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Arapahoe County appoints Joseph M. Barela as new Division Manager *Barela to oversee Arapahoe/Douglas Works! workforce center*

Aurora, CO. — Arapahoe County has named Joseph M. Barela as the new manager of Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, effective immediately.

“We are thrilled to promote Joe to this new role which is an ideal fit for his proven experience, work ethic and skills,” said Don Klemme, Director of Community Resources. “Joe has an energy and passion for his work that will be a catalyst for this award-winning division to achieve further success.”

After conducting a search, Arapahoe County promoted Barela from his previous position as Deputy Division Manager, following the retirement of Patricia K. Buys in late September. Barela will oversee a 78-member staff and manage an annual operating budget of \$7.5 million of State and Federal grants. Arapahoe/Douglas Works! is a division of the County’s Community Resources department.

Previously, Barela was a policy analyst with the Colorado Department of Human Services’ Colorado Works! program for seven years, where he focused on county-level workforce initiatives as part of the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant. Barela was also a program manager at Arapahoe/Douglas Works! for 11 years.

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