



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Second annual Summit on Children, Youth and Families to be held June 2-5 *Gov. Bill Ritter slated to give opening remarks at kick-off luncheon*

DENVER – In their second annual collaborative effort to share best practices and develop new ideas for protecting Colorado’s children and families, professionals in the legal and human services communities will gather next week at the Keystone Resort and Conference Center in Summit County.

Judges, social workers, attorneys, psychologists, volunteer court-appointed special advocates and others will join in team-building sessions, workshops covering a number of disciplines and practices, resource-sharing opportunities and other planned activities.

“This Summit provides individuals committed to ensuring the well-being of children, youth and families the opportunity to break down jurisdictional barriers, identify strategies for implementation within their communities and, most importantly, build the relationships necessary to do so,” said Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary J. Mullarkey. “All of the Summit participants are to be commended for their dedication to this very important mission.”

The Colorado Judicial Department and Colorado Department of Health and Human Services have historically held separate family and child welfare conferences each year. With the realization that they share the same goals and objectives in protecting children and families, the agencies decided in 2008 to join together for the inaugural Summit.

“Last year, we laid the groundwork for long term collaboration and I look forward to our continued sharing of knowledge and perspective on child welfare issues,” said Karen L. Beye, executive director of the Colorado Department of Human Services.

“The first day of the Summit, Tuesday, June 2, is devoted to high-level training and goal-setting events for Best Practices Court Teams representing each of Colorado’s 22 judicial districts. There will also be a meeting of the governor’s Child Welfare Action Committee. The

remainder of the Summit will offer intensive forums and workshops focusing on the physical, emotional and legal needs of children and families involved in the judicial and human services systems.

Governor Bill Ritter has been invited to give the opening remarks at the Summit's opening luncheon on Wednesday, June 3, at noon. Governor Ritter is committed to the protection of Colorado's children and families and in his 2008 Children's Action Agenda stated, "Real change will only come from collaboration and collectively putting our best ideas forward."

The Summit is sponsored by the Colorado Judicial Department; Office of the State Court Administrator; Colorado Department of Human Services; Office of the Child's Representative; and the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement, Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine.

For more information, and to view a list of the workshops with descriptions, please visit www.cosummit.com.

News media representatives are invited to attend any portion of or the entire Summit by contacting either Judicial Public Information Officer Rob McCallum at 303-837-3633 (robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us) or Human Services Communications Director Liz McDonough at 303-866-5822 (liz.mcdonough@state.co.us).