



eCounty Lines

July 5, 2017

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

Short Week But Busy Time Prepping for Leg Call and NACo



By John (Chip) Taylor

The Independence Day holiday is making for an abbreviated work week but the staff is busily preparing for next Friday's legislative conference call – the first meeting of the 2018 legislative cycle! Counties have already submitted over 30 different legislative ideas for next year and members will receive a meeting notice on Monday that includes a link to the online table and any late additions that are made next week. Notwithstanding the large number of issues submitted, next week's call is about giving commissioners an opportunity to voice their idea and elicit feedback from their colleagues. We will not vote or otherwise eliminate issues (except at the request of the county that submitted the issue) at this first meeting. Having said that, if other counties have non-legislative solutions, we look forward to hearing them. And if numerous counties share similar concerns, we hope to hear that, too!

We are also just a few short weeks from travelling to the NACo Annual Conference in Franklin County (Columbus), Ohio! We are assembling Colorado packets for everyone and CCI Legislative & Policy Advocate Allison Daley and I are looking forward to being there with you. Although you still have time to pack your bags and read your resolutions, you have to fill out your credentials form by this **Friday, July 7**, or your county may not be able to vote in NACo elections or on policy decisions. If you still need it, click [here](#) for the webpage that includes the credentials packet. Let us know if there is anything else you need before we go!

Have a great week.

John (Chip) Taylor is CCI's Executive Director.

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR COUNTIES:

Input Sought on CDHS Proposed Budget for 2018-2019

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) is soliciting input on budget items for the FY 2018-2019 budget year. This is the seventh year CCI has been invited by the Department to provide feedback. County staff has developed the proposed budget recommendations for CCI's members to review and provide comment on (see attachment to this edition of *eCounty Lines*). If you have feedback on the recommendations, please share it with CCI Legislative Director [Gini Pingnot](#).

JBC Staff Starting Discussion on the Child Welfare Block

At the Child Welfare Allocation Committee meeting in June there was discussion about some factors that are beginning and will continue to impact the Child Welfare Block and its allocation to counties. Concerns regarding these factors were raised while discussing the county close out process and the fact that the block allocation is likely to be over-spent and that funds available for the surplus distribution will not be sufficient to make all counties whole. *(continued on next page)*

The following factors were mentioned:

- 1) The increase in the state's population and uptick in child welfare workload metrics, including referrals, assessments, open cases, and out of home placements;
- 2) The statutory restrictions placed on the use of SB 242 funds for increasing FTE at the county level;
- 3) The anticipated reduction in federal funds upon the expiration of the Title IV-E waiver;
- 4) The need in some (or all) counties to raise staff salaries as a result of the cost of living increases the state has experienced; and
- 5) The CMP savings being distributed prior to surplus distribution.

JBC Analyst Robin Smart would like to hear directly from counties about these issues and discuss possible changes to statute that could be recommended in the upcoming session. If you are interested in participating in the discussion, please let CCI's Legislative Director Gini Pingnot (gpingenot@ccionline.org) know so you can be added to future meeting notices. While the first meeting has not been set yet, it is likely to occur sometime in July.

AARP Offers Funding for Variety of County Projects



AARP staff and volunteers across the country are working with local leaders and organizations to enhance the quality of life for all people of all ages. A program designed to make this vision a reality is the [AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities](#). This ever-growing network includes more than 170 enrolled communities across more than 36 states, representing more than 65 million people. While great communities take time to build and sustain, "quick actions" can be the critical spark for longer-term progress. That's why the AARP Community Challenge will fund projects to help build momentum. Projects can range from short-term activities costing a few hundred dollars to sizable efforts that might need thousands. Click [here](#) to apply by **July 15, 2017**. Proposed projects must be completed no later than **November 1, 2017**. AARP suggests that counties draft their application in a Word document on a computer and then copy and paste the information into the online application when complete.

CCI MEETINGS:

CSU Office of Engagement Sponsors District Events

In August and September, CCI will hold five District Meetings around the state with the lunches at all meetings sponsored by the Colorado State University (CSU) Office of Engagement, a CCI Foundation Associate Member. Each meeting will begin at 10 am and go until approximately 2 pm. The schedule of meetings is as follows:

- August 4 – **Front Range** (venue to be determined)
- August 24 – **Mountain** (venue to be determined)
- August 25 – **Western** (Ute Indian Museum, Montrose)
- September 8 – **Southern** (venue to be determined)
- September 15 – **Eastern** (Washington County Event Center, Akron)

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Colorado State University

The CSU Office of Engagement connects communities around shared solutions through education, research and leadership. Its wide-ranging initiatives include community and economic development, the Northeast Regional Engagement Center, the Colorado Water Institute, and CSU online. For more information on the CSU Office of Engagement, click [here](#) or call 970.491.2785.

INVOLVEMENT/EDUCATION/NETWORKING:

July 13: First of Five Housing Colorado Training Sessions

Housing Colorado is hosting the Annual Statewide Outreach Meetings & Training in partnership with the Denver Metro Fair Housing Center and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Five workshops are planned for **July 13** (Fort Collins), **July 19** (Grand Junction), **August 2** (Durango), **August 18** (Denver), and **August 30** (Pueblo). Each training runs from 9 am to 4 pm. The workshops are an opportunity to meet with housing professionals throughout the state to learn more about your region's issues, challenges and opportunities. To see the venues for each location and sign up for a free registration, click [here](#).

July 14: Urban Renewal Board Training Offered in Denver

Downtown Colorado, Inc. is offering Urban Renewal Board Training: The Next Phase of Partnership on **July 14, 2017** in Denver. This one-day workshop provides targeted education sessions to ensure that board members and staff understand how urban renewal authorities work. Content is intended to inform while encouraging dialogue to ensure a greater understanding of the tool, processes, and projects. To register, click [here](#).

July 17: GOCO Kicks Off Nine Grantwriting Workshops



Great Outdoors Colorado, a CCI Associate Member, has announced that it will present nine free Grantwriting Workshops around the state beginning **July 17, 2017** with a 9 am to 11 am program in Delta. The workshops will cover grant application writing for GOCO's Local Parks and Outdoor Recreation (LPOR) and mini-LPOR grant programs. A schedule of the workshops is attached at this edition of *eCounty Lines* and RSVPs are required through Evite. For questions, email [Madison Brannigan](mailto:Madison.Brannigan).

August 1: Governing Offers Free Colorado Leadership Forum

Governing is inviting Colorado county leaders to its free Colorado Leadership Forum set **August 1, 2017** in Denver. From the fundamentals of good government to forecasting the future, the agenda will have critical information for every participant's personal and professional development. To register, go to: <http://www.governing.com/events/Governing-Leadership-Forum-Colorado.html>.

APPOINTMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Commissioner Slot on Child Welfare Executive Leadership Council

The Child Welfare Executive Leadership Council (CWELC) has one opening for a county commissioner. The purpose of the CWELC is to advise the Colorado Department of Human Services regarding policy, budget and program issues that impact the safety, permanence and well-being of Colorado's children and families. The CWELC reports on progress in achieving its stated goals. Members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services. The CWELC consists of several steering committees that help guide the implementation of initiatives that significantly impact the children and youth involved in the child welfare system. The CWELC holds quarterly meetings in the Denver area that usually meet on a Friday and run from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. At the present time, there are roughly 35 members on the Council, five of whom are county commissioners. Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Sharpe, Boulder County Commissioner Cindy Domenico, Larimer County Commissioner Steve Johnson, Prowers County Commissioner Wendy Buxton Andrade, and Weld County Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer serve on the Council. If you wish to be considered for this open seat, please contact CCI Deputy Director [Kristin Dunn](#) no later than **Friday, August 4, 2017**.

NEW COMMISSIONER PROFILES:

Baca's Butler, Costilla's Esquibel Offer Experienced Leadership



This is the latest in a series of articles about Colorado's newly-elected commissioners.

Rick Butler and Augustine "Roy" Esquibel are first-term county commissioners serving in Baca and Costilla, respectively. Butler (*left above*) has been a master electrician and electrical contractor in Baca County for the past 26 years and has helped manage the family farm. Those experiences have given him a keen understanding of the needs of small business, especially those involved in agriculture. He is working hard to fulfil his goal of bringing a common-sense approach to governance in a southeastern Colorado county of 3,596 people. He prides himself in a strong working relationship with fellow commissioners Glenn "Spike" Ausmus and Peter Dawson.

"Together, we want to make Baca a great place to live, visit, raise a family, and have a successful business," says Butler. Esquibel (*right above*) was appointed by the Costilla Democratic Central Committee last December to fill the Costilla County District 3 commissioner slot opened by the death of Joe Gallegos. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Esquibel brought a wealth of local government experience to his new public service role. He has served as a member and president of the Centennial Board of Education, a member of the County Planning and Zoning Commission, and president of Vallejos Ditch, a water rights organization. In Costilla County (located in south central Colorado with a population 3,578), his fellow commissioners are Dolores Burns and Lawrence Pacheco.

Next week: Fremont's Dwayne McFall and Prowers's Tom Grasmick.

COMMISSIONER NEWS:

Moltrer Replaces Abeyta on Las Animas County Commission

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper has appointed Dean Allen Moltrer to represent District One on the Las Animas County Board of Commissioners. Moltrer will fill the vacancy on the Board created when the District Court in the 3rd Judicial District declared that former Commissioner Anthony Abeyta did not meet the residency requirements to serve. Moltrer will serve until a new county commissioner is elected for District One in the 2018 general election. For more than 20 years, Moltrer has owned and operated Purgatoire Valley Construction, Inc. In conjunction with this company, he founded the E.P.I.C. program at Trinidad State Junior College to increase skilled workers in Las Animas County. Moltrer earned his high school diploma from Primero High School and then attended Trinidad State Junior College and Adams State University. He has served on numerous boards including the Las Animas County Democratic Central Committee and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Committee.

NACo NEWS:

Colorado Caucus Set for July 20 During the Annual Conference



Colorado will be well-represented at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference on **July 21-24, 2017** in Columbus, Ohio. The Colorado Caucus is set for **Thursday, July 20**, from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Registered delegates from Colorado were advised by email last week to submit the Voting Credential Form by **Friday, July 7**, allowing their county to vote in the election and on NACo policies. The conference features a number of hard-hitting educational programs, including a panel on NASA and the local economic impact of the aerospace industry. For the full schedule of seminars, click [here](#). For more information, or to register, click [here](#).

eCounty Lines Editor:

Paul M. Thompson

Education and Outreach Manager

800 Grant Street, Suite 500, Denver, CO 80203

Office: 303.861.4076, Ext. 241

www.ccionline.org

June 29, 2016

To: Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI)
From: Colorado Human Services Director's Association (CHSDA)
Regarding: SFY 2017/2018 Budget Recommendations

Dear CCI,

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you the areas of need and our recommended program funding priorities to best inform and guide the discussions you as Commissioners will be having with the Colorado Department of Human Services, Joint Budget Committee, and State legislators.

Through the ongoing committee work of CHSDA, strategic planning conversations, and a review of year to date allocation spending, the following budget priorities were identified that best represent the challenges, issues, and priorities of Colorado human services directors.

Priority #1 – Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Funding

In 2014, the General Assembly passed House Bill 14-1317, which made sweeping changes to the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) in order to provide low-to moderate-income families with access to affordable child care that helps families achieve self-sufficiency while also providing families access to high-quality early childhood development and school readiness programs.

Now that the provisions of the bill, including tiered reimbursement based on quality, have been fully implemented, the funding impact of these legislative requirements can now be observed in counties' spending trends. These trends clearly point to the need to increase funding for CCCAP. While counties are very much appreciative of the General Assembly's approval of an additional approximately \$2.5 million increase in funding for CCCAP for SFY 2017-18 (made up of primarily Federal funds), the current level of funding is inadequate to cover future CCCAP expenditures and will limit the number of children served.

Through April 2017, spending on CCCAP has increased by 18.6% (\$68,270,223) compared to this time a year ago (\$61,132,557). In fact, despite the additional \$2.5 million provided by the Joint Budget Committee through a supplemental for this year, as of April 2017, counties are still projected to be overspent by more than \$3 million for SFY 2016-2017, which includes overspending by 22 counties. As a result, many counties have already begun to implement waiting lists as a cost containment measure, which ultimately reduces the number of families that can be served through CCCAP. This creates a very challenging situation for Counties who are also tasked with helping our Colorado families find and keep employment. Absent additional funding, we would anticipate that a greater number of counties will need to implement waiting lists in the coming fiscal year. This is particularly concerning because implementing waiting lists compounds the issues for the poorest families in our communities. Three of four families currently utilizing CCCAP have incomes of less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (for a

family of four that equates to \$36,900/year). Inadequate CCCAP funding does not allow counties to meet the intent of HB14-1317.

Priority #2 – Child Welfare Block Grant

Counties are extraordinarily appreciative of the strong commitment CDHS and the Colorado General Assembly have shown towards funding new child welfare caseworkers in order to address the significant deficit identified in the 2014 Child Welfare Workload Study. However, while this funding is critical and should be continued, it does not address the overall demand for services and shift in workload across the entire state that counties have seen in child welfare. Generally, funding has not kept pace with the increase in workload and child welfare costs associated with best outcomes for children. As a result of overall increase in workload discussed below and other important developments, the Child Welfare Block is expected to be overspent in SFY 2016-17 by approximately \$3.6 million.

Notably, child abuse and neglect referral rates have increased by more than 19% between CY 2014 and 2016. Similarly, the number of assessments counties conduct on child welfare referrals has increased by more than 17% during that time period. In response to this increased activity, counties have increased their program services spending for Child Welfare by more than 15% during this time.

Although workload has increased on the front end, counties have successfully implemented prevention and early intervention strategies that have avoided a commensurate increase in costly out of home placements. Importantly, while in SFY12, there were 129 children in placement per 1,000 referrals received, by CY2016, only 65 children were in placement per 1,000 referrals in Colorado. Similarly, despite a nationwide emphasis on reducing out of home placements, according to data from kidscount.org, the nation as a whole has seen total placements rise by 7.3% between CY2011 and CY2015, while in Colorado there has been a 6.5% *decrease* over that same time period.

The Child Welfare Allocation has also not kept pace with inflation. In fact, excluding SFY 2006-2007, which was embedded in the allocation, the General Assembly provided a cumulative 7.2% provider rate increase between SFY07 and SFY16. The rate of inflation over this same timeframe has been about 16.7%.

Counties are also preparing themselves for a loss of IV-E Waiver funding, which could shift practice away from this critical front end work and towards the most expensive back end system penetration (out of home placements), making an increased investment in child welfare funding more important than ever. A loss of funding for early intervention is bad for our allocations, but much more importantly, is bad for the outcomes for children and families.

Additional Important Items:

In addition to our top two funding priorities listed above, it is our assumption that full funding for all three tiers of the County Tax Base Relief Fund will continue to be a statewide priority in SFY 2018-2019.

We also assume that, in response to the deficit identified in the 2014 Child Welfare Workload Study, increased child welfare staffing will continue to be a priority for CDHS.

Finally, we hope to work with the State and the General Assembly to monitor and respond to developments at the Federal level that may have significant impacts on our administration of human services throughout Colorado.

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Grantwriting Workshop Schedule

These free workshops will cover grant application writing for GOCO's Local Parks and Outdoor Recreation (LPOR) and mini LPOR grant programs. This schedule will be updated as event details are finalized.

RSVP is required through Evite. Click the location name below to RSVP through Evite. This link can also be shared with your colleagues to RSVP with.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ADDRESS
July 17	9 – 11 am	Delta	Rec Center 531 N Palmer St.
July 18	9 – 11 am	Leadville	City Hall 800 Harrison Ave.
July 19	10 am – 12 pm	Kremmling	Chamber of Commerce 203 Park Ave.
July 20	9 – 11 am	Greeley	Greeley Ice Haus 900 8th Ave
July 25	1 – 3 pm	Stratton	Town Hall 918 Colorado Ave.
July 26	9 – 11 am	La Junta	Court House Room 107 13 West 3 rd St.
July 27	9 – 11 am	Blanca	Town Hall 601 Main St.
July 28	9 – 11 am	Silverton	Town Hall 1360 Green St.
August 2	9 – 11 am	Aurora	Arapahoe County Board Room 6954 S Lima St.

Contact Madison Brannigan at mbrannigan@goco.org with any questions.