

# CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MASTER PLAN POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Many of the Children, Youth and Family Master Plan Committees recommended the adoption of public policies to support their strategies. Upon review, and in consultation with the Core Team, it was determined that a single policy be proposed, one that captured the wishes of the individual committees, while encouraging a broader brush on political support. Without policy driven political support, it was believed that future governing bodies would more easily shift the direction intended by the recommendations.

*In May 2007, the County of La Plata, in partnership with the City of Durango and the towns of Bayfield and Ignacio, embarked on an inclusive, one year planning effort to provide civic leadership with a tool to influence our long-range decision-making as it regards assisting the county's children, youth and families in their efforts to thrive.*

*This planning process was endorsed based on our understanding that families and children are the backbone of our county and when they are not positively moving towards thriving, it not only negatively impacts them, but also the community. There is no action that we could take that would be more morally and economically sound than for us to support the children, youth and families of La Plata County.*

*With the submission of the final document, we now jointly accept the Children, Youth and Family Master Plan with its citizen developed recommendations. We accept this plan with the understanding that for all the citizens of the county to thrive it will require:*

- *Civic infrastructures that intentionally strive to enhance the likelihood of all residents thriving;*
- *Neighborhoods that embrace thriving for their residents as a communal responsibility;*
- *A system that fully engages and empowers young people in the decisions that impact them;*
- *A supportive and nurturing foundation from pre-birth through early childhood;*
- *Economic sustainability and affordable housing for all families; and,*
- *A comprehensive and connected network of developmentally attentive organizations and schools serving children, youth and families.*

*To ensure that the efforts and input from the plan's over 2000 contributors is honored and that reasonable efforts to implement the recommendations are made, we endorse the follow policy statement:*

*“La Plata County, the City of Durango and the Towns of Bayfield and Ignacio commit to becoming communities in which the thriving of our families and their children are of primary importance and whose policies, infrastructures and the services, supports and opportunities to which we contribute are aligned to and supportive of the Plan's thriving definition. We commit to this in partnership with our citizens, the for-profit and not-for-profit businesses who serve us, and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe which is so vital to the area's overall thriving.”*