

**Child Welfare Network  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday, November 16, 2017  
Grand Dining 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:**

Amanda Haboush-Deloye	UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
Amelia Pond	Teach for America
Andre' Wade	Gay & Lesbian Community Center of So. NV
Angelica Buttel	Apple Grove Foster Care Agency
Bree Mullin	Psychological Solutions for Nevada
Charlene Frost	Nevada PEP
Charlotte Watkins	Monte Vista Hospital/Red Rock Behavioral Health
Daniele Dreitzer	The Rape Crisis Center
Dawn Boyers	Women's Resource Medical Centers
Denise Tanata	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Dianne Farkas	Family to Family Connection
Eboni Washington	Clark County Dept of Family Services
Jared Busker	CAA
Jenna Webb	School of Public Policy and Leadership: NCLI
Jennifer Erbes	Clark County Dept. of Family Services
Kim Amato	Baby's Bounty
LaurenWagner-Ortiz	Healthy Minds
Leah Dods	Foster Kinship
Mari Parlade	Clark County Dept. of Family Services
Marlyn Buckley	Professionals in Philanthropy

Megan Freeman	NV Division of Child and Family Services
Melissa Wadsworth	Consultation & Counseling Associates, Inc.
Myesha Wilson	Olive Crest
Nanette Garrett	Foster Kinship
Ninya Beyer	Teach for America
Paula Hammack	Clark County Family Services
Rose Hammon	UNLV-John Wagner
Sandal Kelly	Consultation & Counseling Associates, Inc.
Sarah Ahmad	Odyssey Wellness
Sunshine Collins	Nevada Psychological Association Early Career Psychologist Group
Susie Sernoe	Clark County School District
Valerie Hicks	SAFY

### **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.

### **Agency Highlights & Updates**

**Kim Amato of Baby’s Bounty** gave a brief update. Kim has returned to continue her work at Baby’s Bounty. The agency has moved into a new space at 3400 W. Desert Inn Road #4, Las Vegas, NV which is allowing them to expand their services to the community. They will be holding a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm. Everyone is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served

**Dianne Farkas of Family to Family Connection** ([www.family2familylv.org](http://www.family2familylv.org)) gave us an update on this agency which is a community based nonprofit that resembles the “extended family”. Here, you will interact with your child in fun and engaging ways that will be both educational and supportive. Many of the classes focus on pre-literacy skills and social skills which help your child succeed in school and in life.

Family to Family creates an educational support system for parents by providing a safe and secure environment for you to get reliable answers to your parenting questions. They empower families with knowledge and information needed to be the best caregivers possible. All classes require parent/guardian participation.

Here is a sample of the many services offered to parents of children 0 up to 5 years old:

- Current information regarding cognitive and physical development
- Infant and toddler play groups to help with your baby’s socialization skills and development
- A Resource Lending Center with books and videos

- Breastfeeding and postpartum advice and support
- Information about child safety issues
- Infant and toddler CPR classes
- Infant massage classes
- Infant and toddler sign language classes
- Nutrition classes
- Craft classes
- Classes offered in Spanish
- Music and dance classes

The agency runs on a staff of 5 people and provides over 100 classes /month and services over 3,000 clients/ month thanks to the many community partnerships it has forged through the years. It is located at 3900 Cambridge Street, Suite 106-108, Las Vegas, NV 89119. Registration is required at 702-870-9583. Parent counseling by appointment by calling 702-870-9583.

**Paula Hammock of DFS** gave an update on activities at DFS.

- 1) the repurposing of Child Haven
- 2) Family Matters
- 3) The ongoing Department Assessment
- 4) PERK
- 5) National Adoption Day on 11/16/17 and your special reunification event held on 11/29/17

### **Presentation**

**Assemblywoman Danielle Monroe Moreno** was scheduled to make a presentation but due to illness she was unable to attend at the last minute. Hopefully, she will be able to attend an upcoming Child Welfare Network meeting.

### **2017 Legislative Overview**

Denise Tanata gave a short update on AB99 and stated that there will be a workshop on 11/27/17. An email containing details was sent to all members of CWN on 11/17/17.

Denise also spoke about some upcoming issues for the 2019 Legislative session that will be worked on in Committee in 2018. At the February meeting, time will be spent identifying and prioritizing issues of importance to the group. Some topics identified briefly in today's meeting include: services for babies born with opioid addiction, reciprocity for mental health care providers in the State of Nevada, early intervention and education that will foster family preservation, and respite care for caregivers.

### **Announcements**

**Teach for America** will be hosting an opportunity Fair for 2<sup>nd</sup> year teachers and program alumni on Saturday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. The fair will showcase opportunities and resources in Las Vegas including jobs, volunteer opportunities and community resources. If your agency is interested in spreading awareness or tabling at the event, email Ninya at [ninya.beyer@teachforamerica.org](mailto:ninya.beyer@teachforamerica.org) for more information.

**Sunrise Children's Foundation** provides some childcare free or at low cost to qualified families with children 0-5 yrs of age. <http://www.sunrisechildren.org/staff.php> for more information.

**Mojave Counseling-UNLV Medicine** will continue to provide free crisis support to the community in response to the October 1 shooting. Call 702-253-0818 to schedule an appointment.

**CASA** will be sponsoring their Annual Angel Tree Celebration. They are accepting new and unwrapped toys for children 0-11 yrs. of age. For drop off locations, call 702-588-2272. Deadline is December 8<sup>th</sup>. Cash donations are accepted at [www.CASAFoundationLV.org](http://www.CASAFoundationLV.org)

**We have established a table in the front of the room for agencies to put out any literature/announcements that are appropriate. This table is now available for the February 2018 meeting, so come prepared!! 😊**

**The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2018 in the Heritage Room at the Las Vegas Country Club beginning with networking and continental breakfast at 7:30 am.**