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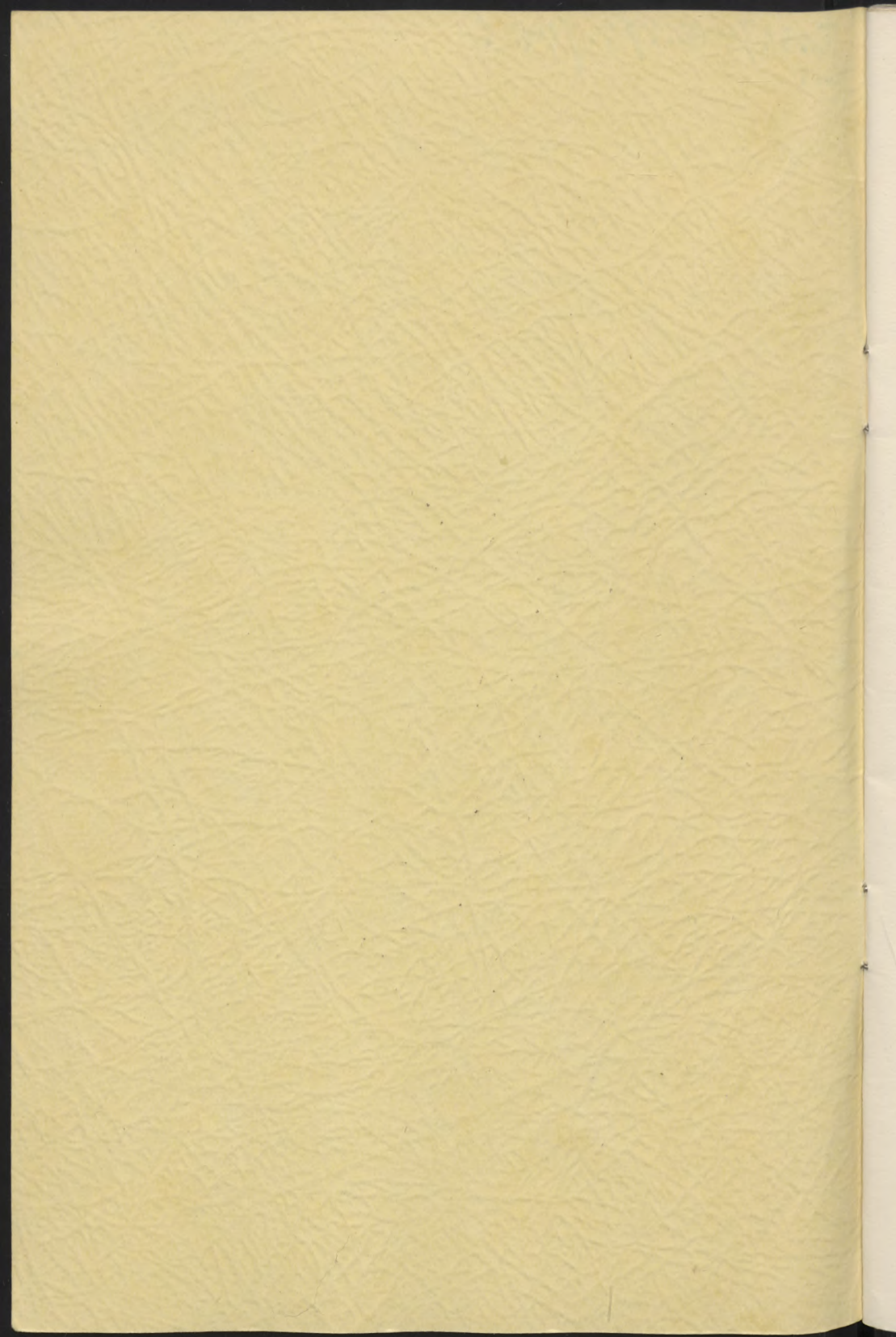
1956

CHILD WELFARE DIVISION



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COLORADO STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
State Capitol Annex  
Denver 2, Colorado





TWENTY YEARS AGO

Twenty years ago the Child Welfare Division of the State Department of Public Welfare was established.

Up until that time, Colorado had taken no coordinated responsibility for the care and protection of its children.

Not one of the 63 county departments of public welfare offered services to children.

Today we have a sound and growing child welfare program:

Foster Boarding Home

Homemaker Service (Colorado was the first state to have such a service.)

Protective Services

Adoption Program

Child Welfare Services to Children  
in Their Own Homes

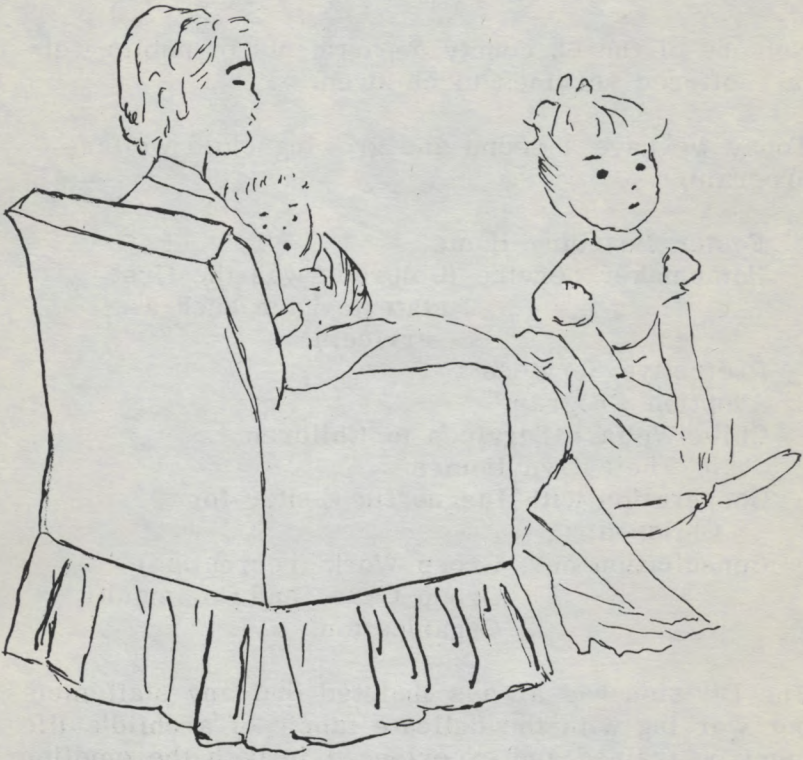
Cooperation with Diagnostic Center for  
Children

Consultation on: Group Work (recreation)  
Group Care, and Community  
Organization.

The Division has always insisted that any staff member working with the delicate fabric of a child's life must be trained and experienced in both the emotional and technical aspects of that field of service.

On the following pages you will find a brief description of these services and the number of children served.

## FOSTER HOME CARE



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In 1956, 1,346 children were given foster home care  
in 563 foster homes.

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Who are these children? PROTECTIVE

The neglected, the mistreated, the emotionally disturbed, the handicapped, children with behavior problems, children who must be temporarily removed from their own homes, children waiting for adoption, children recommended by the Diagnostic Center for foster home care rather than institutional care, dependent children.

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These are children with whom life has dealt harshly. They are bewildered. The world has become to them a dark place of rejection and punishment - for what reason they do not know. No one seems to care.

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These are the children to whom the people of Colorado, through their state and county child welfare services have said, "Someone does care".

CSAM

Foster homes are earnestly sought and thoroughly studied to be sure they can provide security, warmth, and guidance to the child.

Foster home studies are sent to the state office for approval. A central register is kept so that counties not having foster homes available or having a child who should be placed outside his own community, can get help from the state in placing that child.

The worker who places the child stands by ready to help the foster parents with problems which may arise, and keeps in touch with the child to be sure that all goes well with him.

The family reimburses the county for all or part of the caseworker's salary, depending upon the family budget. The county pays the caseworker not only the county knows how much, if any, the family pays.

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES

In 1956 protective services were given to 2,165 children.

These are cases where abuse and acute neglect of children called for prompt action in protecting the child.

Solution of the problem came later. In some cases it meant invoking laws protecting children and severing parental rights. More often it meant working with parents and children to change conditions to the extent that the child was later returned to his own home. As long as needed the child is supervised in his own home.







### HOMEMAKER SERVICES

In 1957, 99 children were kept in their own homes in the mother's absence or inability to carry on her responsibilities.

To remove a child from his own home when it is not mandatory is to tear him loose needlessly from the only world with which he is familiar, and to disrupt family life at a time when all members need the strength and comfort of "togetherness".

Homemakers, who are members of the staff of a county department of public welfare, are usually older women whose ability to manage a home, understanding and love of children, and tact in adjusting to someone else's home, are carefully determined.

The father has only to call his county department of public welfare. The father, the caseworker, the homemaker (chosen for her suitability to that particular home) all plan together.

The family reimburses the county for all or part of the homemaker's salary, depending upon the family budget. The county pays the homemaker and only the county knows how much, if any, the family pays.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES



HOMEMAKER SERVICES





## COOPERATION WITH DIAGNOSTIC

### CENTER FOR CHILDREN

This newly created service for children was established by legislative act in 1955. It provides that county courts in counties of less than 150,000 population may refer children to the Diagnostic Center before committing them to a state institution. Also, the superintendent of any state institution may refer children to the Center for diagnosis when they feel diagnosis is needed.

The law provides that county departments of public welfare, at the request of the county judge, furnish the Center with social studies on children from their counties referred to the Center.

Insofar as the laws, budget and community resources permit, the State Child Welfare Division cooperates with the counties in providing the type of care recommended by the Center.

Colorado has no residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children, which often makes it impossible to secure for the unhappy child the kind of care which would relieve him of his wretchedness and restore him to a normal life.

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During a 14 months' period 83 children from 25 counties were accepted at the Center for diagnosis.

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## Child Welfare Services

### TO CHILDREN IN THEIR OWN HOMES

Child welfare services to children in their own homes are provided through county and state child welfare programs to enable parents and children to live useful, satisfying lives with each other and their neighbors.

Becoming a parent does not automatically endow one with an understanding of children or a knowledge of what to expect in the course of their normal development.

When a child gives evidence that the cause of difficulty is his relationship with his parents, and the nature of his behavior is such as to require a direct relationship with a child welfare worker, such help is available.

Child welfare workers have a specific knowledge of the development of children and are trained to detect from which direction the danger signals are coming.

In this program a direct relationship with the child is essential and, since the cause of the trouble is parent-child relationship, case work services must also be given the parents.

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During 1956 a monthly average of 1,143 children and their parents were given such service in their own homes.

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## ADOPTION

Adoption is a field that requires specialized training. It also calls for a continual tapping of knowledge from other professions, such as the law, pediatrics, genetics, anthropology, psychiatry.

A periodical analysis of successful and unsuccessful adoptions, together with an awareness of advances made in other fields having a bearing on adoptions, sheds light on many problems connected with the adoption program.

Last year we had 51 children in the "hard-to-place" category for whom no homes had been found. Since child welfare workers were too few in number to permit the necessary time being taken to find homes for such children, we took drastic action.

At our request the Denver Post ran a series of articles on adoption featuring the "hard-to-place" children. The response was overwhelming, vindicating our belief that there is a home for every child if we could but find it.

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In 1956, 229 children were placed for adoption.  
Of this number, 68 were in the "hard-to-place" category.

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## GROUP WORK (Recreation)

Community recreation programs are unique in that group activity of fun and learning is equally beneficial to the child with problems and the child without problems.

The withdrawn child, the aggressive, the timid, the pugnacious, the lonely, and the child prone to get into trouble - all find in group activity the therapy needed.

The child with no particular problems finds growth and development and a wholesome outlet for his natural exuberance so that he is less likely to develop problems.

All learn to make room for the other fellow in their pattern of living - and living is something that cannot be wholesomely done alone.

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In 1956 our Consultant on Group Work gave consultation service in community organization for recreation to 8 counties; also continued help as problems arose in development. Much time was spent with two Indian tribes in Southwest Colorado, resulting in a summer day camp for boys and girls and a year-round recreation program. Work was done toward organizing recreation programs at the Ute Mountain Reservation.

Through effort spent in bringing about closer cooperation between the Colorado Section of the American Camping Association and state agencies concerned with camp operation, great strides were made toward higher standards for Colorado camps.

GROUP WORK  
(Recreation)

Community recreation programs are valuable in that group activity of fun is being enjoyed by the child with problems and the child without problems.

The withdrawn child, the timid, the shy, the person who is unable to get into groups - all find group activity therapy needed.

The child with no particular problems finds growth and development and a wide outlet for his natural exuberance that he is likely to develop.

All learn to take pride in their pattern of behavior that cannot be worn down.

In 1956 our consultant on Group Work gave consultation to various organizations and state agencies concerning the importance of group work in the field of recreation.

Since the first camp operation, great strides were made toward higher standards for Colorado camps.





## GROUP CARE

A new service was added this past year. The need for a consultant on group care has been evident for some time, but until recently we were unable to recruit a qualified person. On March 1, 1956, this position was filled.

Child-caring institutions realize that in an institutional setting, it is very hard to meet the needs of the child as an individual - physical care is far from enough. A child needs to feel that he has his own place in the world; that his particular combination of traits and talents are needed; that no one else can exactly fill his shoes.

Workshops given in the past for institutional personnel were enthusiastically received. Houseparents particularly are anxious to learn what can be done to give the child a feeling that he is recognized as a person, and as such is appreciated and loved for his own little self. Houseparents also want help in giving each child an opportunity for individual expression through exercising his talents and abilities.

And so your state makes every effort to help institutional personnel to bring understanding, love and individual recognition to the child where he is; and not to turn him loose with no knowledge of, or preparation for, life as it is lived outside the inclosure of an institution.

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Since coming on the staff, our Consultant on Group Care has given consultation service to six children's institutions and participated in two workshops, one for the Denver Area Day Care Association and one for houseparents of dependent children's institutions.

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## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

When residents of a community decide something needs doing (and they get a good start), that "something" usually gets done.

Whatever it is, local residents themselves can best cope with their own community problems when they can get help in the techniques of organizing and planning.

In one community the residents were shocked when they learned that five quite young boys were being committed to the Boys' Industrial School. Why? They asked themselves, and called on our Community Organization Consultant for technical help in organizing a general meeting of aroused citizens. That community is now going full steam ahead toward a solution of their problems.

Whatever the problem - be it juvenile delinquency, or education of handicapped children - consultation service in community organization is made available upon request.

Our Community Organization Consultant also assists the Advisory Committee to the Child Welfare Division in planning and organizing meetings with voluntary agencies and citizens groups, which are held in various parts of the state under the sponsorship of the Advisory Committee.

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During 1956 community organization consultation service was given to ten counties. Time spent in these counties ranged from one day to two weeks with each from once to six times during the year, depending upon need. Community meetings were held in four counties.

A coordinating committee on services to children was formed in Sterling. A Fremont County Child Welfare Advisory Committee is in the process of formation. The west end of Montrose County is developing a coordinating committee on services to children.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1956

Mrs. Robert Krouse, Chairman, Colorado Springs  
Mrs. Joe Autry, La Junta  
Mrs. Arthur Ballantine, Jr., Durango  
Mrs. John Bart, Cheyenne Wells  
Mrs. J. G. Brown, Montrose  
Mrs. Ruth B. Clark, Fort Collins  
Mrs. Geo. W. Dickinson, Littleton  
Mrs. Lon T. Fidler, Denver  
Mrs. Lester Garner, Sterling  
Mrs. David Griffith, Denver  
Mr. L. M. Lopez, Denver  
Reverend Stephen J. McShane, Denver  
Mrs. Edmond F. Noel, Denver  
Mrs. Fred B. Orman, Pueblo  
Mrs. Philip B. Short, Denver  
Miss Marie C. Smith  
Mrs. E. L. Survant, Trinchera  
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Walsh



ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
to the  
CHILD WELFARE DIVISION

The Advisory Committee is made up of men and women from various parts of the state who are known to be interested in the welfare of children.

They bring to the professional staff the viewpoint of the layman. In turn they share their understanding of the work of the Division with their own communities.

Members of the committee and the staff recognize that we have a powerful force with which to work - the love everyone has for a child. As with all forces, direction is necessary to accomplishment.

Local communities can be depended upon to handle their own problems provided they can get consultation and technical help from someone trained and qualified to give it.

For this reason, the committee sponsors workshops and meetings in various communities which are jointly planned by the Child Welfare Division and the local public and private children's agencies or citizens groups.

Also, the committee keeps informed on pending state and federal legislation affecting children, and on what is happening in the state which should be encouraged or discouraged, depending upon its affect on children.

In 1956 the committee sponsored three workshops and three community meetings in various parts of the state.



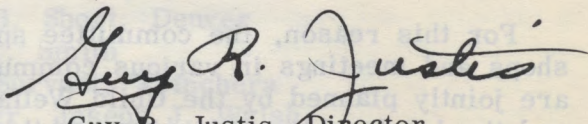


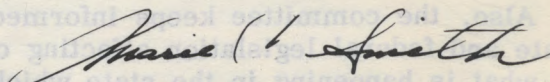
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- - - - - We have reported briefly on the program of the Division and the number of children served. But we do not want to leave the impression that all Colorado's children are being ministered to. As you know, child welfare services are limited by statute, budget, community backing and available trained staff.

- - - - - It does sometimes happen that in spite of all we can do a child is returned to a home situation we know is unspeakable. Also, there are still children left friendless and undefended; children doomed to life in a state institution because there is no treatment center in Colorado for emotionally disturbed children; or because some laws affecting children are such that the child is left the helpless victim of parents' indifference.

- - - - - But we continue toward our goal - that happy day when no child is left without a friend and every child has his chance at life. With the help of Colorado's citizens, we will reach that goal.

  
Guy R. Justis, Director  
State Department of Public Welfare

  
Marie C. Smith, Director  
Child Welfare Division

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Colorado. State Dept. of Public Welfare.  
Annual report.

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