

Why the Children's Residential Treatment Center?

Families First, a leader in the community for providing prevention services, recognizes the value in strengthening family well-being to keep children safe and in their family of origin, if possible. Our goal is to continue to provide programs that impact more children's lives and support the efforts of our community to prevent the abuse and neglect of children.

In the past few years, there has been a 64% decline in children being placed in residential treatment due to State and Federal agencies focusing their efforts towards prevention services. These changes have resulted in the closing of 8 residential treatment facilities in the last year and a half because of rising costs and the reallocation of funding.

What's going to happen to the kids? And to staff?

This is the beginning of our transition. We have given 90-day notifications to the county and state offices, allowing more time to better transition our kids to more permanent placements. (The required notification is 30-days.) We are working diligently with the teams of advocates and caseworkers for each child to provide the best possible placement for them when leaving the Children's Treatment Center. We have provided compensation to the Children's Center staff to allow them to stay and provide the children care during the transition and allow them time to find future positions after the final child has been safely transitioned. We also have a plan in place to provide career transition services for all CTC staff.

How did the Board arrive at its decision to close?

The Executive Director, along with the Board of Directors, spent the last two years evaluating the needs of the community and creating a plan to focus our efforts on providing and increasing services that impact more children's lives and increase the protective factors that will improve overall family well-being.

What are the next steps?

We are in phase one of our transition plan, which includes the closure of the treatment center. Phase two and three will include the implementation of two new programs to the agency. This process will take several months as we work closely with private and public agencies to develop these programs and align our services to maximize the benefit to Colorado's children.

Will this affect the other programs? Will the parenting classes change? Will you still have the Support Line and Parents as Teachers programs?

The Executive Director and Board of Directors have designed a long-term plan to ensure the viability of the agency and the programs we offer. During this process, we will continue to focus our efforts on building our existing prevention programs such as Parents as Teachers, Parent Education Classes, Circle of Parents® and the Family Support Line, while creating new prevention and treatment programs which will increase the number of children we will impact. As with any nonprofit organization, we are dependent on grants and donations from our community stakeholders, which may affect future programs.

How can the community help?

Over the years, our supporters have played a variety of roles in helping Families First provide the quality programs our community needs. As we move forward in our transition, we look forward to continuing to work closely with our community partners. Please contact Adam at 303-745-0327 ext 1010 or email him at adam@familiesfirstcolorado.org, to discuss how you may be involved in the exciting new programs and existing services we offer to improve children's lives.