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PRESS RELEASE

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WARREN COUNTY JOINS PRENATAL-TO-THREE COUNTY LEADERS ACADEMY

Aurora, COLORADO – Commissioner Shannon Jones joins the National Association of Counties Research Foundation (NACoRF) and counties across the nation at its second <u>Prenatal-to-Three</u> County Leaders Academy July 19-20 in Adams County, Colo.

Recognizing the important role counties play in providing a strong foundation for children prenatal-to-three, this event brings together a select cohort of elected and appointed county leaders to explore potential policy solutions for expanding and improving services for young children and their families.

Commissioner Jones will be a panelist on the second day of the Leaders Academy for the Equitable Recovery for Child Care Post-COVID discussion where she will share her insights and give a snapshot of the local efforts taking place in Warren County. The session will focus on supporting child care providers and strategies for sustaining and expanding services.

During the height of the pandemic, nearly 40 percent of households with young children struggled to pay for basic needs like food or rent. Counties have been on the frontlines responding to the pandemic and ensuring that young children have the resources they need during the critical first three years of life. According to the National Association of Counties' analysis of over 200 county American Rescue Plan Recovery Fund blueprints, nearly 70 percent include investments in children and families.

The academy features county leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to prenatal-tothree and made innovative systems changes for young children and their families. County leaders will learn and share strategies for building and sustaining the supply of childcare, increasing home visiting and mental health services, and increasing access to other county services.

The academy is part of NACoRF's <u>Counties for Kids</u> initiative for county leaders who are committed to making investments in young children from prenatal to age three. To learn more, visit <u>www.countiesforkids.org</u>.

About the Warren County Board of County Commissioners

The Warren County Board of Commissioners is the legislative and executive body of county government. As the governing body, the Board is fiscally responsible for taxpayer dollars and for provision of services as required by state and federal law or mandated by the public. The Board works, through community partnership, to conscientiously protect and enhance the health, safety and quality of life of all Warren County residents, businesses and communities in a respectful, efficient and fiscally responsible way that addresses the needs today and invests in tomorrow.

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