

Governor Meets with County Leaders to Discuss Child Welfare Recommendations

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Governor Bill Ritter and Executive Director Karen Beye take notes during a meeting with commissioners.

On Tuesday, October 27th, Governor Bill Ritter met with a group of county commissioners and councilmembers to discuss the 29 recommendations stemming from the work of the Governor's Child Welfare Action Committee. County leaders in attendance included CCI President and Larimer County Commissioner Kathay Rennels, CCI President-elect and Washington County Commissioner David Foy, CCI Human Services Steering Committee Chair and Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman, Summit County Commissioner Thomas Davidson, El Paso County Commissioner Sallie Clark, Denver City & County Councilwoman Carol Boigon, Ouray County Commissioner Lynn Padgett, Costilla County Commissioner Crestina

Martinez, Jefferson County Commissioner Kathy Hartman, and Boulder County Commissioner Cindy Domenico. Karen Beye, the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services and Mary Kay Hogan, the Governor's Legislative Liaison were also present. Governor Ritter agreed to work in partnership with counties to implement 27 of those recommendations that are non-contentious and to carefully discuss recommendations, like the proposed reorganization of human service delivery systems, over the course of the 2010 calendar year. The Governor clearly stated that he would not move structural reorganization recommendations forward in any 2010 legislation. CCI's Health and Human Services Steering Committee will meet on Friday, November 13th at 2:30 p.m. to consider support for 27 of the 29 CWAC recommendations. (*For more on the CWAC recommendations, please see page 2.*)



A group of nine commissioners and councilmembers met with Governor Ritter on October 27 to discuss CWAC recommendations that would dramatically restructure the human services delivery system.

CCI 2009 Winter Conference

Nov. 30 – Dec. 2
Crowne Plaza
Hotel
El Paso County,
Colorado

For more
information and
to register visit
www.ccionline.org

CWAC Recommendation: State Centralized Human Services

Counties take seriously their role in protecting children from abuse and neglect. As one of our highest public policy priorities, counties uphold this responsibility by providing preventive services to assure the safety of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

It is this commitment that fueled our involvement and collaboration with the Governor's Child Welfare Action Committee (CWAC). Over the course of the past 18 months, commissioners, social service directors and other stakeholders, have worked diligently to consider ways to improve child welfare. During that time, the CWAC has developed many thoughtful recommendations that have received support from counties. These include, but are not limited to, the creation of the child welfare training academy for new caseworkers and supervisors and the provision of birth certificates and social security cards to youth aging out of foster care. These two recommendations were implemented earlier this year.

Looking forward, there are still many recommendations that counties can work in partnership with the state to implement. However, one recommendation in particular has uniformly shocked all counties, which is for the centralization and regionalization of all human services.

Specifically, the recommendation proposes two types of regional offices: 1.) State Regional Offices (SRO) and 2.) County Regional Offices (CRO). With the exception of Douglas County, all small and medium sized counties would be operated by an SRO. SROs would be staffed and directed by the Department of Human Services' personnel. Subject to further fiscal analysis, counties in an SRO would be required to pay a reduced county contribution (5%) on allocations "for which the counties currently contribute a 20% county share". Counties eligible to be designated as CROs include: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo and Weld. These counties could choose whether or not to be a CRO or an SRO. If they choose to be a CRO, they must increase the county's contribution to human services programs to 25%. This may require an increase in the county's mill levy. Additionally, if a CRO exceeds their allocation,

the county is responsible for paying the difference.

Counties oppose this recommendation for a variety of reasons. From a service perspective, counties believe this will increase barriers for children and families who need human services. Over the years counties have developed partnerships with local non-profits and faith-based entities to serve vulnerable populations and leverage scarce resources. Counties believe a state run system will reduce familiarity with community resources and inhibit locally defined solutions to address community needs. Additionally, counties are concerned that a state run system will result in decreased customer service and longer response times to client needs.

Counties are concerned that this particular recommendation was not data driven. In fact, national data tracking the performance of county administered child welfare states vs. state administered child welfare states show a lower rate of child fatalities and a faster response time to child abuse and neglect reports in county administered child welfare states.

The Governor responded to county concerns by stating that he would carefully consider all recommendations stemming from the CWAC. Additionally, he met with a group of county commissioners and councilmembers (see front page) and agreed to carefully discuss, in partnership with counties, this recommendation over the course of the 2010 calendar year.

Counties, like the state, are committed to improving our child welfare system. We agree with the Governor when he says "if even one child dies due to neglect or abuse it is one too many." Counties see real merit and potential in many of the CWAC's recommendations and we are anxious to begin working in partnership with the state to implement those. We disagree, however, that the safety of children is better served by a state centralized system.

For additional background information on the State's HHS centralization recommendation, please refer to CCI's website (www.ccionline.org). Once there, click on "steering committee agendas" under the "Legislative" tab.

SFY 2010 Budget in the Red...and Getting Redder

The first four months of the state’s current fiscal year has been marked by nothing but bad news. On July 1, 2009, the state started its current fiscal year “in the red” by roughly \$186 million. In August, the state announced that its total budget shortfall had grown to roughly \$320 million. In September, the shortfall leapt to \$589 million. It goes without saying that this does not bode well for a state budget that has only four months under its belt.

So, what does this mean for counties? Well, to date, it’s a mixture of good and bad news. The bad news is that a series of grant programs, for which counties are eligible applicants, are clearly in the cross hairs. Specifically, the Governor has recommended transferring \$7.6 million from the severance tax portion of the Energy and Mineral Impact Fund to shore up the general fund. The Governor has asked to put the remaining fund balance, which amounts to \$37.4 million, “on hold” until June 30, 2010.

Additionally, the Governor recommended zeroing out the Local Government Permanent Fund. This proposal takes roughly \$14 million from the fund. It should be noted, however, that the \$17 million that was allocated to DOLA for distribution to local governments via **SB09-232 State Financial Assistance For Local Government Construction** (Schwartz, McFadyen) was *not* a recommended cut and is still going forward as planned by the Department. Finally, the Governor recommended eliminating grants for this fiscal year from the Waste Tire Recycling Fund and the Contiguous Counties Gaming Fund.

The Governor has also recommended cutting the “County Con-

tingency” (aka County Tax Base Relief Fund) fund by half. “County Contingency” provides funding to counties with disproportionately high case loads relative to their low property values. This proposed change equates to a \$2.8 million reduction for qualifying counties.

The good news is that, for now, no cuts have been proposed for county administration. “County Administration” funds eligibility and caseload services associated with food stamps, Medicaid and programs benefiting the elderly and disabled. Last year, all 64 counties and cities and counties shared in the \$30 million in state general fund dollars allocated for county administrative services.

Like county budgets, there is still great uncertainty for the remainder of the state’s current budget. Much of the shortfall is the result of declines in personal income, retail trade, construction activity and job losses. General fund revenue declines paired with increasing caseloads in human services and corrections, limits the state’s options for balancing the budget.

So, what’s next on the state’s budget horizon? On November 10th, the Governor will appear before the Joint Budget Committee with his proposed budget for SFY 2010-2011, which begins on July 1, 2010. Department heads are already preparing and submitting their requests and proposed cuts to the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budgeting for consideration in next year’s budget. With the state headed for a slow recovery coupled with the timing out of Medicaid recovery dollars and low balances in state cash funds, most observers do not expect the SFY 2010-2011 budget to be any better than this year’s budget.

On the Road Again

“There are people who live in the country, and then there are country people,” said Commissioner Robin Wiley (Yuma) when describing urbanites that move to the country and expect urban services in rural counties. While Commissioner Jim Beck (Sedgwick) in responding to a question about how CCI could be of further help said, “We’re used to handling things out here ourselves. If we need help we’ll call.”

The two Commissioners summed up the independent, pragmatic, problem solving character of rural counties. They and other Commissioners went on to say that when they do call CCI is quick with answers.

On big issues like wind generation, rural economic development, oil and gas regulations, healthcare and road and bridge funds, Commissioners were particularly concerned about the state’s response to rural Colorado’s urgent needs. They believe that laws, rules and regulations are written without concern for their impacts on rural counties which are 85% of the state’s counties—and 20% of the state’s population.

These are just a few observations by Eastern and Southern District Commissioners provided to CCI Membership Director Michael Smith who is visiting counties. CCI periodically visits individual counties as Commissioners have requested CCI to do over the years. Smith has visited almost twenty counties this fall. Visits will continue into next summer.

Many counties have made efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of county government. Counties are restructuring to respond to budget crises and at the same time they are proud to talk about new or improved transparency, greater involvement of county employees to address big picture budget problems, and a new sense of team work among county employees.

District Meeting Wrap-Up

Each of CCI's five districts met in August in locations throughout the state. Attendance at these meetings has continued to increase over the past two years and commissioners are finding meaningful and useful discussions on statewide and local issues of concern. Following are brief summaries of each of the district meetings. For additional information, please contact the CCI staff person associated with that district as listed below.

Eastern District

CCI's August 13th Eastern District Meeting in Akron enjoyed a record attendance this year! Twenty five of the thirty commissioners who comprise CCI's Eastern District attended including newly appointed Morgan County Commissioner Laura Teague. Congratulations Commissioner Teague!

As in other district meetings, commissioners had an opportunity to ask questions on recently passed legislation as well as legislative proposals that have been submitted to date by their peers. Following lunch, the group had a lively discussion on Colorado State University Extension efforts to have agents serve multiple counties. For the last several months, Extension has been gathering input on how to, not whether or not to, form regional centers throughout the state. Directors in each of Extension's current regions have been asked to identify which counties will work together and on which subject matters. Additionally, Extension is assuming that the majority (60%) of an agent's efforts will be spent in the agent's home county and that (40%) of an agent's efforts will be used helping other counties. Given the fact that commissioners pay the salaries of their extension agents, there is a lot of concern regarding the level of service their constituents will receive under this proposal. Additionally, commissioners are concerned about the level of professional degrees agents are required to have.

Phillips County Commissioner Bud Bieseimer spoke about the new conveyance regulations that stemmed from the passage of SB08-224 *the Elevator and Escalator Certification Act*. In accordance with SB08-224, the Division of Oil and Public Safety has developed regulations to govern the installation, registration, construction, operation, maintenance and inspection of conveyances. These regulations became effective on January 1, 2009. Commissioner Bieseimer highlighted some unintended consequences with the rules and has received guidance from the state on how to address his particular situation. CCI's Eastern District will send a letter to the Division of Oil and Public Safety requesting revisions to the current rules that will allow for a minimum use waiver and/or an exemption for residential conveyances in commercial settings.

Front Range District

With nine of ten Front Range District counties present, Boulder County Commissioner and District President Cindy Domenico and Broomfield Councilman and District Vice President Dennis McCloskey called the meeting to order.

CCI staff reviewed new laws affecting counties which spurred concern about a new requirement for polling places to accept dropped off mail-in ballots as well as question the parameters of a new law authorizing regulation of low-powered electric vehicles. CCI staff then reviewed the 2010 proposed legislative issues.

CCI Board Representative Kathay Rennels and Executive Director Larry Kallenberger initiated conversation on a proposed set of operating principles for CCI's legislative process. The concept is to develop guidance that the CCI membership could consider for adoption during its October legislative and membership meetings. Commissioner Rennels described the rationale for looking at modifications to CCI's guidelines which include political environments, external relationships and building strong legislative partnerships. Commissioners commented on various themes including the difficulty in keeping up with hundreds of legislative proposals, the need for tailoring the scope of bills CCI weighs in on, as well as the benefits of moving forward with guiding principles in the near term.

Invited guest Allan Wallis of the University of Colorado, Denver School of Public Affairs made a presentation on the new Colorado Certified Public Manager Program (CPM.) Mr. Wallis noted that nationwide a "patchwork" of management resources exists and the CPM is part of an effort to establish a nationally-recognized management development certification for Colorado.

The meeting concluded with individual counties reporting on their recent ongoing efforts. Larimer reported facing ongoing cuts in the county, a revamping of their budgeting process, the need to be flexible to receive new energy-oriented projects, a study on horse boarding regulations underway and discussions with Sen. Udall related to the location of an 800 MHz tower in the county. Jefferson similarly reported horse boarding regulation discussions of late, county budget concerns looking to 2012 and at options for local stimulus projects the county can initiate. Broomfield recently completed a long term financial planning project and is currently looking for a suitable operator for the Broomfield Events Center. Adams has moved to monthly budgetary updates and is considering a five percent reduction in their elected official offices' budgets, plus saving revenue by finishing a government cen-

ter expansion ahead of schedule. El Paso finished their preliminary budget for 2010, noting the success in modifying the process for county use tax collection during 2009, while remaining optimistic for sale tax receipts rebounding in coming years. Arapahoe utilized consultant services to create a county budget “dashboard” for tracking short and long term processes, recently finished a courtroom expansion project, noted flat to declining revenues for 2010 through 2012 with property tax assessment declines. Weld discussed their five year strategic budget plan that includes a 15% cut to all departments and elected offices, noted increases in overall assessed value due to oil and gas valuation, larger cuts in 2011-12 and recent actions with a municipality adopting a tax increment financing plan on existing, newer infrastructure. Finally, Boulder discussed the business personal property tax interim task force status, the success of their Climate Smart loan program and with ballot-oriented expansion of the program for 2010, a sales tax extension measure and District Attorney term extension for the 2009 ballot, housing and human services consolidation and recent controversy surrounding genetically-modified sugar beet cultivation within the county.

Mountain District

CCI’s Mountain District meeting was held at the fire station in Florissant, very near where the Hayman Fire - the largest in Colorado’s history - started in June, 2002. So it should be no surprise that the Mountain District commissioners are very sensitive and knowledgeable about wildfire management issues. During the staff’s review of 2009 legislation, the Mountain District spent more time than other districts talking about SB 20, which dealt with the sheriff’s authority over fires with the power to commit county resources for fighting fires.

In addition, the Mountain District received a briefing by Don Kennedy, Denver Water, and Brad Piehl, JW Associates consultant, concerning wildfires and healthy forests. Mr. Kennedy reviewed a number of the steps Denver Water took after the Buffalo Creek Fire to mitigate contamination of water supplies and promote healthy forest growth. Mr. Piehl reviewed watershed assessment procedures and the status of a project he is working on to identify and prioritize critical watersheds, including the effects of past wildfires on those watersheds, hydrologic changes, potential debris flows, the locations of water sources and areas of higher intensity water use. This assessment may ultimately be used to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and other development and emergency response plans for the area. The group also discussed the impact of beetle kill on watersheds and Front Range water supplies.

Most of the remainder of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of county approaches to larger capital projects and a

survey that mountain counties completed prior to the meeting. Many of the counties talked about the financing vehicles they used for their project(s). Some counties mentioned having to use general funds to supplement lagging sales tax revenues that are dedicated to existing capital projects. In almost every case, counties talked about providing in-kind construction work, dedicating the facilities to multiple uses, or looking at opportunities for income in order to maximize use of the facilities and minimize the costs for taxpayers.

The final item was a discussion of business personal property tax (BPPT) and the ongoing legislative discussions about whether and how to reduce or eliminate it. Although many commissioners express a personal aversion to BPPT, they universally recognize its significance to county revenues and the importance of a reliable, consistent, replacement revenue source if BPPT is to be significantly reduced.

Southern District

This year’s meeting took place in Huerfano County, in Walsenburg. All of the 15 Southern District counties attended the meeting.

CCI staff updated the commissioners on 2009 legislation affecting county government. Commissioners asked questions regarding the process of HB1250, concerning the distribution of Secure Rural Schools funding in counties. There continues to be confusion about the timeline counties face when making a funding decision with the school boards. It was reported that DOLA has developed information which answers many of the unanswered questions regarding this funding. CCI staff provided information about the 2009 legislative box score and collected feedback from Commissioners regarding how to improve the legislative screening process at CCI.

Conversations about proposed 2010 legislative issues submitted to CCI drove conversations about a variety of issues. Commissioners expressed concerns about requiring burn permits for private landowners as well as issues surrounding the regulation of 35 acre subdivisions. Costilla County raised a unique twist to the conversations about slow moving vehicle legislation, a concern with the increased number of Amish who use wagons on county roads.

Caren Stanley, a Judicial District Administrator, was present to discuss the possibilities of setting up video conferencing for juvenile hearings in the 15th and 16th Judicial Districts. The rural nature of these districts require county sheriffs to travel hundreds of miles between the county and Pueblo where the regional youth center is located. Video conferencing would shorten time between juvenile hearings and reduce costs for local law enforcement agencies.

Commissioner Gary Hill, Las Animas County, brought up two issues to the group. The first issue concerned a proposal presented by the Colorado Department of Transportation suggesting ideas on how to fund future projects in Colorado. Commissioners objected to one of the proposals which included an elimination of exemptions for motor fuel taxes listed in the short term funding sources section which would create a hardship for rural areas in the state.

Secondly, Commissioner Hill raised concerns about the federal bill S787. This bill, recently passed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, gives the federal government authority over navigable waters in the United States. There is concern that expanding federal authority over a large number of waterways in the country will not provide cleaner water but rather lead to a bureaucracy of regulations over everything from lakes to farm ditches. The Southern District voted unanimously to send a letter of opposition to the Colorado delegation.

Commissioner Gene Milbrand, Prowers County, initiated a discussion about the use of conservation easements in Colorado. The Colorado Department of Revenue and the Internal Revenue Service have disallowed tax credits claimed by conservation easement donors resulting in millions of dollars of claimed tax credits going to litigation. The easement holders are facing financial losses from the disallowed tax credits in addition to costs related to appealing IRS decisions zeroing out the balances on the existing easements. A panel convened by the Governor has met and discussed the future of conservation easements in Colorado, however, no action has been taken and southern landholders continue to be targeted for challenges. The Southern district voted unanimously to encourage the 15 district counties to adopt similar resolutions similar to Prowers County and to send copies to their state representatives and senators.

The final item of discussion was a summary of the business personal property tax conversations being held over the summer at the Capitol. Commissioners discussed the latest status of an interim task force on business personal property (BPPT) tax created by SB09-85, which CCI opposed. CCI staff distributed data showing the county-by-county percentages, due to BPPT, as well as the lost locally-assessed revenue should this be tax eliminated by the state. Commissioners voiced concerns over the total revenue impacts if BPPT were scaled-out or eliminated over time.

Western District

Western District commissioners once again enjoyed the hospitality of Montrose County for their summer meeting with 14 of the 16 counties represented.

The meeting began with a discussion of the recession's impact on county budgets. Several counties indicated they are

cutting their budgets by 10% and others indicated they are reorganizing and combining units and departments and not filling any vacancies. Counties offering examples of innovative ideas include San Miguel County collaborating with municipalities to combine and share services for local government efficiency; Garfield County drawing down on its sizeable reserve to fill gaps, continuing zero-base budgeting for 2010 and emphasizing economic development activities beyond oil and gas; and Mesa County's commissioners and administrator meeting with department heads twice a month to review budget status to stay ahead of potential problems. At the conclusion of the discussion, Dolores County reminded the larger counties that the very small counties are always in tight budget times and that the current recessionary impact on budgets is typical for them.

The Clean Water Restoration Act, S 787, was deliberated in a commissioner-to-commissioner debate with Garfield County Commissioner John Martin and Gunnison County Commissioner Jim Starr taking the lead positions. S 787 is a highly controversial bill amending the Federal Water Pollution Control Act while clarifying the jurisdiction in the United States over waters of the United States. The debate was followed by pointed questions and comments to both sides by other commissioners. Commissioners expressed their satisfaction regarding this debate indicating that the process was more beneficial with commissioners leading the point-counterpoint dialogue rather than talking head experts.

A continuing discussion over several years has been how the Western District can have more in-depth discussions on strategic issues facing the district. Several obstacles to these discussions were identified including the travel distance involved for counties, meetings occurring too infrequently and limited time for agenda topics. Suggestions to overcome these challenges include: several adjacent counties meeting to discuss common issues and areas of collaboration; CCI staff posting success stories and county issues on CCI's webpage; cooperating with county administrators to garner the assistance of other counties; extending the meeting time at the August district meeting; and limiting the agenda to 2-3 items for discussion (to be determined by surveying commissioners.) It was also suggested that counties bring their most recent, urgent and or regional concerns to the winter conference to surface common issues. From that list commissioners would "vote" on the top few agenda items to discuss in detail at the next several meetings.

District Contact Information

Eastern: Gini Pingnot, gpingnot@ccionline.org

Front Range: Larry Kallenberger,

lkallenberger@ccionline.org

Mountain: Chip Taylor, jtaylor@ccionline.org

Southern: Andy Karsian, akarsian@ccionline.org

Western: Michael Smith, msmith@ccionline.org

CCI's 2010 Legislative Agenda

The following CCI initiated legislation was approved by CCI's Legislative Committee members on Friday, October 9, 2009.

| Issue | CCI Legislation | CCI Staff |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| Bonds for Elected Officials | Allow crime insurance policies as a substitute for bonds for all elected officials. | Andy Karsian |
| Certified VIN Inspections | Authorize certified individuals, other than law enforcement officers, to perform certain VIN inspections | Andy Karsian |
| Fees for Core Services | Amend CRS 26-5-102 (1)(a) to allow counties the option of assessing fees in certain Core programs as determined by CDHS Child Welfare. Fees should be based upon a fair and equitable fee schedule and not upon the use of the child support guidelines. | Pat Ratliff |
| Exempt Senior Property Tax Work-Off program from workers compensation | Amend CRS 39-3.7-102 to exempt Senior Property Work-Off program participants from workers compensation and change their status to that of a community service worker. | Tony Lombard |
| Sales Tax for all Public Improvement Districts | Eliminate the population threshold (100,000) in statute associated with the use of sales taxes to fund transportation/street improvement PIDs. | Tony Lombard |
| Interim Committee: Property Assessment and Classification Issues | Seek an interim committee to explore ways to clarify the law regarding agricultural land classification for tax purposes. Include the creation of residential and non-residential classifications/assessment definition as some other states do. | Tony Lombard |
| Affordable Housing Contractual Agreements | Amend CRS 38-12-301 to allow local governments and developers to enter into contractual agreements to provide deed restricted housing. | Gini Pingnot/Chip Taylor |

In the event legislation is needed and/or timely, CCI will pursue legislation on the following:

1. Modification to the TANF Reserve Caps
2. Amendments to URA/TIF statutes

Photo Highlights



From left: CCI Executive Director Larry Kallenberger, El Paso County Commissioner Dennis Hisey, Pueblo County Commissioner Anthony Nunez, State Senator Abel Tapia, Pueblo Chamber Director Rod Slyhoff, Conejos County Commissioner John Sandoval, Pueblo County Commissioner Jeff Chostner, Gilpin County Commissioner Jeanne Nicholson, Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig, Washington County Commissioner David Foy, Routt County Commissioner Doug Monger and Larimer County Commissioner Kathay Rennels meet in Pueblo following the 2009 CCI Budget meeting.



Las Animas County Commissioner Gary Hill points out some information during the Southern District Meeting.



Grand County Commissioner James Newberry and Weld County Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer catch up on old times.



Park County Commissioners John Tighe and Mark Dowaliby at the Mountain District Meeting in Florissant.



Baca County Commissioners Spike Ausmus, Troy Crane and Tom Wallace at the August Southern District Meeting in Walsenburg.



Rio Blanco County Commissioner Kai Turner and Mesa County Commissioner Craig Meis chat during a steering committee meeting at CCI.



From left: Baca County Commissioner Troy Crane, Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman, Teller County Commissioner Bill Buckhanan, El Paso County Commissioner Sallie Clark, Broomfield Councilmember Dennis McCloskey, Washington County Commissioner David Foy, San Miguel County Commissioner Art Goodtimes, Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan, Alamosa County Commissioner George Wilkinson and Douglas County Commissioner Jack Hilbert at the 2009 NACo Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.



Washington County Commissioner David Foy picks up his morning coffee prior to a steering committee meeting at CCI.



Gunnison County Commissioner Hap Channell and La Plata County Commissioner Wally White stop and smile for the camera during a CCI steering committee meeting.



Washington County Commissioner Lea Ann Laybourn attends a CCI steering committee meeting.



Broomfield City Councilmember Bette Erickson and Mayor Patrick Quinn, below the 14,270 foot summit of Grays Peak



Costilla County Commissioner Crestina Martinez and Alamosa County Commissioner George Wilkinson share a laugh.



Cheyenne County Commissioner Jerry Allen enjoys himself at the CCI steering committee meeting .



Denver City & County Councilwoman Carol Boigon and Ouray County Commissioner Lynn Padgett discuss agenda items during a CCI steering committee meeting.



CCI Legislative Liaison Andy Karsian and Custer County Commissioner Carole Custer catch up prior to a meeting with the Governor.



Yuma County Commissioner Trent Bushner makes a point during the Eastern District Meeting in August.



Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman and Boulder County Commissioner Cindy Domenico take a break before the human services meeting with Governor Ritter.



CCI President and Larimer County Commissioner Kathy Rennels speaks to Governor Ritter during a meeting on human services.



Las Animas County Commissioner Jim Vigil and Custer County Commissioner Jim Austin get to know each other prior to a CCI meeting.



Ouray County Commissioner Lynn Padgett (center) introduces herself to Governor Ritter while Costilla County Commissioner Crestina Martinez (left) and Summit County Commissioner Thomas Davidson (right) look on.

NACo Update



NACo Annual Conference

Colorado's counties were well represented this year at the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Conference. Twenty five Colorado Commissioners and Councilmembers attended the five day conference in Nashville, TN. This year's turnout - both from a Colorado and a national perspective - were on par with last year's turnout.

Thanks to the leadership of those in attendance, all ten CCI resolutions were unanimously adopted and incorporated into NACo's American County Platform. These resolutions guide NACo's stance on federal legislation and help direct their lobbying efforts on behalf of counties nationwide and will be in effect until July 2010. The ten CCI resolutions were endorsed by CCI's membership at our annual conferences and target issues ranging from the elimination of the medical coverage gap SSDI recipients are subject to support for a fire fighting fund that is separate and apart from the USDA's operating budget.

Apart from debating resolutions, conference attendees were asked to approve three proposed bylaw changes. These structural changes targeted the governance of NACo and proposed the elimination of the "president-elect" board seat and a clarification that the President of NACo is the Chief Elected Official while the executive director of NACo is the Chief Executive Official. Additionally, NACo members were asked to approve the creation of four new regional representative seats on the board. Initially, the proposal stated that only sitting board members could vie for these positions. Following a very lively debate, the bylaws were amended to allow any elected official to be eligible for the seats. As NACo board members, CCI President and Larimer County Commissioner Kathay Rennels, Douglas County Commissioner Jack Hilbert and Washington County Commissioner David Foy (who ably replaced Commissioner Rennels as the new NACo board member at the Annual Conference) did a superb job of representing their peers and their concerns during these bylaw conversations and are commended for their leadership.

Attendees also participated in a variety of educational and general sessions. Many sessions highlighted the latest on the implementation of the Recovery Act. There were sessions on the municipal bond market, non-verbal communication, preparing for public health emergencies and much more. Additionally, attendees heard from cabinet officers and authors.

Over the years, Colorado's involvement with NACo has grown. Today, many Colorado Commissioners hold leadership positions at NACo. The following commissioners have been appointed by NACo President Valerie Brown to serve until July 2010. Congratulations to you all!

- Rod Bockenfeld, Arapahoe County Commissioner - Chair, Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs Fiscal Policy Subcommittee
- Sallie Clark, El Paso County Commissioner – Vice Chair, Justice and Public Safety Juvenile Subcommittee
- Art Goodtimes, San Miguel County Commissioner – Chair, Public Lands' Management Subcommittee
- Jack Hilbert, Douglas County Commissioner – Appointed Member of NACo's Finance Committee
- Tresi Houpt, Garfield County Commissioner – Vice Chair, Environment, Energy and Land Use Water Quality Subcommittee
- Janet Rowland, Mesa County Commissioner – Vice Chair, Human Services and Education Steering Committee

Mark Your Calendars

NACo's 2010 Legislative Conference is Saturday, March 6th, 2010 – Wednesday, March 10th 2010 in Washington D.C. As in past years, CCI will hold its caucus meeting on Friday, March 5th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and we'll meet with our congressional delegates all day on Wednesday, March 10th. So be sure to come early and stay late for these CCI organized activities.

NOTICE OF CCI STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CCI TAXATION AND FINANCE STEERING COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 1:00PM-2:30PM

Call-in info – Dial 1.888.809.4012, passcode 8614078

Purpose: To consider the Governor's budget recommendations for the current and upcoming fiscal year, as well as the adoption of a CCI position concerning these recommendations.

CCI HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE STEERING COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 2:30PM – 4:00PM

Call-in info – Dial 1.888.809.4012, passcode 8614080

Purpose: To take a position on 27 of the 29 Child Welfare Action Committee's Recommendations and consider a proposed plan to raise awareness of CWAC recommendations related to restructuring human service delivery systems.

An agenda and related information will be posted on CCI's website no later than November 9.

GOCO SCHEDULES ADDITIONAL PLANNING MEETINGS

As Great Outdoors Colorado celebrates its 15th year of investing in park, trail, open space and wildlife projects throughout Colorado, the organization is also busy preparing for the future. Over the last month and a half, GOCO Board and staff have been meeting throughout the state with grantees and the public to solicit input that will result—within the confines of the GOCO Amendment—in a new strategic plan to establish initiatives and priorities for the GOCO Board, while guiding GOCO's grant-making and investments over the next 5 to 10 years.

To date, ten public meetings have been held around the state. Additional public meetings have been scheduled for the following dates and locations:

GRAND JUNCTION – November 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., Two Rivers Convention Center, 159 Main Street

BOULDER – November 12, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner's Third Floor Hearing Room, County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street Mall

LAS ANIMAS – November 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., Bent's Fort Inn/Best Western, 10950 Highway 50

All meetings are free and open to the public—there is no need to RSVP. Please join us and provide your input. For more information, visit www.goco.org or call 303.226.4500.

2009 Junior Livestock Sale

Thanks to the generous contributions of counties and individual commissioners, the CCI Board of Directors was able to purchase several animals at the 2009 Colorado State Fair Junior Livestock Sale. CCI surveyed counties this spring and responses indicated that counties wished to continue supporting, encouraging and assisting Colorado's agriculture and future leaders through the Junior Livestock Sale venue. Animals purchased this year include goats from Adams, Garfield and Moffat counties and a lamb from Yuma County.

Colorado Court Security Conference

Colorado's inaugural Court Security Conference was held June 10-12 in Montrose at the Montrose Pavilion. Judges, sheriffs, deputies, court personnel, county commissioners and other elected officials spent the better part of two days sharing information and learning from one another.

A report on the 2009 Colorado Court Security Conference: *Breaking Down Barriers to Build Better Teams*, is available on the CCI website at www.ccionline.org.