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Arapahoe County Human Services team is named leader for excellence in child welfare

Ten employees receive the Excellence in Practice Award at the State Child Welfare Conference

Aurora, Colo. Arapahoe County Human Services Family Empowerment Unit is celebrating today after being named winner of the Excellence in Practice Award at the 13th Annual Child Welfare Conference in Vail.

The award positions the County as a State leader in promoting safety, permanence and well being for children and families. Patty Mead, Children and Family Services Administrator, and Cynthia Carey, Children and Family Supervisor, also received Excellence in Practice recognition for their work with the Family Empowerment Team.

“We’re thrilled that our employees are receiving this acknowledgement from the State as they personify the meaning of teamwork,” said Carla Finch, Children and Family Services Division Manager. “Excellence in Practice covers everything from the service these employees provide to our clients, to the way they look out for each other as they deal daily with stressful, unpredictable situations. They deserve to be recognized as the best.”

The Family Empowerment Unit, comprising eight staff, is responsible for assessing and investigating referrals to Human Services of families whose children are under the age of six. The unit also conducts investigations in the case of child fatalities and, in other cases, works with families to help them find alternatives to entering the child welfare system. Team winners were Diane Ward, Josie Berry, Carol Herndon, Dawn Goodman, Stephanie Abbott, Mary Lynn Bendykowski, Becky Moore, April See and Julie Devine.

The awards will be presented at a special luncheon hosted by the Colorado Department of Human Services at the Vail Marriott Resort. For more information about Arapahoe County’s award winners, contact Carla Finch at 303-636-1775; for more information about the Child Welfare conference, go to www.cwconf.com, or contact Arthur Trevethick, Chair of the Excellence in Practice Awards Committee, at 303-866-4511.

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