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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUCCESSFUL IN CHANGING CHILD WELFARE ALLOCATION FORMULA; COUNTY TO RECEIVE MORE FUNDS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

WELD COUNTY, CO – After nine months of deliberation and discussion regarding the state’s allocation formula for child welfare, the Child Welfare Allocation Committee (CWAC) voted unanimously earlier this week to modify the allocation formula. As a result of this vote, and upon approval by the Executive Director, Weld County will receive an increased allocation of approximately \$3 million to provide child protection services to the residents of Weld County.

“This is great news for Weld County families,” said Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer. Kirkmeyer, who was appointed to the CWAC by Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) in January 2011 and serves as one of eight members on the committee, was instrumental in determining the make-up of the committee, defining committee responsibilities and criteria used to determining allocation in 1997.

“The increase in funds for this state-mandated program will make a positive difference, and potentially provide better lives, for our kids,” said Kirkmeyer.

The CWAC, which is the committee authorized by Colorado Revised Statutes to make recommendations to the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services regarding the allocation of child welfare funding among Colorado’s 64 counties, voted on the new allocation formula for the Core Services program Tuesday (April 10) evening. The committee also voted to adjust the formula for the Child Welfare Services Program.

The availability of this funding will enable the Weld County Department of Human Services to continue its efforts to provide these vital services to county residents and will allow the department to no longer rely on Colorado Works Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding to cover its expenditures in child welfare.

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