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Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council recognize Commissioners Nancy Jackson and Nancy Sharpe for excellence in service

County commissioners receive awards for commitment to helping vulnerable children and families

Littleton, Colo. – The Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council, a collaborative agency that supports a safe and healthy start for young children and their families, presented Arapahoe County Commissioners Nancy Sharpe and Nancy Jackson with awards of appreciation for their commitment to helping families and young children living in poverty and efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

In May 2014, Commissioner Sharpe helped launch Not One More Child in Arapahoe County, a coalition of community partners that focuses on finding better ways to prevent child abuse and neglect.

“Protecting vulnerable children in our community requires the support of so many different people,” said Sharpe. “Not one agency can do the job alone, and this coalition connects teachers, doctors, police officers, foster parents, faith-based leaders and organizations like ACECC that focuses on early education to help each other, educate and inspire new ideas so that not one more child will fall victim to abuse and neglect.”

Sharpe serves on the Colorado Child Welfare Executive Leadership Council where she and others work to advise the Colorado Department of Human Services regarding policy and program issues that impact the safety and well-being of Colorado’s children and families. She is also the Chair of the Colorado Counties Health and Human Services Steering Committee and serves on the Board of Directors of the Denver South Economic Development Partnership.

“Most counties would be lucky to have one county commissioner who truly understands the importance of early childhood care and education, we have two,” said Gretchen Davidson, Executive Director of ACECC. “Nancy [Jackson] has been a friend to ACECC for many years through her work at the Community College of Aurora. She understands the critical need we face each day to recruit qualified individuals to work in the field of early childhood.”

Commissioner Jackson was recognized for her commitment to helping families living in poverty and young children with mental health issues, advocating for better health, employment and family services for parents and children.

“Every child is important and every child has the right to a good education and quality healthcare,” said Jackson. “There is also the critical need to provide our childcare workforce with the education and training they need to be better teachers and care providers.”

Jackson serves on the Aurora Mental Health Governing Board and the National Association of Counties Behavioral Health Subcommittee.

ACECC also presented awards to Kristin Habicht, Chair of Early Childhood Education at Arapahoe Community College; Debi Reid, Family Support Coordinator at Littleton Schools; Kathy Nelson, former Administrator of Special Services at the City of Aurora; and Bonnie DeHart, an ACECC Board member.

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To view

photo: <ftp://ftp.arapahoegov.com/Pub/Communication%20Services/Photos/Human%20Services/2015%20ACECC%20Awards/>

Description: Nancy Jackson (left), Gretchen Davidson (center) and Nancy Sharpe (right)

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