

MINUTES FROM JUNE 6, 2012
CHILD WELFARE NETWORK MEETING

The following individuals attended the Child Welfare Network (CWN) meeting at the Las Vegas Country Club:

Anna Adams, CARE Coalition
Kim Amato, Baby's Bounty
Shannon Brett, The Solutions Foundation
LaRae Daly, Women's Resource Medical Centers of Southern Nevada
Dave Doyle, Eagle Quest
Marquez Eagles, Guest of Bishop Wynn and Gard Jameson
Charlene Frost, Nevada P.E.P.
Kerri Korin, Kids Peace
Sonia Lucero, Nevada Child Seekers
Jill Marano, Department of Child and Family Services
Alexandra McCurdy, CARE Coalition
Melody Nelson
Howard Olshansky, Boys Town Nevada
Edyllynn Quijano, Eagle Quest
Ivet Santiago, Nevada Child Seekers
Jennifer Silverman, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada - Children's Attorneys Project
Christina Vela, St. Jude's Ranch for Children
Stephanie Vrsnik, Nevada P.E.P.
Stacey Wedding, Professionals in Philanthropy, LLC
Hilary Westrom, Ritter Charitable Trust

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting started at 8:15 a.m. Stacey Wedding introduced herself and thanked everyone for coming. Stacey explained that Denise Tanata Ashby was not going to be able to facilitate today's meeting because she was ill. Stacey said she would do her best to cover the agenda items in Denise's absence and thanked everyone in advance for their patience and flexibility. Hilary Westrom mentioned that given Denise's role with the Children's Advocacy Alliance, it had been decided at the last CWN meeting that Denise would facilitate most CWN meetings, which would keep the costs down. There may be future opportunities to utilize Chris Sutherland, former facilitator, for larger convenings. Rounds of table introductions proceeded.

432B Update/Legislative Priorities

Stacey noted that Denise had been leading meetings of the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice, which has focused on provisions to 432B over the last several months. Stacey asked the group if they would like her to review the recommendations for legislative measures or email it instead. The group requested that it be emailed. Jill Morano

updated the group that 11 change recommendations were put forward, and the committee decided to move all 11 forward. Jill advised that next steps are legislative, and no more committee work is needed.

Survey Results & Discussion

Stacey shared that at the last meeting, the group spoke about CWN serving its purpose and bringing value but had an interest in greater collaboration and sharing. As a follow up to this, a survey was developed and sent to CWN. The results are listed in the summary report that was distributed. Stacey reviewed the results.

Stacey asked the group if they think CWN has a unique niche or whether it replicates what other coalitions are covering. Chrstitina Vela said that it was nice that new people come to the meetings and that it brings unique partnership opportunities. Howard Olshansky shared that he likes that CWN thinks more globally than other groups.

Stacey continued by sharing that the survey shows the top suggested changes for CWN are learning, collaboration and finding grants and funding.

Stacey asked the group what helpful collaboration items CWN can bring (i.e., a presenter each meeting). Kim Amato added that Goodwill does job placement as a service other than the thrift stores, and many don't know what they do. She said they are great collaborators and would be a good partner/speaker. Christina asked how we can keep new people coming, especially if they attend one or two meetings but then we never see them again. She suggested collaboration and using CWN as a forum for grant partnerships.

Stacey suggested that attendees reach out to others to invite or partners they work with that may be helpful to the group. After some discussion, Stacey said another survey will be developed and sent to CWN to request names of other partners and groups that should be invited to CWN meetings. Chrstitina said that CWN is sometimes a misleading name because the service area seems limited, but many agencies such as Goodwill are connected in a broader perspective. CWN needs to identify other partners and champions, so that taking care of children becomes everyone's responsibility.

Hilary Westrom asked if there was an appetite for a name change from the group.

Howard Olshansky suggested CWN really look at the list of attendees to see what areas are actually served and identify areas that are not being addressed. He was concerned that if CWN gets too broad it will lose impact.

Christina said it is hard and frustrating as someone who attends CWN often that other meetings she attends sometimes duplicate topics and impact areas. She commented that lots of people would appreciate mapping out groups to highlight issues as a helpful exercise, and CWN is in a good neutral position to do so.

Kim Amato asked if there is a list of goals and a mission, to which Stacey responded yes. Hilary Westrom shared the mission and vision for CWN. Hilary summarized it as support, information sharing, collaboration, and taking action. Kim Amato suggested focusing on sharing resources. Howard Olshansky asked if there is a strategy identified to how we will get to the vision. Stacey shared that CWN was designed to be organic, grassroots, and to respond to changing needs, as it aligns with the mission and vision. Because there is no paid staff, there hasn't been a formal strategic plan developed or followed. Hilary echoed that the best attempts to achieve action have been to create a legislative agenda.

Stacey reiterated the survey results will be disseminated to all members via email and a new survey regarding the discussed topics would follow. She asked who would kick off the information sharing at the next meeting. Howard Olshansky suggested that presentations be categorized and possibly form panels to keep presentations to a minimum and keep them more informative and succinct.

Stacey asked if there were specific survey questions requested and assured the group that panel discussions will be driven back to the CWN mission, not a random speaker.

Hilary commented on federal funding collaboration and Cyndy Ortiz Gufstason's Accelerate Nevada work updated at the last meeting. Her studies identify federal grant opportunities that the group can benefit from and potentially collaborate on with each other. Cyndy and/or the primary researcher, Jennifer Oulette, will present at a future meeting, and CWN can brainstorm around it.

Anna Adams advised the group that her organization, the CARE Coalition, is looking for partners on two current grant opportunities. They are willing to manage the grant but need a partner. The grants are around healthy communities, to include drug prevention component, and possibly an after school program for sports or arts and music. She is looking for partners to provide the direct services, and they also have \$15,000 from another grant to use for contracts.

Hilary Westrom said she wants to be respectful of the group's contact information but wondered if it would be a good idea to share it with the CWN members, so they can collaborate and contact each other directly. Suggestions were made for people to give information to a CWN representative, who would send out a regular email to update the group about information and opportunities amongst each other. Christina said she has a great example of how another group is doing just this, and she'll send it to Stacey to use as CWN chooses. Hilary suggested NCF do the administrative services for these email distributions if they'd be willing.

Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) Update

Hilary shared that CAA made the decision to not have providers on the Board but may have an advisory board later, as they want to avoid conflict. Committees are being set up and they are looking for funding opportunities. She expressed thanks to Shelia Parks and CASA

Foundation for taking over the recent graduation party that CAA used to organize. Shelia shared that children enjoyed themselves at the party, and it was a great event.

News, Announcements & Updates

Christine Vela shared that trauma informed child care is a national focus (the new hot topic), and there are grants and a lot of need. She has been part of putting together a steering committee that is in its infancy. At the federal level, focus has been created around trauma informed care. Safety, permanence and well being are major focus areas. The group's focus is not a shift away from that, but also how to help the child heal from trauma to help them have success in other areas. She advised some parts of the country are advanced in this area, while other areas are not doing anything. Nevada has an opportunity to become a leader, and there are many grant opportunities for trainers. DCFS is bringing in someone from the Trauma Network for training that some providers are taking part in. She presented at the Behavioral Health Consortium, and they are interested as well. Stacey asked Christina to send her some information about the topic that can be shared with CWN.

Christina also announced they acquired Child Focus who provides a unique service to siblings separated in foster care. They will continue their same services, including their week-long camp to reunite siblings, all under the umbrella of St. Jude's Ranch.

Christina announced Monday's opening of CROSSINGS for young adult supportive housing services. The location is off of Tropicana and McLeod near the WalMart. Open house is Tuesday, June 12 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Wednesday, June 13 from 2-5 p.m. Details are also on their website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 20, from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at the Las Vegas Country Club.