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PRESS RELEASE

Date: 4/1/13

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIM APRIL
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

WELD COUNTY, CO – During Monday’s Board Meeting, the Weld County Commissioners proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

“The best way to prevent child abuse,” said Commissioner Mike Freeman, Commissioner Coordinator for the Department of Human Services (DHS), “is to encourage the development of strong families.”

The Proclamation states, “Whereas, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community...(and) whereas, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community. Now, therefore, the Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim the month of April, 2013, as Child Abuse Prevention Month...”

Information provided by DHS, through their web pages, provides numerous suggestions on how they can help encourage strong families such as helping parents develop the ability to cope with parenting challenges, encouraging parents to build an emotional and social network to assist them, and to help parents achieve financial assistance through programs such as TANF and Medicaid.

To further engage the community in helping to prevent child abuse, DHS has also provided fliers with tips on helping to develop and encourage strong families to the business community, the faith-based community, schools and child care providers. The goal of the fliers is to educate the community on ways they can help families grow and strengthen and, in turn, prevent child abuse.

“There are many different programs available to parents through our department,” said Judy Griego, Director of DHS in Weld County. “Parenting can be a challenge, and we want the public to know that there is help available.”

To learn more about how you can help prevent child abuse, or if you suspect that a family may need assistance, please visit <http://www.co.weld.co.us/Departments/HumanServices/>

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