child protection services, along with the Governor's three-year Strategic Plan to redesign the state's Child Welfare System.

These initiatives are only a sampling of the nationally-recognized system reform underway to protect vulnerable children and support their families. These positive examples of evidence-based, research-supported initiatives are contributing to improved outcomes in our responsibilities to the families we serve and to our taxpayers.

We are eager to visit with you about these and other reform efforts that are under way. Many of your colleagues have asked to shadow their county human services department caseworkers to experience the work of our child welfare divisions. CCI applauds and encourages these visits. Please let us know if you need assistance contacting someone in your county to arrange this.

It is unfortunate that there are any children living in circumstances that necessitate government intervention and we recognize that there are improvements that have been and can be made to the system. In summary, CCI and its individual counties welcome the opportunity to work with you and your peers to improve outcomes for our state's vulnerable children and families.

Sincerely,

Jack Hilbert
CCI President
Douglas County Commissioner