



Nevada Institute For Children's Research & Policy

NICRP

University of Nevada - Las Vegas

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MEDIA RELEASE

**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY ALLIANCE & NEVADA INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN'S RESEARCH & POLICY
RELEASE 2014 NEVADA CHILDREN'S REPORT CARD AND THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING BOOK**
*National Experts and First Lady Kathleen Sandoval to Speak about Nevada's Overall D Grade for
Education, Safety & Security and Health*

Las Vegas, NV – On Tuesday, January 20 at 10:00am via videoconference to the Truckee Meadows Dandini Campus, Sierra Building, Room 100, 7000 Dandini Boulevard, the Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) will release its biennial 2014 Nevada Children's Report Card, and with the Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy (NICRP) jointly release its companion report, the 2015 Legislative Briefing Book. Since 2000, the CAA has painted the picture of Nevada's children by gathering and publicizing information on child well-being indicators through the Nevada Children's Report Card. The purpose of the report card is to provide a general understanding of how we, as a state, are taking care of our children. The CAA uses the data gathered in the report card to assist in educating policy makers and the general public about efforts needed in our state to support and improve services for children and families.

The 2015 Legislative Briefing Book provides a snapshot of the most pressing issues Nevada's children and their families face in order to assist in creating positive changes that improve their lives. The Legislative Briefing Book is a compilation of statistics and policy recommendations from practitioners, agencies, organizations, individuals and advocates from across the state, intended to highlight areas in which state policy might have an impact, particularly around the areas of education, health and safety. The report includes specific recommendations for policy change at the state level and is aligned with the indicators and grades in the 2014 Nevada Children's Report Card.

"As a community and residents of Nevada, we should be appalled by these grades and work harder to improve the systems and policies that support our children and their families. We must stop accepting failure as the norm," said CAA Executive Director, Denise Tanata Ashby. Tara Phebus, Interim Director of the NICRP added, "These reports highlight the need for thoughtful and

coordinated systems level changes in the state. Our children deserve better and we have an obligation to ensure that our children have every opportunity to succeed.”

Selected highlights from the report include:

Children’s Health – Overall Grade D

- Nevada ranked 51st for the percentage of children without health insurance at 16.60%
- Nevada ranked 36th for the percentage of children whose BMI is at or above the 85th percentile at 33.2%; this is above the national average of 31.3%
- Nevada ranked 38th in immunizations for 2012 – an improvement from being ranked 49th in the previous Nevada Children’s Report Card
- Nevada ranks 50th in the nation with 32.6% of our children receiving no preventive dental care

Safety and Security – Overall Grade D

- Nevada remained relatively stable in overall maltreatment, going from 18th to 19th in the nation with 8.2%, lower than the national average of 9.2%
- In 2012, 11.1% of Nevada’s high school students felt unsafe attending school, ranking the state 38th
- Nevada ranked 36th in the nation for juvenile justice with 7,804 juveniles arrested per 100,000 children, well above the national average of 4,889

Education – Overall Grade F

- Nevada is currently 51st in the nation in preschool enrollment; only 31.7% of 3- and 4-year olds are currently enrolled
- Nevada ranked 47th in the nation for high school dropouts with 7% of Nevada teens not completing high school, compared to 4% nationally
- Nevada ranked 45th for per pupil expenditures for the 2011-2012 fiscal year – \$8,223 compared to \$10,608 nationally

The agenda includes presentations by Nevada First Lady Kathleen Sandoval, Dianna Walters of the State Policy & Advocacy Reform Center of First Focus, Sheila James of the US Health & Human Services Department, and Joselyn Cousins of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

About Children’s Advocacy Alliance:

The Children’s Advocacy Alliance (CAA) is a community-based nonprofit organization that advocates for policy changes that benefit Nevada’s children and families by researching and utilizing current data and promoting evidence-based policies to ensure that every child has a chance to thrive. CAA engages the community by bringing people together to address challenges and opportunities around children’s issues in order to leverage that collective strength toward

improving the systems that support the well-being of Nevada's children. For more information, visit www.caanv.org.

About Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy (NICRP):

The Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP), located within the School of Community Health Sciences at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving the lives of children through community-based research, advocacy and other specialized services. NICRP is also home to Prevent Child Abuse Nevada, a chartered chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, as well as Every Child Matters in Nevada. For more information, visit unlv.nic.edu.

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