



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Phone: 970-336-7204 Fax: 970-352-0242
1150 O St., P.O. Box 758, Greeley, CO 80632

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZE APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WELD COUNTY, CO – The Weld County Board of Commissioners proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month during their board meeting on Wednesday.



From Left: Commissioner Sean Conway; Commissioner Julie Cozad; Kathi Brown, Weld County Preventions Program Supervisor; Gwen Schooley, A Kid's Place Child Advocacy Center; Robin Overmyer, Weld County Child Welfare Response Manager; Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer; Commissioner Mike Freeman and Commissioner Steve Moreno.

In 2014, Weld County Department of Human Services (DHS) reported 413 cases of child abuse or neglect. "Child abuse and neglect is a serious problem, and we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and to promote the well-being of children and families," said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer. "Prevention remains the best defense for children and families."

The DHS webpage provides information and suggestions on how to encourage strong families. There is information on helping parents develop the ability to cope with parenting challenges, a calendar of 30 ways to promote child well-being during prevention month, and information on financial assistance through programs such as TANF and Medicaid.

To further educate the public on child abuse and prevention, the DHS webpage provides many informational flyers explaining how to recognize the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect as well as links to outside resources such as helpguide.org.

"As a community we want to educate people about not only the physical but also emotional damage child abuse and neglect can cause," said Commissioner Julie Cozad, coordinator for DHS. "Every person should know the signs of abuse to help stop it."

To learn more about how you can help prevent child abuse or if you suspect that a family may need assistance, visit the DHS webpage on www.weldgov.com.

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