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The Governor's office has released the names of the appointees for the Governor's Task Force on Child Welfare. Looking at the list of government bureaucrats and lackeys appointed convinces me that nothing good will come of this boondoggle - in fact, things will probably get worse.

The appointees haven't been in the trenches from the perspective of the child or the parent. These people are clueless about the reality of the Child Abuse Industry in Colorado. Many of them ARE the problem.

How do I know? I've fought this Hydra-headed monster for eight years now. I've seen some of these people and organizations in action.

Take appointee Judge Hiatt: I have two letters in my possession written by a thirteen-year-old girl who was removed from her home on false allegations of sexual abuse. She pleaded with Hiatt to listen to her, she told him the social workers were trying to make her lie and falsely accuse her father, she begged to be allowed to go home. Hiatt ignored her letters. Hiatt was taken off of all juvenile and domestic cases in February, 1999 - there are allegations that he is under contract with the Larimer County Attorney's office and the Department of Social Services (DSS) to "predispose" child abuse cases (I have seen this contract). Larimer County Juvenile Courts are reportedly under investigation by the FBI for fraud related to child abuse cases. Good choice, Gov.

But that's not all.

Take Mesa County Commissioner Kathy Hall. Mesa County Department of Social Services, under the oversight of Hall and her co-commissioners, is a cesspool of coercion, falsified records and abuses against the citizens of Mesa County. Pleas to the Mesa County Commissioners by the citizens of Mesa county go ignored, and DSS is free to run roughshod over the rights of families and children. I know of one case where the children were taken from a mother because she was 'homeless' - she was staying in a motel while she searched for an apartment. Yeah, right, staying in a motel is abusive. You can really pick 'em, Gov.

How about the representative from Focus on the Family? There's a wolf in sheep's clothing for you. Focus on the Family won't even touch the issue of children being taken from falsely accused parents or the issue of overzealous social workers destroying families and traumatizing children in the process. I know, I've tried to enlist their aid. It was not forthcoming.

Marva Hammons - Director of the State Department of Human Services - has, in her possession, a pile of cases that I handed to her personally to investigate last month. She informed me that unless I sent these cases to her "officially - through the mail with a cover letter," she couldn't address them!?! When I stated that such an investigation should include speaking to the parents who were making the complaints, she replied, "That's YOUR opinion." She evidently favors conducting one-sided investigations. I'd say the deck is stacked, Gov.

The Kempe Center's primary function is to validate child abuse - even going to the extreme of using speculative and questionable 'diagnoses' such as Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy.

All the appointed 'fattened-at-the-public-trough' bureaucrats are the very people who contribute to the abuses against children in the almighty name of saving the children. They represent a juggernaut whose perspective is slanted by the powerful propaganda machine which

preaches that parents are perpetrators, and 'it takes a village to raise a child' nonsense.

As we've seen by the recent Colorado child deaths that triggered this 'task force,' foster care isn't the panacea it's cracked up to be. In 1997, 996 children nationwide died from abuse/neglect. According to the Children's Bureau of the Dept of Health & Human Services, (with only 39 states reporting) 249 children exited the foster care system BY DEATH in the 6 month period from 10/1/97 to 3/31/98. If you took this 6 month figure and doubled it to equal 1 year, foster care deaths would represent 50% of all child abuse deaths.

Why don't we hear more about it? The big, dirty secrets are: Abusive parents who admit guilt get their kiddies back - and so the babes die. Innocent parents who refuse to falsely admit guilt don't get their kiddies back. When those parents complain about their child being abused in foster care, DSS calls it 'retaliatory' and covers it up - and so the babes die.

But this task force isn't likely to touch on those very real issues. I guess we can surmise what THIS task force will find: More money is needed for more training and more social workers. Bigger government and more effective intrusions into non-abusive families in the name of "protecting children" whether they need protection or not.

Heaven help the families of Colorado. Heaven help the children.