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THIS, TOO, IS YOUR PROGRAM

Under the laws of Colorado any dependent, neglected or abused child has available the services of the child welfare divisions of the county and state departments of public welfare. These services do, however, fall within statutory and budgetary limits.

Every citizen has a stake in any public program. Individually we may blame anything or anybody for what we feel is a worthless or unnecessary program. But no matter where we place the blame we can't evade the fact that we are citizens - and so, ourselves responsible.

This wonderful country of ours was not founded on lassitude or indifference. Nor can it long endure without an honest facing of individual responsibility. If a public program is worthless, let's get rid of it. If it is good, let's get behind it.

The silent tears of children, the fears, the desolation of feeling unwanted or deserted are as old as mankind. But the manner of our help must ever be as new as each advancing light shed on age-old problems.

It is to you that we are reporting the manner of our help during the past year. It is to you that we look for moral and financial support, constructive criticism and suggestions.



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PROTECTIVE SERVICES

It is an old American custom to defend the defenseless.

That spirit is reflected in the protective services given children by child welfare divisions of county and state departments of public welfare.

The abuse or neglect of any child coming to the attention of child welfare is immediately investigated.

If necessary, laws protecting children are invoked and community resources drawn upon for the immediate care of the child while plans are developed for his future.

In 1955 - 2,053 children were given protection services.

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immediate care of the child. Plans are developed
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In 1955 - 2,053 children
were placed in protective services.



HOM FOSTER CARE VICE

Foster care homes are carefully chosen, of their course, but more goes into it than the initial study and approval. of children.

Few foster parents would be willing to take on an emotionally hurt child without the assurance that the caseworker would be standing by with help and encouragement in this difficult and delicate task of rebuilding a child's trust, confidence and belief in his own worth. public welfare

Also, every child in a foster home should and does have the safeguard of supervision in that home. He is not turned over to the foster parents and left. The worker for that child keeps a watchful eye on him and extends the helpful hand of experience and training to the foster parents.

Foster homes are, of course, temporary. The ultimate goal is the returning of the child to his own family if that later becomes possible; or finding for him the right adoptive parents when he is free for adoption. If neither of these alternatives is possible, then the foster home becomes more permanent.

In 1955 - the doors of 571 foster homes were opened for children and 1,044 children were welcomed therein.

FOSTER CARE

Foster care homes are carefully chosen, of course, but more goes into it than the initial study and approval.

Few foster parents would be willing to take on an emotionally hurt child without the assurance that the caseworker would be standing by with help and encouragement in his own lack of rebuilding a child's self-esteem in his own worth.



In 1955 - the doors of 571 foster homes were opened for children and 1,044 children were welcomed therein.

HOMEMAKER SERVICE

Homemakers are carefully selected for their ability to manage a home and for their understanding and love of children.

When the mother of a family of children is temporarily unable to keep the home and the children going, and there are no relatives or friends to step in, the father can always appeal to his county department of public welfare.

The father, the caseworker and the prospective homemaker (chosen for her suitability to this particular family) all share together in the decisions and the planning.

Children need not be uprooted and deprived, even temporarily, of both parents. Children and father mutually gather strength from this unbroken tie.

In 1955 - 7 homemakers kept 167 children from having to be uprooted in times of stress.

In 1955 - of the 212 children placed for adoption 35 were in the hard-to-place category, and of these 15 were handicapped children.

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When the mother of a family is temporarily unable to keep the home and children going, and there are no relatives or friends to help in the father can always appeal to the Department of Public Welfare.

The father, the mother, and the respective homemaker (chosen for her ability to manage a particular family) all share together in the decision and the planning.

Children need not be worried and even temporarily, or both parents, broken families, usually rather strength for this broken home.



In 1918, the Department of Public Welfare was created to help families in times of stress.

ADOPTION

There was once a time - and not too long ago - when the only children placed for adoption were the storybook kind. Thought was not even given to the possibility of anyone wanting the very human everyday child.

Now, the feeling is growing that somewhere, someplace, there is a home for every child if we could but find it.

The search is still beset by many obstacles, the chief one being the law which dooms many children to life in an institution because it takes into account only the rights of parents.

However, in spite of this we are making progress:

In 1955 - of the 212 children placed for adoption 38 were in the hard-to-place category, and of these 15 were handicapped children.

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In 1966 - of the 216 children placed for adoption, 38 were in the hard-to-place category, and of these 15 were handicapped children.



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RECREATION

If you break down the work, "recreation", you have re-creation. Children are born without prejudices and with a simple acceptance of other human beings. Often this is quickly lost.

No one lives to himself alone. A child must learn his place in a group - where his rights leave off and the other person's begin. He must learn that each human being or group of human beings have their own contribution to make.

One of the basic emotional needs is "acceptance" by others. This a child must have if he is not to choose the crooked road.

There is no better way of building a healthy, wholesome spirit of understanding, respect and appreciation of our fellow human beings than "re-creating" together.

In 1955 - our Group Work Consultant helped 5 counties to establish recreation programs. At the request of the Southern Ute Tribal Council, she worked with them in providing summer recreation for Indian and non-Indian children in adjoining communities. There were 78 campers with an average weekly attendance of 60. At the end of the summer, recreation activities continued in Ignacio.

As president of the Colorado Camping Association, our Group Work Consultant visited member camps of the American Camping Association, the national standard setting organization in this field.

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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

(What are we doing about it?)

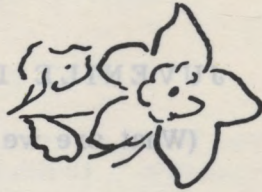
What part does Child Welfare play in the prevention of juvenile delinquency - and what is juvenile delinquency?

There is no better definition of juvenile delinquency than that contained in Gibran's definition of Evil - "For what is Evil but Good tortured by its own hunger and thirst?"

Children coming within the sustaining and protecting realm of child welfare might all be said to be potential juvenile delinquents - all are tortured by their own hunger and thirst - for love, for a sense of belonging, for a belief in their own worth.

Protective services, foster home care, home-maker service, adoption and recreation - these are a dependent or neglected child's first line of defense - his chance to come out of the shadows before they engulf his yearning and anxious heart.

In 1955 - the Committee sponsored four meetings, conferences, and workshops. Four workshops were held - two in Denver, one in Aurora, and one in Colorado Springs.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs. E. L. Survant, Trinchera, Chairman
Mrs. John Bart, Cheyenne Wells, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Joe Autry, La Junta
Mrs. Arthur Ballantine, Jr., Durango
Mrs. J. G. Brown, Montrose
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Miss Marie C. Smith, Secretary, Denver
Mrs. Rena Mary Taylor, Palisade
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Walsh, Pueblo



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To the Child Welfare Division of the
State Department of Public Welfare

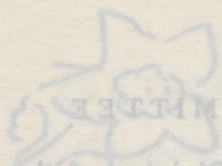
The Advisory Committee is composed of men and women actively interested in children. They come from different parts of the state - each with a knowledge of his local community - each an interpreter of child welfare services.

It is sadly true that often help is at hand of which we are unaware. One goal of the committee is to disseminate accurate information on child welfare services; another to sponsor and promote free discussion among representatives of public and private groups interested in the welfare of children. A concerted effort with a pooling of knowledge and services can be of great benefit to children of any given community.

The committee also sponsors educational workshops in various communities in the state - the local groups deciding upon the subject they feel would be most helpful in their particular community at that time.

Such things as children's laws, a treatment center for emotionally disturbed children - things which affect children all over the state - are also a concern of this Committee.

In 1955 - the Committee sponsored four meetings, covering 17 counties. Four workshops were held - two in Denver, one in Pueblo and one in Colorado Springs.


ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 To the Child Welfare Division of the
 State Department of Public Welfare

The Advisory Committee is composed of men and women actively interested in children. They come from different parts of the state - each a knowledgeable representative of his local community. Each child welfare service is represented.

It is desirable that officials of the state which we are now serving should be interested in the child welfare problem. It is to disseminate accurate information among representatives of the various groups interested in the child welfare problem. It is to be a part of the knowledge and understanding of the great benefits which child welfare brings to the state.

The committee is composed of men and women who are actively interested in the child welfare problem. It is to be a part of the knowledge and understanding of the great benefits which child welfare brings to the state.

Such a committee is desirable in every state. It is to be a part of the knowledge and understanding of the great benefits which child welfare brings to the state.

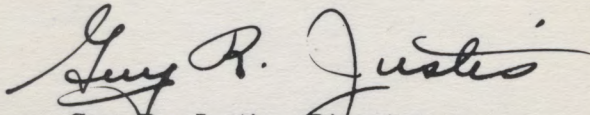
In 1935 - the Committee sponsored four meetings, covering 11 counties. Four workshops were held - two in Denver, one in Pueblo and one in Colorado Springs.

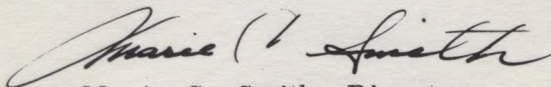


--- And so we close this brief report of our activities in behalf of children during the past year.

It would take volumes to explain in detail what we are doing, obstacles to be overcome, accomplishments toward which we are working.

So we hope if you have any questions you will get in touch with us.


Guy R. Justis, Director
State Department of Public Welfare


Marie C. Smith, Director
Child Welfare Division

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