

**Child Welfare Network  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 3, 2014, 7:30-9:30 a.m.  
Las Vegas Country Club, Rotunda Room**

**Our Vision**

**The Child Welfare Network seeks to create public accountability and better outcomes for the children and their families that it serves.**

**Our Mission**

**Support information-sharing** by providing a forum where individuals and organizations concerned about children in Nevada's child welfare system can exchange resources, ideas, problems, and solutions through learning from one another and providing all members an opportunity to be heard:

**Promote collaboration** among service providers, county and state administrators, educators, parents, and foster parents, youth, private funders and concerned citizens with the collective focus on the best interests of children who are fundamentally our constituents; and

**Take action** that leads to real results by advocating with a united voice on child welfare issues to improve services that respond to the needs (and improve the lives of) children and families in Nevada.

The following individuals attended the Child Welfare Network (CWN) meeting:

Barbara de Castro	Majestic/NYCP
Beverly Petrelis	NCLI @ UNLV
Carolyn Potter	DFS
Charlene Frost	Nevada PEP
Christine Vela	DFS
Daniele Dreitzer	The Rape Crisis Center
Denise Tanata Ashby	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Denise Parker	QPI
Gard Jameson	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Howard Olshansky	Boys Town Nevada
Ivette Sanchez	Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
James Raffel	Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY)
Jennifer Silverman	LACSN Children's Attorney's Project (CAP) at Legal Aid Center of So. Nevada
Jessica Roe	The Adoption Exchange
Kim Amato	Baby's Bounty
Margarita de la Fuente	BBS Counseling
Mari Parlade	DFS
Marlyn Buckley	Professional in Philanthropy

Sam (Debra) King	Project REAL
Sarah Kern	Mojave Mental Health
Shauna Davis	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Shawnette Roque	FACT of Southern Nevada
Shelia Parks	8th Judicial District Court-CASA Program
Stacey Wedding	Professional in Philanthropy
Stephanie Holguin	UNLV-NCLI
Valerie Hicks	SAFY
Victor Wakefield	Teach for America

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Denise Tanata Ashby called the meeting to order and extended a thank you to all in attendance. She reviewed the activities for the day, and everyone introduced themselves.

## **Member Highlights**

### **DFS Community Partnership Unit**

Mari Parlade spoke on the DFS Community Partnership Unit. This unit is now fully staffed with 5 members on the team and working with many aspects of the community including SIP (Safety Intervention Program) and QPI (Quality Parenting Initiative).

Mari reported that DFS is seeing successes with SIPs and the Hotline (first level of assessment) as well as the CPS staff and Assistant DAs being trained so that everyone is speaking the same language, allowing for movement towards a more holistic approach.

Mari also spent some time discussing the 6 work groups that have convened since Building Connections last August. DFS is also working to create a Foster Friends Ambassador Program to serve as ambassadors of QPI.

Mari then outlined what is needed from the partners and summed it up in four points:

- 1) Engage, communicate and collaborate.
- 2) Educate and engage ([www.QPINevada.com](http://www.QPINevada.com)).
- 3) Educate and recruit, as we need quality care givers.
- 4) Build with DFS. Be involved in the KaBOOM project for Child Haven on 4/15/14 (details below in Carolyn Potter's report).

### **KaBOOM Project**

Carolyn Potter spoke on the KaBOOM Project saying that, "On Tuesday, April 15, 2014, Clark County Department of Family Services (DFS), a public child welfare agency, and Chicanos Por La

Causa (CPLC Southwest, Inc.), a community-based non-profit organization serving low income communities and fostering economic development, seek community participation to build a KaBOOM! playground at Child Haven. Serving as the receiving center for children who have been placed in the temporary protective custody of DFS due to suspected abuse or neglect, Child Haven sees approximately 300 different children per month.

KaBOOM! is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to building new playgrounds for children through the participation and leadership of community partners. KaBOOM! identifies and matches corporate sponsors with child-serving organizations to create an effective community partnership focused on building a playground in high-need areas across the nation. Through the KaBOOM! Community Partner Program, DIRECTV (one of the world's leading providers of digital television entertainment services) will generously serve as the Funding Partner that will be instrumental in the design and creation of a brand new playground on DFS' Child Haven campus.

Please join us at Child Haven from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, with community allies to rebuild a playground. You surely will not want to miss the opportunity to connect with hundreds of volunteers and supporters who want to improve the lives of children in our care. It truly is going to be an extraordinary day, and presents a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to disseminate the messages of our Child Welfare Network, QPI, and Building Connections Partners, while digging dirt, painting murals, spreading mulch and transforming outdoor playspaces – all on behalf of our most precious, and valued resource – our children.

Your commitment, your volunteerism, and your heartfelt support are all integral to the success of this community project. Together we will transform the lives of children in our care – one step, one building block, one project at a time.

On a side note, we still need metal garden rakes, wheelbarrows, garden hoes, corded drills and light sledge hammers.”

### **Building Connections Update**

DFS has been working with CAA on the Building Connections Initiative. There was a Community Forum held in September 2013. The Building Connections Workshop attended by over 200 partners was successful and included law enforcement, educators, attorneys, and elected officials. Currently, the partnership is reviewing a 20 page report from Tom Waite containing a summary of goals from the various meetings that have been held, including the Building Connections Workshop.

In response to the Building Connection hosted by CAA, there have been two additions to the CAA website:

- 1) A Community Stakeholder link located on the Children's Safety page where anyone may share child welfare-related ideas or opinions that are not case specific (case specific concerns should be addressed by the ombudsman for DFS: <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/depts/ombudsman/pages/default.aspx>). For more information, please click on the following link: <http://caanv.org/childrens-issues/childrens-safety/building-connections-in-child-welfare/stakeholder-opinion-form-qa/>
- 2) Nevada Coalition Workgroups may enter information on the website about their coalition's purpose and how someone can join. The list was created in effort to identify existing groups, foster collaboration, recruit new volunteers, and highlight the work of each group. Shauna encouraged everyone to submit information about their coalition on the website. For more information, visit: <http://caanv.org/nevada-coalition-resource-list/>.

## **Legislative Update**

Shauna Davis reported that there have been two meetings for the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. Clark County Department of Family Services outlined their policy priorities for the 2015 legislative session. They are summarized as follows:

- 1) Require background checks for anyone who is frequently around a child placed in foster care, such as a boyfriend or family member of the licensed caregiver.
- 2) Request for a categorical block grant to fund voluntary jurisdiction youth.
- 3) Request for a stable funding mechanism to support specialized foster care.
- 4) Revise NRS 432B.520 to parallel NRS 432B.470 pertaining to standards at removal which include personal service, oral notification, posting notice on a door of a residence. Standards of removal appears to be more reasonable and limits resources expended in personal service than Standards at Petition which requires personal service of a summons if person is in State; certified mail if person is out-of-state.

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on May 9th at 9 AM in the Grant Sawyer Building. There is an opportunity for public comment.

## **Youth At-Risk for Homelessness Grant**

Christina Vela spoke to the group about a grant that DFS and many community partners received re: youth at-risk of homelessness. She spoke briefly about Collective Impact and how this approach leads to a common agenda coordinated across sectors using shared measurements and mutually enforcing activities that lead to true collaboration about complex

social issues. For positive results using this approach, there must be a backbone agency and in Southern Nevada, this agency is DFS. Some of the shared goals of the Collective Impact Initiative in Southern Nevada include assisting those that are excelling to their full potential, making sure that the youth feel that they belong and that adults are invested in their success, and that youth at opportunity receive special support to avoid negative results with an end goal of ending homelessness for youth in Southern Nevada.

Christina shared that the federal planning grant provides our community an opportunity to end homelessness of young people. It was awarded to 18 grantees nationally through the Children's Bureau. This is a two year planning grant, and they are currently in the sixth month. She provided a handout that reviews the intervention strategies being identified and shared with the group that this is a collaborative effort with many agencies participating as members of the 4 sub-committees using all available resources locally and nationally.

Christina expressed the need for all to become involved in work groups and utilize the available research tools for high risk cases. Contact Christina ([Christina.Vela@clarkcounty.gov](mailto:Christina.Vela@clarkcounty.gov)) with any questions or suggestions on how to involve everyone and most importantly, collaborate for Collective Impact.

### **Funding/Grant Opportunities**

There are several grant opportunities that can be found on [www.grant.gov](http://www.grant.gov). A few grants to highlight are: \*Please verify all information by visiting [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and search for the funding opportunity number provided in parenthesis.

1. (OJJDP-2014-3826) Second Chance Act Comprehensive Statewide Juvenile Reentry Systems Reform Planning Program. Deadline May 13, 2014
2. (HHS-2014-ACF-ACYF-YO-0790) Education and Prevention Grants to reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth. Deadline May 12, 2014
3. (HHS-2014-ACF-ACYF-CY-0792) Basic Center Grant, alternative for runaway and homeless youth. Deadline May 12, 2014
4. (OVC-2014-3859) Service for Victims of Human Trafficking. May 15, 2014
5. (OJJDP-2014-3827) Mentoring for Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Sex Trafficking Initiative. Deadline May 15

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**April 11, 2014** Grantwell Proposals due. Contact Stephanie Holguin, [stephanieholguin4@gmail.com](mailto:stephanieholguin4@gmail.com)

**April 11, 2014** Lunch and Learn Series at Rape Crisis Center, 12-1PM. Jeri Dermanelian, Certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and Metro Sexual Assault Detective

**April 15, 2014.** DFS-KaBoom Project, Contact Carolyn Potter at [Carolyn.Potter@ClarkCountyNV.gov](mailto:Carolyn.Potter@ClarkCountyNV.gov). See report above.

**April 17, 2014** Easter Egg Hunt Contact [Christina.Vela@clarkcounty.gov](mailto:Christina.Vela@clarkcounty.gov) for details

**April 18, 2014** Lunch and Learn Series sponsored by The Rape Crisis Center at City of the World Art Gallery, 1229 S. Casino Center Blvd. 12-1PM. Survivor Art Class Must RSVP to 385-2153, lunch provided

**April 23, 2014** Denim Day Event to benefit The Rape Crisis Center. Call 702-385-2153 with questions or to RSVP or visit [www.RCCLV.org](http://www.RCCLV.org) .Join us for Denim Day Art Auction! Come and bid on over 30 pieces created by local artists, all with Denim as a component. Las Vegas City hall Lobby, 495S. main Las Vegas, NV 89101, 5-8 PM

**April 25, 2014** Lunch and Learn Series sponsored at The Rape Crisis Center, 12-2PM. YourSPACE Parent Class in Spanish. Debut of the Spanish version of this class in partnership with the Mexican Consulate

**April 27, 2014** Baby's Bounty "Oh, Baby Tea" at the Mandarin Oriental. 2-4:30PM. Contact Kim Amato- [kim@babysbounty.org](mailto:kim@babysbounty.org) 485-2229

**May 7, 2014** Grand Opening of the Heart Gallery to be held at United Health Care from 6-7:30PM. Contact Jessica Roe for details at [Jessica@adoptex.org](mailto:Jessica@adoptex.org)

**May 8' 2014** Walk Me Home, Contact [Christina.Vela@clarkcounty.gov](mailto:Christina.Vela@clarkcounty.gov) for details

**May 13, 2014** Quality Parenting Initiative Implementation Committee Meeting, 1-3PM. Room 3 ODC, Government Center. More information may be obtained at [www.QPINevada.com](http://www.QPINevada.com) or Contact [Christina.Vela@clarkcounty.gov](mailto:Christina.Vela@clarkcounty.gov).

**June 21, 2014** Dare Me For Charity at Fremont Street. Contact Kim Amato- [kim@babysbounty.org](mailto:kim@babysbounty.org), 485-2229. This will be a new reality show for non-profits to compete for cash prizes. Sign up at [www.daremeforcharity.com](http://www.daremeforcharity.com) to jump for Baby's Bounty. Cost will be \$15 for 3 jumps. Our team is "Don't be a Baby....Jump!!"

Meeting adjourned at 9:35.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE JUNE 19, 2014.**