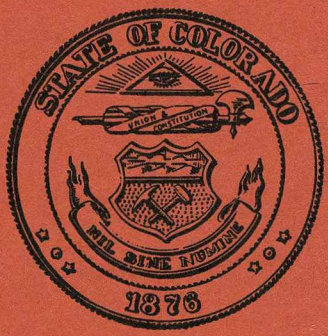
THE BOARD OF STANDARDS OF CHILD CARE

STATE OF COLORADO



SIXTH BIENNIAL REPORT

1953 - 1955

SIXTH

BIENNIAL REPORT

1953 —— 1955

He who helps a child, helps humanity with a distinctness, an immediateness, which no other help in any other stage of human life can possibly give.

- - - - Phillips Brooks

******
****
**
*
*

COLORADO BOARD OF STANDARDS OF CHILD CARE

John C. Stoddard, Director

35 Capitol Building

Denver 2, Colorado

THE HONORABLE EDWIN C. JOHNSON
Governor of Colorado
State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado

Dear Governor Johnson:

The Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care submits herewith this report of its work done during the biennium from July 1, 1953 to June 30, 1955.

The report gives a brief summary of the progress made and of the number of children served.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF STANDARDS OF CHILD CARE

Rev. Canon Harry Watts,

Chairman

BOARD MEMBERS

Rev. Canon Harry Watts, Chairman	Denver
Mrs. C. Walter Allen, Vice-Chairman	Denver
Rt. Rev. Msgr. John R. Mulroy Secretary	Denver
Mr. John A. Brown	La Junta
Dr. George J. Dwire	Colorado Springs
Mr. Solomon Girsh	Denver
Mrs. Stephen H. Hart	Denver
Mrs. Marguerite R. Juchem	Arvada
Mrs. Marie A. McMillen	Cheyenne Wells

OTHERS SERVING DURING THE BIENNIUM

Mr. Dave Harlem	Served until April 1954

FOREWORD

The State Legislature created the Board of Standards of Child Care for the purpose of protecting minor children who must live in foster homes. Through licensing and enforcement of minimum standards a uniform improvement of standards in foster homes is encouraged. The basis for the licensing program was concern for the children who were placed casually in undesirable homes. Any home which undertakes to keep children is expected to give them proper physical care and offer children adequate opportunities for normal development.

In Colorado we find many children living away from their own homes and cared for by persons other than members of their own families. There are also many children cared for during part of the day in day nurseries.

The Board has proceeded on the theory that minimum standards must first provide physical protection for foster children. There must be assurance that standards of fire and health protection are met. All foster care programs must have sufficient staff, adequate financing and dependable sponsorship. The Board has looked to the Attorney General's office for guidance in establishing enforceable standards.

The efforts of the Board are directed toward protecting foster children so they may grow into secure, independent, happy, and healthy adults, able to build and maintain a free world. The standards are prepared as a concise way of presenting basic elements for adequate protection.

FUNCTION OF THE BOARD OF STANDARDS OF CHILD CARE

The Board of Standards of Child Care is composed of nine Colorado citizens, who serve without compensation. They are appointed by the Governor because of their interest in the protection of children.

The enabling act is found in Chapter 196, Session Laws of 1943. Under its provision, the Board establishes minimum standards for the conduct of boarding homes for children and for child placement agencies. The standards apply to the care of children under the age of 16 years who are being cared for away from their own homes.

For the purpose of interpreting the standards, and rules and regulations, certain definitions were adopted:

1. A family foster home cares for not more than four children, either for full time or for part time.

2. An institutional foster home cares for not more than four children.

3. Day nurseries and nursery schools provide group care during part of the day.

4. A child placement agency is a corporation, association or individual who places, or arranges for placement of a child or children in a foster home or in an adoptive home.

5. A children's camp is a place where children live in organized groups under the care of supervisors who assume responsibility for the health, safety, recreational, and educational activities of children who are living temporarily away from their own homes.

During the biennium the Board members have worked at length on revision of the minimum standards. A new booklet of minimum standards for children's camps has been published.

In carrying out its responsibilities to children, the Board holds regular monthly meetings. These have been held the second Thursday of each month. Occasionally the urgency of business requires a special meeting.

The office of the Board of Standards of Child Care is located at 35 Capitol Building. The paid staff includes a director, two office workers and two field workers, one of whom is added to the staff during the summer to inspect children's camps.

During the biennium the following were licensed:

1953-1954

Family Foster Homes	1170	2,721	Children
Institutional Foster Homes	18	1,503	"
Day Nurseries & Nursery Schools .	95	2,098	"
Children's Camps	99	9,377	"
Child Placement Agencies	9		

1954-1955

Family Foster Homes	1275	3,065	Children
Institutional Foster Homes	19	1,653	"
Day Nurseries & Nursery Schools .	94	2,079	"
Children's Camps	111	9,853	"
Child Placement Agencies	9		

CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCIES

A child placement agency is an agency that receives children under the age of sixteen years for placement and places such children either temporarily or permanently in foster homes or adoptive homes.

All such agencies are required to have a responsible board of control, whose members must determine the policies and general purposes of the agency and must be responsible for the activities of the organization.

Annually the agency must submit a report to the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care, showing its practices, procedures, and administrative policies, along with a statistical report of placement services.

FOSTER HOME PLACEMENTS

Most of the children under the protection of child-placement agencies are placed in foster homes for temporary care, while an effort is made to rehabilitate the family.

The agency recruits and selects the kind of home that will meet the needs of the child, and then assist the child and the foster parents to make the necessary adjustments for living together happily. There is no set rule for deciding which type of foster home will best meet the needs of an individual child. This is the important decision to be made by the child-placement agency, and to be put into effect for the benefit of the child.

The child-placement agency is also responsible for working out a satisfactory plan for the child before he is removed or dismissed from a foster home.

ADOPTION PLACEMENTS

Adoption is a very necessary and desirable custom, dating back to earliest times. At one time it was a very

simple process, but with our more complex society, it has become an involved procedure.

It is important that all interests be protected, the natural parent, the adoptive parent, and the child. Interest was once focused on the adoptive parents, their rights, and the sacrifices they were making for the child. Today, the emphasis has swung to the child and to protecting his interest above all others.

The child-placement agencies are the specialized groups, who must look at the total picture impartially, and try to determine in an objective manner what will be best for the child, and at the same time protect the interest of the natural parent, and the adoptive parents. This work requires a combination of natural ability, experience and training, if the future peace of mind and happiness of all persons concerned are to be assured.

INSTITUTIONAL FOSTER HOMES

Children are given institutional care for several reasons. In some instances, there is a scarcity of family homes and it may be necessary to place children of a given family in an institution until such a time as the family can provide a home.

Frequently, institutional care is best suited to a child's needs. This is found to be true in the case of some adolescents. There are instances in which a child is unable to accept the foster family relationships or a child whose parents cannot accept foster family placements, thus the child must be placed in an institution.

During some family emergencies, it is found necessary to provide children temporary institutional care.

There are occasions in which a child is in conflict with adults resulting in behaviour problems which can best be

solved by institutional care. Children who lack an opportunity to enjoy group living or those who may need observation and treatment may have their needs met through institutional care.

The members of the Board of Standards of Child Care appreciate the valuable service furnished by the institutional foster homes. Each institution should have a continuing self-evaluation of its services to children to determine whether or not the needs of the children and the needs of the community are being met.

During the biennium the health programs in several institutions have been significantly improved. This is important because in many cases, the children's health has been neglected before they come to the institution.

Mention should again be made of the many civic groups who have contributed so much to the educational and recreational programs for the children. Credit should also be given the many women volunteers, who regularly sew, mend, and give individual care in the institutional homes.

The twenty-one institutional homes are:

1. Asbury Manor 2535 E. Asbury Denver, Colorado	30 boys 8-14 years
2. Belleview College Westminster, Colorado	100 boys & girls 9-16 years
3. Byers for School Boys 64 West Alameda Denver, Colorado	40 boys 6-16 years
4. Christian Home for Children 6 West Cheyenne Road Colorado Springs, Colorado	56 boys & girls 1-16 years

5.	Colorado Christian Home 4325 W. 29th Avenue Denver, Colorado	88 boys & girls 2-16 years
6.	Denver Orphan's Home 1501 Albion Denver, Colorado	100 boys & girls 2-12 years
7.	Edelweiss Lodge Golden, Colorado	10 children 4-14 years
8.	Holland Hall for Girls 1260 Franklin Street Denver, Colorado	10 girls 6-16 years
9.	House of the Good Shepherd 1401 South Colorado Blvd. Denver, Colorado	180 girls 13-16 years
10.	Infant of Prague Nursery 2790 W. 33rd Street Denver, Colorado	44 boys & girls Infancy-2 yrs.
11.	Lincoln Home 2713 N. Grand Avenue Pueblo, Colorado	12 boys & girls 2-16 years
12.	McClelland Home 415 E. Abriendo Pueblo, Colorado	56 children 2-12 years
13.	Midwest Children's Home Longmont, Colorado	20 boys & girls 2-16 years
14.	Mt. St. Vincent's Home W. 42nd at Lowell Denver, Colorado	125 boys & girls 2-14 years

15.	Myron Stratton Home Box 2000 Colorado Springs, Colorado	85 boys & girls
16.	Jewish National Home for Asthmatic Children 3447 W. 19th Avenue Denver, Colorado	116 boys & girls 5-16 years
17.	Number Nine Pearl #9 Pearl Street Denver, Colorado	24 boys 12-16 years
18.	Queen of Heaven Home 4825 Federal Boulevard Denver, Colorado	200 girls 1-16 years
19.	Sacred Heart Home 2415 Sprague Avenue Pueblo, Colorado	140 boys & girls
20.	St. Clara's Home 3800 W. 29th Avenue Denver, Colorado	197 Children 2-16 years
21.	Laradon Hall for Exceptional Children 51st & Lincoln Denver, Colorado	100 boys 4-14 years

FAMILY FOSTER HOME

The family foster home is one which cares for not more than four children who are not closely related to the foster family. It offers the nearest substitute for the child's own home which has been disrupted by separation, divorce, death or illness.

For many children who must leave their own homes, foster family care offers the most favorable conditions for normal development, if the child is capable of forming new family relationships. The licensed homes cover a wide range of family patterns, personalities, nationalities, religions, cultural and economic levels.

Many foster parents are not motivated by the financial returns they receive. Devotion and personal sacrifice are often demonstrated in foster homes. A joy in the companionship of children is common in all economic groups. However, there are always persons who will exploit and take advantage of children. This is especially true when boarding children becomes a profitable business.

It is a long, difficult task to be a good foster parent. It often takes years of work, courage and sacrifice, but the most worthwhile things are not done in a hurry. It is especially difficult if a child has been mistreated and has learned to distrust people. The very young child is apt to respond quickly to kindness and affection, but an older child often has resentment over not having a home of his own. He needs someone whom he can learn to trust and who will not let him down. To gain such a child's confidence requires endless patience, but is satisfying work if one appreciates human values and is not expecting gratitude from the child.

The 1953-1955 biennium has shown a large increase in the number of foster homes. The board had but one full-time investigator to handle this great volume of work. Many more foster homes preferred to go directly through the State Board of Standards for Child Care instead of some of the placement agencies.

In 1953-54, there were 1170 foster homes licensed to care for 2721 children. In 1954-1955, there were 1275 family foster homes licensed to care for 3065 children.

CHILDREN'S CAMPS

Camps for children are literally becoming a growing industry in Colorado. More and more private and voluntary camp groups are attracted to Colorado by its climate, recreational opportunities and state camp supervision program.

The licensing of children's camps by the State of Colorado assures parents of the continued maintenance of minimum standards for the protection of the children.

Parents sending children to camp are anxious to know that the children will have adequate physical protection in the areas of sanitation, nutrition, fire protection and safety. They are also concerned about a good program for recreation, development and training.

About one-third of the camps are operated by youth organizations. These include the Scouts, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., 4-H Clubs, Camp Fire Girls, Job's Daughters and Young Life. These groups emphasize character development, leadership, cooperation, teamwork, appreciation of nature, camp crafts, and beneficial use of leisure time.

Another third of the camps are operated by churches, which emphasize religious training, at the same time providing an interesting recreational program. Such camps offer summer vacation at a low cost to a large number of children.

The remainder of the camps are operated by individuals who enroll children from all over the United States. These camps offer an extensive and varied recreational program. Development of skills, such as riding, dancing, archery, and swimming are important in these camps. Development of new friendships and learning good sportsmanship are stressed.

Some orphanages operated camps as part of their summer recreational program for underprivileged children. One camp was operated specifically for handicapped children. The total number of camps visited and licensed by the Board of Standards during the biennium was 210 camps.

In January, 1955, the Board of Standards sponsored a conference for camp operators. The all day conference was held at the University Club with approximately 100 in attendance. Governor Johnson and Monsignor Mulroy were the main speakers at the conference luncheon. Participants exchanged ideas among themselves and submitted recommendations to the Board regarding camp standards. The valuable suggestions given by this group were incorporated in the Revised Camp Standards.

DAY CAMPS

The State Board of Standards of Child Care, during the period covered by the biennium 1953-55 did not supervise day camps. The Attorney General's office has indicated that such camps, which are temporary in nature, come under the jurisdiction of the Board. Hence, future consideration will be given to the development of standards for such camps and their inspection.

DAY NURSERIES AND NURSERY SCHOOLS

A day nursery is operated for the purpose of providing group care for children away from their own homes during the day. The age group is usually from two years to five years, inclusive. In most cases, the mothers of the children are working.

The number of day nurseries and nursery schools has increased greatly during this biennium. This is undoubtedly due to increased industrial activities in the state and more mothers work to provide a better standard of living for the family.

The day nursery provides a good environment for the child and peace of mind for the mother who works. The child benefits through the guidance and the new experience provided. He learns to understand people, how to work with them as he develops a helpful attitude.

There are several standards relating to housing and equipment. Health and safety are stressed with the premises being kept in a sanitary and safe condition. Nutritious lunches must be served followed by naps and rest periods.

It is important that personnel have a sympathetic understanding of children; that they are able to secure their cooperation and confidence, but at the same time handle them with firmness and consistency. Children must never be left without the supervision of a responsible adult. The number of staff members required depends upon the hours of operation, the ages and number of children, and the objectives of the supporting group.

The daily schedule must provide for training in good personal and health habits, development of simple skills, and considerable time for free play with a choice of constructive toys and play equipment. Indoor and outdoor play space are important. Schedules should be flexible, and should provide for the child's need for quiet and for vigorous activities.

A nursery school is an adaptation of the day nursery to the play-school, and provides a planned educational program for children from two to five years of age. More emphasis is placed on having the teachers trained and experienced in the field of education. Most nursery schools operate during the morning only and do not provide lunches and do not provide cots for naps.

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through the persistent efforts of the small staff of the State Board of Standards of Child Care many improvements have been brought about in institutions, nurseries, foster homes and children's camps. Space does not permit giving out this information in detail, but all records are available for examination in the Board's offices. Examples of the accomplishments are briefly stated in the following paragraphs.

Several institutions has overcrowded dormitories. By limiting the number of children to be cared for by these institutions or requiring added facilities, the problem was solved, thus resulting in better care for the children concerned.

Other institutions had poor food storage and other sanitary provisions. Licenses were withheld until proper facilities for storing perishable foods were provided and adequate sanitary standards were met.

Two institutions were closed because of their many violations in relation to sanitation, overcrowding, fire and general safety. Each of the institutions moved to a new location and now meet all the standards for institutional child care.

Innumerable corrections have been made to bring institutions, which care for children, up to minimum standards in order that children who must be cared for by someone other than their own families may be assured safe, homelike conditions in which to live and grow.

During the last biennium, nurseries have grown not only in numbers, but quality. One large nursery was closed by the Board of Standards because of sub-standard practices. Others were not permitted to open because standards could not be met. Many hearings were held by the Board to ascertain the facts of investigations, thus giving all persons involved a right to be heard when licensing was denied.

Some of the reasons for closing nurseries or not permitting them to open were insufficient staff, inadequately trained staff, poor play space, incomplete records, improper diet, inadequate isolation for ill children, unsafe or unsanitary conditions, poor heating, lighting or ventilation, insufficient fire precautions, and neglect or abuse of children.

With the cooperation of the State Department of Health water supplies and sanitation were improved in all the children's camps. All counselors and other camp personnel were required to have health certificates. Food storage, washing and bathing facilities and camp sites were materially improved. In one or two instances, camps moved to new sites in order to provide better care and opportunities for children they serve.

Foster homes have probably been one of the greatest problems, since many individuals care for children part or full time without being aware of their responsibility to be licensed. Staff members need to watch newspaper advertisements, run down rumors and reports in order to acquaint such persons with their responsibility towards meeting certain standards and being licensed. Foster homes as other child care agencies are rendering a great service to thousands of children in the state.

A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Colorado is rapidly increasing in population with the result that nurseries, camps, day care centers and foster homes are springing up all over the state. The Board Members feel that if the welfare of the hundreds of children placed in the care of such centers is to be maintained at a high level it will be necessary to practice constant vigilance. At the beginning, these centers were concentrated for the most part around urban areas. In the last two years there has been a rapid growth in the problem in outlying areas.

If the reader will look at the statistics relating to foster homes, nurseries, etc., he will realize the great

volume of work that has, and is being done.

At the present time the Board has but one full time investigator and one part time investigator who inspects summer camps. This is woefully inadequate to do the kind of job that was intended when the Board of Standards of Child Care was created.

It is hoped that future appropriations will allow for at least one and possibly two more full time persons to work in the field.

The Board is planning the revision of the standards for nursery schools and day nurseries in order to bring them up to date and more in keeping with national standards.

Many day camps are springing up over the state, especially during the summer months. The Attorney General has informed the Board that such camps come under its jurisdiction. Therefore, the Board will develop and publish standards for day camps so that children attending them will be assured safe and healthful surroundings.

The Board of Standards of Child Care looks forward to a time when the staff will be sufficiently large to accomplish efficiently the many tasks assigned to it by the legislative action.

STATISTICAL REPORT
OF
HOMES AND AGENCIES LICENSED

July 1, 1954 to June 30, 1955

		Total Number of Children
I. FAMILY FOSTER HOMES		
a. Inspected by the Board of Standards of Child Care	724	1,853
b. Inspected by the State Department of Public Welfare	411	968
c. Inspected by the Colorado Children's Home	20	22
d. Certified by Catholic Charities of Denver	62	106
e. Certified by Family & Children's Service	49	101
f. Certified by Jewish Family & Children's Service	6	10
g. Certified by Catholic Charities of Pueblo	3	5
h. Certified by Family Service of Pueblo	0	0
SUB-TOTALS	1,275	3,065
II. INSTITUTIONAL FOSTER HOMES	19	1,653
III. NURSERIES AND NURSERY SCHOOLS	94	2,079
IV. CHILDREN'S CAMPS	111	9,853
V. CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCIES	9	Indeterminate
GRAND TOTALS	1,508 Homes	16,650 Children

STATISTICAL REPORT
OF
HOMES AND AGENCIES LICENSED

July 1, 1953 to June 30, 1954

		Total Number of Children
I. FAMILY FOSTER HOMES		
a. Inspected by the Board of Standards of Child Care	738	1,829
b. Inspected by the State Department of Public Welfare	335	728
c. Inspected by the Colorado Children's Home	20	22
d. Certified by Catholic Charities of Denver	43	75
e. Certified by Family & Children's Service	27	54
f. Certified by Jewish Family and Children's Service	3	4
g. Certified by Catholic Charities of Pueblo	0	0
h. Certified by Family Service of Pueblo	4	9
SUB-TOTALS	1,170 Homes	2,721 Children
II. INSTITUTIONAL FOSTER HOMES	18	1,503
III. DAY NURSERIES AND NURSERY SCHOOLS	95	2,098
IV. CHILDREN'S CAMPS	99	9,377
V. CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCIES	9	Indeterminate
GRAND TOTALS	1,391 Homes	15,699 Children

BOARD OF STANDARDS OF CHILD CARE
35 State Capitol Building
Denver 2, Colorado

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 1, 1953 to June 30, 1954

	Appropriation	Expenditure
Personal Services	$13,820.00	$13,817.43
Maintenance & Operation	3,000.00	2,949.46
Retirement	660.00	670.54
Capital Outlay	160.00	154.12
TOTALS	$17,640.00	$17,591.55

July 1, 1954 to June 30, 1955

Personal Services	$15,400.00	$15,326.07
Maintenance & Operation	3,200.00	3,285.31
Retirement	770.00	718.63
Capital Outlay	200.00	197.54
TOTALS	$19,570.00	$19,527.55

—OoO—