

**Child Welfare Network  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday, August 17, 2017  
Heritage 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.

**Those in attendance were:**

Alexis Kennedy	University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Amelia Pond	Teach for America
Anya Earl	SAFY of Nevada
Candace Weinstock	FACTS of Southern Nevada
Charlene Frost	Nevada PEP
Charlotte Watkins	Montevista Hospital/Red Rock Behavioral Health
Christine Cisneros	Boys Town
Christopher Colby	KIT International
Denise Parker	DFS
Denise Tanata	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Erika Marquez	NICRP
Ingrid Sanchez	BBS Counseling
Jennifer Erbes	CC-DFS
Jennifer Silverman	LACSN Children's Attorney's Project (CAP)
Jessica Mann Reseck	Healthy Minds
Jessica McGee	East Valley Family Services
Jessica Roe	The Adoption Exchange
Jill Marano	Clark County DFS

Kevin Schiller	Clark County
Kim Amato	Baby's Bounty
LaToria Kern	Family Arts
Laura Ruelas	Behavioral Bilingual Services
Lauren Wagner-Ortiz	Healthy Minds
Madison Sandoval-Lynn	Foster Kinship
Mari Parlade	Clark County DFS
Marlyn Buckley	Professionals in Philanthropy
Nanette Garrett	Foster Kinship
Oscar Rodarte	KIT International
Paula Hammack	Clark County Family Services
Shannon Cole	East Valley Family Services
Sheila Parks	8th Judicial District Court-CASA Program
Yolanda Bennet	CC DFS

### **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**

**Kevin Schiller, Assistant Clark County Manager** was introduced by Denise. Kevin has assumed this position recently, coming to Clark County from Washoe County. Kevin has a child welfare and human services background and is very excited to integrate himself into Clark County. Kevin will oversee DFS, Social Services, County Coroner's Office, The Shooting Facility and the County Clerk's Office. Kevin shared that his approach is very collaborative and believes that relationships are very important in this effort. His vision is based on communication that includes strategy, outreach to the entire community including private and public sectors, and working in an open process. Kevin acknowledged that there are many challenges in Clark County and knows that there is never a finish line as these areas of responsibility are constantly changing. The goal is to improve on the current issues. By changing the practices it is possible to change the culture.

**La' Toria Kern of Family Arts** introduced herself to the group. Family Arts stands for Foster Adopt Mentor Investing in Lives of Youth and while both La'Toria and the agency are new to the Las Vegas area, the work of Family Arts has been successful in other parts of the US for many years.

Family Arts was developed to promote Foster Care and Adoption to the general community. In doing so FA discovered that too many youth were aging out of care with little and sometimes no support. FA solution to this problem is to create job-training programs designed to help

youth become self-sufficient. The Founder's professional background and love for the arts and media is the reason why our emphasis is placed on careers in the Arts and Media. Services and programs include Foster Care, Adoption Promotions, Job Training and Placement Assistance, Housing Assistance. For more information: [www.whalerscreation.org](http://www.whalerscreation.org) , [familyarts@whalerscreation.org](mailto:familyarts@whalerscreation.org), 702-608-1317.

### **2017 Legislative Overview**

Denise gave a brief review of the bills that CAA was tracking in the 2017 Legislative session that ended in June 2017. *See the attached summary document.*

UNITY was not funded due to expense and unknown status of the ACA and Medicare programs. There will be strategy sessions to advance this effort prior to the 2019 Legislative Session. Other bills activity is summarized on the attached sheet title CAA 2017 Legislative Session Review.

There was some discussion regarding the language of SB 287 (which includes language requiring background checks for school volunteers). This bill is causing some unintended consequences and efforts are being made to clarify the intent of the language and efforts will be made to improve this bill during the 2019 Legislative Session and before, if possible.

Denise announced that Medicaid funding continues for now and NV has the most to lose as changes to the ACA continue to be discussed. The CAA is collecting stories from people who have been impacted by ACA. Please contact Denise ([denise.tanata@caanv.org](mailto:denise.tanata@caanv.org)) if you have a client story or personal story that can be collected and added to the file as discussion and negotiations continue at the national level.

As Open Enrollment begins for ACA, it will be important for agencies to reach out to their clients with information regarding details of the Open Enrollment Period as no government funding for outreach will be available.

### **Announcements**

**We would like to establish a table in the front of the room for agencies to put out any literature/announcements that are appropriate. This table will be available at the next meeting in November so come prepared!! ☺**

**KIT's Kitchen** update- The restaurant is now called "Sancho's Mexican Grill" and it is owned and operated by KIT Foundation. The mission and community work have not changed, just the food style. The restaurant is mirrored after the sister Mexican restaurant in Lake Las Vegas allowing guests to know exactly what type of food is served. Mexican food, being one of the top 3 concepts in the country, will allow them to provide more assistance to the youth. The restaurant still gives back 30% of revenue off the top to the foundation and they still do

fundraisers and training to the youth in the community. The website is almost completed and will be live soon.

**Baby's Bounty** has moved to 73 Spectrum Blvd., sharing space with Lutheran Social Services of Nevada. Baby's Bounty has their own entrance at the corner of Spectrum and Sunrise.

**East Valley Family Services** is having a **Community Event** on Sept. 9, 2017 including Resources, Vendors, Kid Carnival and games as well as the Mamo Van will be on site. The event is from 9am-3pm.

**Charlotte Watkins** announced the **State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professionals** event on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> from 8am-5pm at Solutions Recovery, 2975 S. Rainbow Blvd. titled, "Ethics of Addiction as a Systemic, Social and Medical Impact". Intern and CEU's are available for attendance. *See attached Save the Date flier*

**Community Partners for Better Health** will present **2017 Mental and Behavioral Health Symposium on Suicide Prevention** on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am-5pm at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, 4000 W. Flamingo. Registration cost varies: CEU's \$60, non CEU's \$40, Student/Military \$20. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-mental-and-behavioral-health-symposium-tickets-36418122585> . If you have any questions contact their office at 702-256-2724 Cell (702)334-7266 or email [cpbh2724@earthlink.net](mailto:cpbh2724@earthlink.net).

**Jessica Reseck of Healthy Minds** would like to let everyone know that they have extended their psychiatry hours and are now able to see Med Management / Psych Only kiddos. The only things required is that they have an open DFS case and are working with an outside therapist. Please contact Jessica at: [Jessica.Mann@healthymindslv.com](mailto:Jessica.Mann@healthymindslv.com) or P: 702-455-4629 or C: 702-622-2491

**Charlene Frost of NV PEP** announced the **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Run, Walk, Roll against Bullying** to be held on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> with registration at 7:30 am at UNLV Moyer Student Union. Register online at [www.NVPEP.org](http://www.NVPEP.org) . *See attached flier*

**Step-Up for Kids** will be held on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at The Springs Preserve. A "Kid Mayor" will be selected from 4/5<sup>th</sup> graders. Please contact Denise or Amanda if you have a nominee in mind. For additional details contact Denise Tanata at [denise.tanata@caanv.org](mailto:denise.tanata@caanv.org) or Amanda Haboush-Deloye at [amamda.haboush@unlv.edu](mailto:amamda.haboush@unlv.edu) .

**BBS Counseling** announced that they will be starting groups in the near future. More details to come. They will also be hosting a Holiday event on 12/2/17. Please Save the Date on your calendars.

**The next meeting will be held on December 16, 2017 at the Las Vegas Country Club beginning with networking and continental breakfast at 7:30 am.**