

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Elected Officials to Examine Child Welfare at Oct. 17 Legislative Event**

*CPO's Child Abuse & Neglect Collaborative aims to improve Child Welfare in Greene County.*

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., (10/14/2024) – Elected officials and agency representatives from across Missouri will converge in Springfield on October 17, 2024, to discuss the current state of child welfare and hear from local collaboratives on how to improve it at Community Partnership of the Ozarks' Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Collaborative's **State of Child Welfare in Greene County 2024**. This event will be held from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the Council of Churches, located at 3055 E. Division St. in Springfield, with doors opening at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast and networking.

Greene County Judge Andy Hosmer and Greene County Juvenile Office Director of Quality Services, Rachel Hogan, will headline the event while the CAN Collaborative will spotlight local agencies, including The Child Advocacy Center (CAC), Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children of SW Missouri's Clubhouse (CASA), and Isabel's House Crisis Nursery, and present its 2025 legislative priorities.

"Child abuse and neglect is a real issue in our community. Greene County has 650 children in foster care, which is higher than the State average. This event is open to all local and State officials, including those who are running for office and those currently serving. We invite them every year to hear about innovations to prevent, intervene, and heal families impacted by child abuse and neglect and to learn about how they can make an impact through their various roles," said Executive Director of CASA and CAN Collaborative Chair Laura Farmer.

The [CAN Collaborative](#) is made up of approximately 50 local agencies working to provide children and families with the necessary resources to keep families intact when safely possible, and ensure that children are safe, healthy, and have more positive outcomes. The CAN Collaborative is one of several [CPO Community Collaboratives](#) that helps fulfill CPO's mission to create resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities.

For questions about this event, please contact Laura Farmer at 417-864-6202 or at [lfarmer@casaswmo.org](mailto:lfarmer@casaswmo.org)

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**ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS:** *The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership's collaborative efforts and programs, visit [www.cpozarks.org](http://www.cpozarks.org).*