

Dear Supporter and Friend,

We want to thank you for all you do for our kids and inform you, in advance, of the pending transition of services offered by our agency. 2017 was a pivotal and in many ways challenging year for Families First, based on the changing landscape around the behavioral health needs of at-risk children.

As you know, Families First has been committed to the dual mission of providing both prevention services (in the form of in-home, educational, and support programs) and treatment services with our Children's Treatment Center.

During my last four years here, I have seen the hard work and dedication that our Children's Treatment Center staff have provided to the children we serve. They have been there day-to-day, helping to prepare these fragile yet resilient children for their transition into a family home. The job is hard and they have heard (and sometimes felt) the hurt and pain that these children express as they work through their grief and trauma. The positive impact made on all of these children's lives will last a lifetime.

Unfortunately, we have come to the conclusion that it is no longer feasible for us to continue with the treatment that we have provided at Children's Treatment Center over the past 30 years. The transition plan is to close the residential center and our children relocated on or by February 1, 2018. This decision is by no means a reflection of the good work that we have done. Our agency has one of the best reputations in the community because of the quality service we have provided.

In the last few years, there has been a movement across the country to reduce the usage of residential care facilities, with State and Federal focus shifting toward prevention and in-home services. These changes, along with rising costs, have resulted in the closing of several large residential treatment facilities in Colorado. Over the past two years, the Board of Directors and I have worked diligently to strengthen our agency to ensure that we can continue to provide the services that these children need. This work, and the changing landscape of providing residential care, has led us to the conclusion that we must focus our efforts on strengthening our prevention services, while still working with families and children that have experienced trauma.

We want you to know that this was a tough decision for us. We appreciate all you have done for the children living in our residential center and look forward to a continued partnership with you as we focus efforts on building our existing prevention programs, such as Parents as Teachers, Parent Education Classes, Circle of Parents® and Support Line, while creating new prevention and treatment programs.

In the interim, rest assured that Ann, our Children's Treatment Center Director, and her staff, will be working to provide each child currently residing in the residential center the best possible transition to future placement. During this transition, we will coordinate with the staff and caseworkers to determine when it is therapeutically appropriate to talk with the children about this decision.

I recognize this is very difficult information. I, personally, *appreciate* and *value* all you have done for Families First, and in support of this program. We will keep you informed as we progress through this transition and introduce our new programs. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Warmly,

Adam Robe  
Executive Director