

**Child Welfare Network  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday, February 8, 2018  
Rotunda Room, Las Vegas Country Club**

**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:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Abigail Frierson    | Executive Director of SN Children’s Advocacy Center |
| Aga Pinkerton       | Congresswoman Jacky Rosen’s Office                  |
| Alex Hoops          | NCLI  |
| Ann Smith           | League of Women Voters of NV                        |
| C J Hoogland        | SNCAC   |
| Cassandra Majeskie  | NCLI  |
| Charlotte Watkins   | Montevista Hospital/Red Rock Behavioral Health      |
| Christina Vela      | St. Jude's Ranch                                    |
| Dawn Boyers         | Women's Resource Medical Centers                    |
| Denise Tanata       | Children's Advocacy Alliance                        |
| Dianne Farkas       | Family to Family Connection                         |
| Fred Schultz        | Positively Kids                                     |
| Gard Jameson        | Founder of CAA                                      |
| Jenna Webb          | School of Public Policy and Leadership: NCLI        |
| Jennifer Erbes      | CC-DFS  |
| Jennifer Silverman  | Legal Aid Center of So. NV                          |
| Jessica Halling     | St. Jude’s Ranch                                    |
| Jessica Mann Reseck | Healthy Minds                                       |
| Jessica Roe         | The Adoption Exchange                               |
| Jocelyn Oats        | AEAA-Awakened, Enlightened & Affirmed Associates    |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| John Wagner         | UNLV  |
| Kim Amato           | Baby's Bounty                                 |
| Leah Dods           | Foster Kinship                                |
| Lora Gaughan        | CCSD  |
| Mari Parlade        | DFS   |
| Marlyn Buckley      | Professionals in Philanthropy                 |
| Myesha Wilson       | Olive Crest                                   |
| Nanette Garrett     | Foster Kinship                                |
| Neyda Aleman Becker | NCLI  |
| Paula Hammack       | Clark County Family Services                  |
| Rebecca Sheldon     | Olivecrest                                    |
| Rose Hammon         | UNLV-John Wagner                              |
| Sara Stephens       | Legal Aid Center of So. NV                    |
| Sheila Parks        | 8th Judicial District Court-CASA Program      |
| Sondra Cosgrove     | League of Women Voters of NV                  |
| Tara Phebus         | NV Institute for Children's Research & Policy |
| Tonya McCormick     | Legal Aid Center of So Nevada                 |

**Welcome and Introductions**

Denise Tanata 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.

**Presentations**

**Myesha Wilson of Olive Crest**

Myesha gave an overview of Olive Crest and services offered. Olive Crest has been providing services to families for 40 years. Olive Crest provides critical services for at-risk children and families in So NV such as child abuse prevention, homes for children, teens and aged-out youth, adoption placement and support, educational support and services, independent life skills training and mentoring, counseling and mental health treatment and family crisis intervention.

Attached are 2 fliers with services offered details and contact information for the facility in Las Vegas.

**Sondra Cosgrove- League of Women Voters\_**(attached is LWVSN Behavioral Health Care Position Paper)

The League of Women Voters of Southern Nevada is a 501c3 non-profit that focuses extensively on registering and empowering voters. We also engage in issue advocacy to strengthen democracy and to create healthy communities. [www.lwvsn.org](http://www.lwvsn.org)

We have made early interventions in behavioral health care one of our top legislative priorities for the 2019 legislative session. We will be discussing our plan’s specific details at our February

17<sup>th</sup> community meeting, which is open to the public. Our Behavioral Health Care position paper is attached.

We meet at 4412 S. Maryland Parkway at the University United Methodist Church multipurpose room between 9 and 11am. 9 to 10am is for networking and then 10 to 11am will be our panel presentation.

Our panelists for the Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the President of the Nevada Association of School Psychologists, Katie Dockweiler, and a representative from The Harbor, which is a new organization to help children and families in distress before the criminal justice system becomes involved.

In addition to advocating for legislative action in 2019, we are hoping to create a comprehensive list of organizations working with children and families in need of behavioral health services now. If your organization provides services that in any way assists individuals or families with behavioral health care needs, please consider sending us a link or other information about your organization through our Contact page: <http://lwvsn.org/contact-us.html>

**Paula Hammock-CCDFS** provided the group with an update for Kevin Schiller. Paula itemized just a few of the 2017 successes such as 522 adoptions, 1319 re-unified client with their birth families, served 1443 in the Safe at Home program, collaborated with Olive Crest. She also mentioned that the new Nevada Children's Commission was meeting the next day (Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>). This will be the second meeting of the Commission and all meetings are open to the public. The Commission is overseen by Justice Nancy Saitta through an order of the Nevada Supreme Court and is being modeled after the [Texas Children's Commission](#).

### **Policy Updates and 2019 Legislative Discussion**

Denise began with an update on related federal activities. With the passage of the tax bill, funding for many programs are in jeopardy as a potential offset to the funding deficit created by the tax bill. The federal government has also approved another Continuing Resolution (CR) – this one includes a longer (10 year) extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), along with inclusion of the Families First Prevention Services Act (see attached summary from the Children's Defense Fund).

Denise also mentioned that The Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities has released their [first progress report](#), which includes an update on each state's progress on the commission recommendations, including Nevada.

Denise then discussed the 2019 Legislative Priorities Survey Results (a copy is attached). The group broke into table discussions on the survey results for about 30 minutes and then each table reported back regarding their discussion. One table focused on the importance of replacing UNITY and felt like that is the lynch pin to progress in all the other items of major

importance like access to mental health, support services and prevention for those in the system. It was also stressed how important it is to start meeting with legislators now in preparation for the session in 2019.

A copy of the Survey results are attached.

## **Announcements**

- 1) For those interested in attending a free training for 1st responders and direct service agencies in understanding and working with victims of sex trafficking, please see below...

Hello, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue is providing a free training for 1st responders and direct service agencies in understanding and working with victims of sex trafficking. They have opened this free training to other stakeholders in the community. There are several opportunities to attend these training sessions from **March 5 thru March 10 at the World Market Center**. Here is the link for more information and registration:

[http://iempathize.org/th\\_gallery/empower-las-vegas/](http://iempathize.org/th_gallery/empower-las-vegas/)  
<[https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fiempathize.org%2Fth\\_gallery%2Fempower-las-vegas%2F&data=02%7C01%7Clllopez%40lasvegasnevada.gov%7C4e5f3bf291924ef021ec08d5673a1377%7Ccb7351c52c84a0d93450df836113a96%7C0%7C1%7C636528421500796895&sdata=ljTE1O%2FI2Q6uZfVbjMTUBSa7O%2BUKpglShyJ12zlp04l%3D&reserved=0](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fiempathize.org%2Fth_gallery%2Fempower-las-vegas%2F&data=02%7C01%7Clllopez%40lasvegasnevada.gov%7C4e5f3bf291924ef021ec08d5673a1377%7Ccb7351c52c84a0d93450df836113a96%7C0%7C1%7C636528421500796895&sdata=ljTE1O%2FI2Q6uZfVbjMTUBSa7O%2BUKpglShyJ12zlp04l%3D&reserved=0)>

Please pass this information on to others who may benefit from this training. Thank you

- 2) Kim Amato from Baby's Bounty has provided their revised Referral Form and it is attached to these notes.
- 3) John Wagner of NCLI announced a 3 session Board Training Workshop to be held on March 1, 8, 15. Learn how you can make an impact as a nonprofit organization board member, thanks to United Way of Southern Nevada, Nonprofit Community Leadership Initiative, Professionals in Philanthropy, and Moonridge Group. Hear from non-profit professionals and get a complete overview of board service in the nonprofit community. All three sessions and refreshments are included in the \$35 registration fee. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/board-service-made-easy-training-series-tickets-42131235660>
- 4) Christine Vela of St. Jude's Ranch announced the National Siblings Day to be held on 4/7/18 from 12-3pm at Tivoli Village.

- 5) Empower LV is sponsoring a free to the public seminar on human trafficking from March 5-10 at the World Market Center and Smith Center on March 12 from 6:30-9pm. Details and registration information are at <http://iempathize.org/wp-content/files/2018/01/Empower-Las-Vegas-schedule.pdf>
- 6) Several fliers have been emailed with details of events happening immediately.

Next Meeting will be held on **April 19, 2018** with Continental Breakfast and Networking beginning at 7:30 am and meeting from 8-9:30am. Location is the Rotunda Room at the Las Vegas Country Club, 3000 Joe W. Brown Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89109