

**Child Welfare Network  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday October 3, 2013, 7:30-9:30 a.m.  
Las Vegas Country Club, Rotunda Room**

**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:

Adrienne Cox	Adrienne Cox Consulting LLC
Alice Conradt	Adoption Awareness Foundation
	UNVL Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
Amanda Haboush	
Andre' Wade	Clark County Dept. Family Services
Charlene Frost	Nevada PEP
Christine Vela	Clark County DFS
Daniele Dreitzer	The Rape Crisis Center
Denise Tanata Ashby	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Erica McDonald	UNLV
Hilary Westrom MFT	Ritter Charitable Trust
Howard Olshansky	Boys Town Nevada
Ivette Sanchez	Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
James Raffel	Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY)
Jennifer Silverman	Legal Aid Center of So. Nevada
John Wagner	UNLV
Kerri Korin	KidsPeace
Loretta Jordan	CCDBC
Mari Parlade	Dept. of Family Services

Marlyn Buckley	Professionals in Philanthropy
Melody Nelson	FAC
Sarah Davis (Katie)	A Brighter Day family Services
Shauna Davis	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Stacey Wedding	Professionals in Philanthropy
Sarah Kern	MSW Practicum Student
Valerie Hicks	SAFY
Yvette Williams	CCDBC

### **Welcome and Introductions**

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

### **Member Highlights**

**Valerie Hicks** introduced herself to the group as the new State Director of Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY). Valerie has a 39 year career in child welfare and mental health. She joined SAFY in Cleveland and has recently moved to Las Vegas to take the position of State Director. The Las Vegas SAFY organization speaks to her passion in providing a continuum of services including independent living facilities and the Second Start Program. Valerie spoke of the need for continuing efforts for collaboration within the community and hopes to be a part of that continuing effort.

**Ken Lange** representing the CARE Coalition Nevada organization spoke to the group and invited all to participate in the CARE Coalition of 70 organizations with multiple funding sources to work with partners in the effort to prevent adolescent substance abuse. The Coalition supports its partners such as School Districts, Metro Police, and School District Police and does not provide direct services. Currently there are 11-15 coalitions in the state. Using the Family Strengths Model out of NC, they build action teams around each model to drive conversation and disrupt silos, thus pulling people together for grants that dove tail with each agency and increase family capacity around strengths to make change. The next regular meeting of the group will be Oct. 8, 2013 starting at Noon and meeting at 6272 Spring Mtn. Rd., Las Vegas.

### **Presentation: Access Nevada**

**Robin Ynacay Nye**, Community Liaison, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services was welcomed by Denise. Robin thanked the group for the opportunity to reach out to the community partners and show her appreciation for the work they do to support her clients. She then spoke about the updates to the Access Nevada website. She shared that the new updates will allow clients to use the online application to expedite the application process for services. In the next 2 months there will be special trainings held at FRC locations to help families get

through the system in an efficient fashion. Robin stated that Welfare and Support Services would like to be a part of the solution and not a bureaucratic road block.

### **Preparing for the 2015 Legislative Session**

Denise spoke to the group about the need to begin preparation for the 2015 State Legislative session. She said that CAA will be leading the effort to continue the collaborative effort that began with the 2013 session as interim committees at the State legislature are beginning to form. Moving forward, CAA effort will focus on a few larger issues in an effort to be more effective. Ivette Williams spoke to the fact that now is the time to begin the planning efforts, and Denise asked for volunteers to work on committees. Hilary Westrom suggested that the efforts be coordinated with Building Connections as communications begin to be generated. An email will be sent announcing a meeting to be held to begin the preparation.

### **Funding/Grant Opportunities**

Mari Parlade and Denise announced that the Administration for Children and Families grant application had been successfully submitted and the collaborative group that applied had been awarded a 2 year, \$700,000 planning grant that focuses on children transitioning out of foster care. Mari thanked Linda Lewis for all of her efforts as the grant writer and said that this grant could not have been won without the collaborative efforts of all the participants. Denise stated that now the real work begins. At the end of this 2 year grant, there will be an opportunity to apply for a 5 year implementation grant.

Denise then passed out a document listing the funding/grant opportunities that have been recently identified that are relevant to the group. She highlighted the NWP grant deadlines that are approaching. She also highlighted the last page of the document that lists an upcoming series of seminars sponsored by Fennemore, Craig, Jones and Vargas Attorneys and United Way titled, "The Nuts and Bolts of Nonprofit Operations".

Lincy grant applications are due tomorrow (10/4) for collaborations on mental health. So far, there are a significant number of letters of intent.

### **News, Announcements, Updates-**

Denise announced that she had copies of the Executive Summary for the National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare Report provided by the Child Welfare League of America for anyone interested.

Daniele Dreitzer of The Rape Crisis Center announced that they are looking for a Spanish speaking counselor with a background in trauma. She also mentioned their Your Space Program and the collaborative efforts to work with other agencies. Finally, they have a fundraiser on 10/17 at TAO Beach. Entry is \$60 and there will be some great opportunities to make a donation.

Alice Conradt of Adoption Awareness announced that they will be hosting an open house on 10/18 from 3-8 PM located at 6415 S. Tenaya Way Ste. 105. There will be many opportunities for free family fun.

Stacey Wedding reminded the group that events can be posted on [www.NevadaGives.org](http://www.NevadaGives.org), a free resource to the community, and that training or education can be posted at [www.AFPLasVegas.org](http://www.AFPLasVegas.org). She encouraged everyone to utilize these resources.

Mari Parlade announced that Clark County Department of Family Services (DFS) has partnered with the Clark County School District (CCSD) and the Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) to comprise the State Supreme Court Committee on Juvenile Justice Reform Student Attendance Review Board (SARB). For several months, DFS, DJJS and CCSD have met with the Honorable District Court Judge William Voy, Chief Deputy District Attorney Brigid Duffy and various community partners to discuss the most effective truancy intervention strategies. This Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, will be the first official SARB Truancy Hearing wherein Mari Parlade (DFS), Brett Allen (DJJS), Eric Gant (CCSD) and Mary Vaughn (CCSD) will comprise the SARB Panel.

On August 7-9, DFS successfully convened the Building Connections: A DFS Approach Child Welfare Summit wherein our enhanced safety model, the Safety Intervention Permanency System (SIPS), and the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) were introduced to approximately 180 community partners, including not just the child welfare community, but also our parent advocates, law enforcement, school district and medical community. Our facilitator, Tom Waite, is preparing the Summary, Report and Recommendations stemming from the Summit, which will be shared with the participants. In addition, since many participants expressed interest in the Quality Parenting Initiative, DFS is hosting a special QPI Session next week on October 9th for the Building Connections participants.

Denise reminded everyone that laws passed in the 2013 legislative session went into effect on 10/1 /13, including AB 348.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD: January 16, 2014 at the Las Vegas Country Club Rotunda Room from 7:30-9:30 a.m.