

**Child Welfare Network
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
UNR Extension Office**

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:

Aga Pinkerton	Senator Harry Reid's Office
Amanda Haboush	UNVL Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
Candace Young Richey	Candace Young-Richey & Associates
Carolyn Willis-Casey	UNLV Doctoral Student
Charlene Frost	Nevada PEP
Christina Vela	Clark County DFS
Daniele Dreitzer	The Rape Crisis Center
Dawn Boyers	Women's Resource Medical Centers.
Denise Tanata Ashby	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Dianna Walters	First Focus
Gard Jameson	CCA
Howard Olshansky	Boys Town Nevada
Jennifer Bevacqua	Olive Crest
Jennifer Silverman	LACSN Children's Attorney's Project (CAP) at Legal Aid Center of So. Nevada
John Wagner	UNLV
Kerri Korin	KidsPeace
Lecsy Hernandez	Desert Psychology of Nevada
Lora Gaughan	CCSD
Lynn Scombordi	intern at Nevada Child Seekers

Margarita de la Fuente	BBS Counseling
Mari Parlade	Dept. of Family Services
Marlyn Buckley	Professionals in Philanthropy
Rhiannon Rager	Desert Psychology of Nevada
Seth Wongsavit	NCF
Shawnette Roque	FACT of Southern Nevada
Sheree Corniel	Real Talk Youth Impact Program
Stacey Wedding	Professionals in Philanthropy
Susie Sernoe	Clark County School District
Toby Hyman	NV DHHS/GMV

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 everyone introduced themselves.

Blue Ribbon Panel Update

Denise gave an update on the Blue Ribbon for Kids Committee created by Supreme Court Justice Nancy Saitta in September 2014. In summary the 6 points are:

- Case Process Reform
- Court Process reform
- Reasonable Efforts in Decision Making
- Representation & Voice for All Parties
- Professional Development for All Stakeholders
- Public Education & Awareness Program

Development of Phase II of the Blue Ribbon Panel for Kids was announced and will focus on Implementation of the 6 Points of Reform, to include:

- Evaluation of the reform strategy
- A review of ALL key stakeholders (recognizing that many did not get an opportunity to present/participate)
- Identification of barriers, as well as capabilities of stakeholders

A summary of the Points of Reform will be on the NV Supreme Court website (under Commissions) by the end of January. <http://www.nevadajudiciary.us/index.php/blue-ribbon-committee>

2015 Legislative Update

Denise gave an update on the upcoming legislative session along with a handout that is attached. More details can be found at :

<http://caanv.org/resources/2015-legislative-session/>.

Presentation

At this time Denise introduced Dianna Walters from SPARC-First Focus

(<http://firstfocus.org/about/>)

Dianna Walters joined First Focus in 2014 as a Senior Policy Advisor and Co-Director of the State Policy Advocacy and Reform Center (SPARC), a national resource center for state-based advocates aimed at improving outcomes for children and families involved with the child welfare system by building the capacity of and connections between state child welfare advocates.

Diana gave a presentation focused on Federal Legislation affecting Child Welfare. Following Ms. Walter's presentation there was a brief Q& A session.

Sheila James, Public Health Adviser, US Health and Human Services region IX then gave a brief presentation on Childhood Obesity.

This was followed by Joselyn Cousins, Regional Manager of the San Francisco Federal Reserve speaking on Social Impact Bonds.

The following Link contains PowerPoint slides from all three of these presentations.

http://caanv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/PowerPoint_1.20.15_FINAL.pdf

Additionally, I have attached an updated set of slides received from Ms. Walter's titled: Implementing the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act To Benefit Children and Youth.

News, Announcements & Updates

Denise announced that interested parties may go to <http://www.southernnevadaforum.com/> to become involved and have their voices heard in this legislative session by the **Southern Nevada Forum**.

Amanda Haboush announced that **Children's Week at the Legislature** will be March 9-12, 2015. There is more information at <http://nic.unlv.edu/childrensweek.html>.

Stacey Wedding announced that the **Nevada BigGive** will be held March 12, 2015. Go to www.NVBigGive.org for more details.

BBS Counseling reminds participants that neuro-feedback is an alternative type of treatment to help with mental health conditions and/or diagnosis is covered by Medicaid and it was suggested by pediatricians as a first modality of treatment prior to medications for ADD/ADHA. For more info call 702-451-7542.

The **Rape Crisis Center** will hold their Healing Hearts 4K Run/Walk at Cornerstone Park in Henderson (Wigwam between Stephanie and Arroyo Grande) on February 21, 2015 at 8 AM. Register through the website at www.rcclv.org/rcc-events

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM followed by the release of the 2015 Children's Report Card.

NEXT MEETING will be held on Thursday, April 23rd from 7:30 – 9:30 AM in the Rotunda Room at the Las Vegas Country Club.