

**Child Welfare Network
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 8:30-10:15 a.m.
Fifth Street School**

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

Aga Pinkerton	US Senator Reid's Office
Alfonso Ayala III	United Way of So. NV
Amanda Haboush	Prevent Child Abuse-NV Inst. for Children's Research & Policy
Angela Lok	Sojourn Foundation
Barbara de Castro	Majestic/ NYCP
Bonnie Fraser	Project REAL
Casey Fry	Foundation for Recovery
Charlene Frost	Nevada PEP
Christina Vela	St. Jude's Ranch
Cyndy Ortiz Gustafson	Strategic Progress, Inc.
Daniele Dreitzer	Sojourn Foundation
Denise Tanata Ashby	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Gard Jameson	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Genesis Vazquez	Nevada Child Seekers
Hilary Westrom	Ritter Charitable Trust
Howard Olshansky	Boys Town
Ivet Santiago	Nevada Child Seekers
James Raffel	Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth
Jenifer Noland	A Brighter Day Family Services
Jennifer Bevacqua	Olive Crest
Jennifer Silverman	LACSN Children's Attorneys Project
Jessica Word	UNLV
Jill Marano	DCFS
Ken Lange	Nevada Youth Care Providers
Kerri Korin	Kids peace
Kim Amato	Baby's Bounty
Kirby Burgess	A Brighter Day Family Services
Linda Quast	University of Phoenix
Lori Walton	Mojave Mental Health
Lucy Klinkhammer	Lincy Institute at UNLV
Lynn Purdue	Purdue Marion & Associates
Mari Parlade	Department of Family Services
Marlyn Buckley	Professionals in Philanthropy
Melody Nelson	CCCC
Ramona Denby-Brinson	Lincy Institute at UNLV
Rebecca Barton	Genesis
Sheila Parker	CASA
Sonia Lucero	Nevada Child Seekers
Stacey Wedding	Professional in Philanthropy

Susan Stern
Vernalyn Willis
Yvette Williams

My Very Own Dreams
Care Coalition
Clark County Black Caucus + CCCC

Welcome and Introductions

Denise Tanata Ashby called the meeting to order and extended a thank you to all that were in attendance. She reviewed the activities for the day and made the appropriate introductions.

Legislative Update

Denise reviewed the Legislative Bill Draft Requests and provided a handout to all that attended. Since the legislative session does not commence until Feb. 4, 2013, most bills are still in the drafting process. Denise gave some highlights of BDRs 65-69, 73 as they specifically relate to child welfare/protection issues, and they encompass all of the recommendations that CWN had worked on for the 432B revisions work group. Denise wants to ensure the intent is clear on the bills and recommendations, and she asked that those who served on the 432B work group review.

CAA and Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy review all bills and then categorize bills. The full bill list is available at <http://nic.unlv.edu> and www.caanv.org.

Denise suggested that any comments or language edits be sent to her for inclusion and forwarding to the appropriate committees.

At that point Denise referred to the BDRs that relate to Safety and Security. Almost half of the BDRs are dealing with sex trafficking of minors and children. There have been several recent convenings around this issue, and many groups are getting together to tackle this. She pointed out the list of BDRs she had provided and stated that a complete list can be obtained at www.caanv.org.

Children's Week at the Legislature is the first week of April. Denise will send out more details as she learns them. The focus of Children's Week will be on prevention and will include one day dedicated to child welfare issues. It is important to have a strong presence in Carson City to show that children's issues are important.

Overview of Attorney General (AG) Mastro's Sex Trafficking Legislation

Denise introduced the Chief of Staff and Chief of Investigation, Greg Smith, from the State Attorney General's Office. Greg shared that he has been with the AG's office in various capacities for 20 years and then spoke to the group about efforts to stem the tide of sex trafficking within the Las Vegas Valley. He gave the group a summary of his personal experience participating in a ride-along with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Vice Patrol, citing examples that support the need for AB67, the AG's desire to stem the tide of sex trafficking in the Valley and to find new ways to treat these women and men as victims and not criminals. He spoke of the need for "Educational Legislation" and how important it is to address changes in the definitions of pandering by utilizing the RICO Statute. He said they've changed the name from human trafficking to sex trafficking and are working to make penalties tougher by using the predators' assets for restitution for victims.

Mr. Smith went on to encourage anyone present to participate in a ride-along if possible and to be sure to assist the AG's Office and Legislators by asking about language in these bills that is questionable or unclear. Contacting your legislators to show your concern is very valuable as well.

Gard Jameson reminded those present that there is a National Hotline and that this information should be published and available in all public places.

One attendee asked if the casinos are involved in any way to assist in stemming the tide of prostitution and sex trafficking. Mr. Smith indicated that he works with the heads of security from all the casinos and that their gaming licenses are tied to this topic so they are cooperative. There are other existing statues that come into play with this topic as well.

The Q & A session continued with questions and comments regarding how persons apprehended are being treated as victims instead of criminals. Several new projects in the community were mentioned, but no detail was given. There was also a short discussion about the gap in services when clients are no longer in foster care and that this is a ripe time for prostitution to begin for both sexes. Any information on this subject is to be forwarded to Denise Tanata Ashby (denise.tanata@caanv.org), Stacey Wedding (swedding@profinphil.com) or Marlyn Buckley (mbuckley@profinphil.com). Denise also stated that she will carefully scan communications she receives on this topic and any funding that addresses this foster care issue.

Funding/Grant Opportunities

Denise asked if anyone had funding or grant opportunities they were looking to partner on.

Ken Lange noted that the CARE Coalition is one of 3 substance abuse coalitions in So. NV and is focused on prevention of youth substance abuse. Part of their design is to address the issue in a systemic fashion by building stronger families by coordinating groups working on different parts of the puzzle, convening them and providing support. They're looking for partners. Ideally, they'd like to pull together enough people to go after federal funding.

Susan Stern noted that as a funder, she's been looking for different funding opportunities in the foster care arena (specifically young adults transitioning out of foster care) and that she hasn't had much luck.

Denise will scan grant opportunities and bring forward in the future. Funding and grant opportunities will be a standing agenda item.

The discussion then turned to a comment by Gard Jameson about the need for a resource that contains agency information, programs and contacts that exist in the Las Vegas Valley on this topic. Susan Stern expressed support and indicated that many groups would benefit from this type of information including We R Community. There was some discussion and consensus that Nevada 211 would be a logical place for this information to reside. Howard Olshansky clarified that this would be most beneficial if it were a System Mapping effort and not a Service Mapping effort. Gard clarified that funders are not interested in a directory but rather a visual

map that shows how the system is structured, how it flows, and where you can break down silos.

News, Announcements & Updates

The following announcements were made:

- 1) The Building Connections Meeting of 2011 was mentioned as a possible venue for the System Mapping discussed earlier. There are some “next steps” under consideration and the Lincy Institute will be involved in this project.
- 2) Everyone was reminded of the Resource Guide to legislators that can be accessed at <http://nic.unlv.edu> along with the Legislative Briefing Book that will be released soon.
- 3) Stacey Wedding reminded all participants of Nevada’s Big Give that will take place on April 25, 2013. She announced that there will be training webinars and that all the information can be accessed at www.nevadagives.org or www.NVBigGive.org
- 4) Mari Parlade (DFS) announced that Part 4 of the Quality Parenting Initiative will be held on 1/23/13 at the Culinary Academy from 4:30-7:30.
- 5) Amanda Haboush announced that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- 6) Denise reminded everyone that following this meeting, CAA would be holding a Press Conference to release the 2012 Children’s Report Card.
- 7) Following the CAA Press Conference, YNPN will be hosting a luncheon and Panel Discussion on the topic of communicating with legislators.

Next meeting is to be held on April 18, 2013 from 7:30-10:30 AM at the Las Vegas Country Club or DFS offices. Notices will clarify which location.