



Dots? What Dots?

Connections to
Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention

State Senator

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Colorado State Capitol



U.S. Capitol



Whatever we do...

It should be...

All about the kids!

**So what can you
do about it?**



Built a Foundation Nobody Wanted

- Internal/External Champions
- CO Children's Caucus/Behavioral Health Caucus
- Relationships w/State & Local Agencies
- Funding as a Legislative Priority
- Constituents, Biz, Nonprofit Community
- Media Attention

What's It REALLY About?

Power & Control
Fear



Money
and... Ego

Early Childhood Wins

- Early Childhood Leadership Commission
- Office of Early Childhood
- Essentials of Childhood/Safe & Stable
- Child Care Assistance Authorization Period
- Dept of Defense Child Care Pilot Program
- Cliff Effect Pilot Program

Made History in Child Welfare

- 1st Statewide Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline
- Child Protection Ombudsman Office
- Child Welfare Training Academy
- DHS/DPHE Child Fatality Review Systems
- Erin's Law/Child Sex Abuse Education
- Kinship Background Checks
- Mandatory Reporter Training
- Former Foster Care Access to Siblings

Child Healthcare/ Mental Health

- 1st Statewide Mental Health Hotline
- Eliminated Wait Periods for CHP+
- Youth Sports Concussions Protocols
- Reduced Kid Access to Marijuana (*MANY bills*)
- Suicide Prevention Commission
- Zero Suicide Model
- Noncustodial Parent Access to Workforce Programs

Law, Order, & DR

- Human Trafficking
- Child Safety in Domestic Relations Cases
- Protections: ID Theft of Youth in Foster Care
- Juvenile Restorative Justice Options
- Animals in DV Protection Orders



Above all...the 3 P's!

Policy

Persistence

Patience



A Few Resources

- The National Center for the Review & Prevention of Child Deaths
- CO Child Protection Ombudsman Office
- Illuminate (CA&N Prevention, DEC, FASD)
- CO Children's Campaign/Children's Hospital
- Kempe Foundation & Casey Foundation
- CASAs
- Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center
- NCSL/NGA

Questions?

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