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To: Lloyd Malone, Director, Division of Child Welfare Services
From: Executive Committee of the Colorado Human Services Directors Association
CC: Reggie Bicha, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Human Services
Julie Krow, Director, Office of Children, Youth and Families
Date: 12/22/2011
Re: Request for child welfare funding consultant

On behalf of the Colorado Human Services Directors Association, we request that CDHS engage a consultant to provide expertise regarding Child Welfare funding strategies that support best practices as well as maximize our funding as we consider new Child Welfare and Core allocation methodologies.

There are a number of great initiatives in Colorado that are focused on Child Welfare system reform such as the Colorado Practice Model, Differential Response, Permanency Roundtables, No Time to Lose and the focus on the right-sizing of congregate care. It is essential that allocation methodologies support counties in moving forward on these initiatives and in incentivizing improved outcomes for children and families. As you know, states like Virginia have established such an allocation model. We have an opportunity at this time to ensure that outcomes-focused systems change is supported by an appropriate funding methodology. Additionally, it is imperative that the future allocations take HB 1196 into account.

A consultant would help lend increased objectivity to the design process. The current process runs the risk of being subject to the self-interest of those counties proposing various models. An outside consultant could help us look at what funding strategies can yield which outcomes and offer a national perspective on the true drivers of child welfare funding. We believe that Casey Family Programs and Annie E. Casey could assist us in the process as well.

As we move forward in Colorado it is crucial that we develop a process and funding methodology that is equitable and that most, if not all, counties can support.

Thank you for considering this important request and for your important work to enhance Colorado's child welfare services for families and children.