

**Child Welfare Network
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2015
Rotunda Room, Las Vegas Country Club**

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:

Alison Caliendo	Forster Kinship
Amanda Haboush	UNVL Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
Amy Honodel	Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Andre' Wade	Gay & Lesbian Community Center of So. NV
Anne-Marie Abruscato	Mojave Adult, Child and Family Services
Charlene Frost	Nevada PEP
Daniele Dreitzer	The Rape Crisis Center
Darlene K. Duncan	Nevada DCFS
Dave Doyle	Eagle Crest
Denise Tanata Ashby	Children's Advocacy Alliance
Elena Espinoza	NV Depart. Of Health and Human Services/Grants
Gard Jameson	Children's Advocatcy Alliance
Howard Olshansky	Boys Town Nevada
Jennifer Silverman	LACSN Children's Attorney's Project (CAP) at Legal Aid Center of So. Nevada
Jennifer Urban	Olive Crest
Jessica Barris	East Valley Family Services
Jocelyn Bluitt-Fisher	CCDFS
John Wagner	UNLV

Julia Jameson	guest
Juliana Whitney	That Adopted Girl
Karlene Ulibarri	Bountiful Family Services
Kim Amato	Baby's Bounty
Lori Grossman	UNLV
Manisha Sandhu	Adoptex
Mari Parlade	Dept. of Family Services
Marlo Winrow	Nevada Child Seekers
Marlyn Buckley	PiP
Maureen Karas	Senator Patricia Farley
Patricia Farley	Nevada Legislature
Patricia Haddad	NV Inst. For Children's Research & Policy
Sam (Debra) King	Project REAL
Shannon Cole	East Valley Family Services
Shauna Ferguson	UNLV Nonprofit, Community and Leadership Initiative
Sheila Parks	8th Judicial District Court-CASA Program
Shelly Bailey	Healthy Minds
Sheree Corniel	Real talk Youth Impact Program
Tamara White	CCSD
Tim Burch	DFS
Toby Hyman	NV DHHS/GMV
Valerie Hicks	SAFY

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.

Patricia Farley, NV Senator, District 8 introduced herself and expressed interest in learning more about CWN and legislative issues.

DFS Update- Tim Burch, Interim Director

Tim shared that he is the DFS Interim Director while a search is conducted for a permanent Director. The applicant posting is an open process and applications will be taken until the right person is found. In the meantime, Tim will push forward as planned with no deviations. Tim was asked if there will be any new initiatives and he responded that the Blue Ribbon Panel is in progress but no new initiatives will begin. There will be policy evaluation as they pertain to staffing issues, however.

DCFS Update-Jill Marano Deputy Administrator (Darlene Duncan)

Jill was ill and unable to attend so Darlene Duncan agreed to give a quick update.

Darlene shared that the new Administrator, Kirsten Coulombe, was on board. Darlene mentioned that DFS is working with Washoe County to revise state policies, working on three initiatives focused on subsidized kinship partnering, sex trafficking legislation, and warrant for transition of living. Children's Mental Health received a grant and will be collaborating with other agencies. The Summit View Youth Center will be reopening. She was asked about participation in focus groups and it was suggested that interested parties check with the Program Specialist to see what might be available.

Gard Jameson asked if there are any options being discussed regarding sex trafficking victims being jailed as only option. Elena Espinoza indicated that a plan is being formulated with growing momentum on a state wide level. **Sent Elena and an email requesting more information.**

Gard suggested that we request Catherine Cortez-Masto to make a presentation at a CWN meeting in the near future.

There was a question from the group regarding upcoming DCFS trainings and Darlene indicated there is a new curriculum being developed for training by **Charlene Britton** that may be available end of 10/15. (**Denise..did I report this correctly? IS Charlene the correct person for training? I got lost in this a bit**)

Presentation

8th Judicial District Court (CASA Program)- Sheila Parks

Sheila Parks gave a presentation on the CASA Program and explained the differences between it and the CASA Foundation. The CASA Foundation is a 501(c)3 founded in 1985 to support CASA Programs and Volunteers. They provide training and help to meet unmet needs of children in programs as well as supplement county funding. The CASA Foundation will be changing its name to Fosters and Futures of Las Vegas in the near future to eliminate the confused created with the names of these two organizations being so similar.

Sheila then showed a short video about the CASA Program which is funded by Clark County since 1981. There are 4.5 staff members including Sheila. Currently, they have ~355 volunteers to serve 900-950 children. Volunteers receive 33 hours of training to meet national standards and are sworn in for a minimum of 2 years of service. Volunteers are assigned by court order. On October 10, 2015 there will be a Volunteer Recognition Gala sponsored by The

CASA Foundation. John Wagner of UNLV indicated that he would like to speak with Sheila and explore ways his programs might be able to assist with recruiting volunteers.

That Adopted Girl-Juliana Whitney, Founder

Juliana Whitney gave a presentation on the non-profit she founded in 2013, focus of the organization and shared that their mission is to raise awareness of foster care, adoption issues and to plant seeds of success and self worth for adoptees through her High 5 Program that provides fun, “over the top” experiences for adopted children.

Funding/Grants Opportunities

Daniele Dreitzer mentioned that State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services has been awarded \$17,500,000.00 in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. As indicated in the attached information, follow up trainings and information will be forthcoming, but this will provide agencies an opportunity to begin to think and plan towards potential applications. The RFP for new applications will be released within a few weeks; information for current recipients is included in the VOCA FAQ attachment. For further information contact: *Dorothy Edwards, CPM, Clinical Program Planner II, Division of Child and Family Services, (775) 684-7956, dorothy.edwards@dcfs.nv.gov (VOCA FAQs attached)*

Denise distributed a brochure from Nevada Office of Grant Procurement which is attached for your review.

News, Announcements & Updates

Denise reminded everyone to get the word out to national contacts regarding the DFS Director position.

Denise announced that CAA is hiring an Americorp/Vista employee. The posting is on the CAA website at <http://caanv.org/about/careers/>

Daniele announced that The Rape Crisis Center has just hired Lisa Farriolla as a school based victim advocate. This is a referral resource for other agencies.

NVPEP is hiring a full time bi-lingual Coordinator. Please contact NVPEP at <http://www.nvpep.org/contact-us.html>

PCANV Program Coordinator has an open position. The Program Coordinator will lead statewide coordination and implementation of programs for Prevent Child Abuse Nevada, and will work in collaboration with other NICRP staff and community organizations on related projects. This position's duties include program implementation and evaluation of education

curricula tailored to three target audiences (parents, professionals, and youth) that address risk factors and the prevention of child maltreatment. In addition, the Program Coordinator will also be responsible for various statewide outreach tasks and administrative tasks, as assigned. More information and to apply:

<https://www.higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm?JobCode=176131915&Title=Program%20Coordinator%20%5B16081%5D>

NVPEP is holding a Rock and Roll Run, Walk Against Bullying on **Sept. 26th**. Details at this link: <http://www.nvpep.org/bullying.html>

Step-Up for Kids will take place at the Springs Preserve on **Sept. 28**, 2015 from 3-7pm with ~50 vendors present. See the attached flier. **(Strong Start for Kids flier)**

Sam King announced the **Sept. 28-Oct. 3** will be Week of respect sponsored by CCSD. In conjunction with Week of Respect Sept. 29 through Oct. 3, CCSD students are being asked to wear blue clothing on **Friday, Oct. 3**. A proclamation by Gov. Brian Sandoval says Week of Respect aims to help ensure that Nevada is known as a place of mutual respect where bullying is not tolerated. For more information, call the CCSD Equity & Diversity Education Department at (702) 799-8484.

Reminder to read the email sent to everyone on 9/14/15 regarding the Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sex Trafficking meeting to be held **10/7/15** at 11:30 am. Call in Option- Call in Number: **888-363-4735**, Conference Code: 2805218. Las Vegas, 6171 West Charleston, Las Vegas, Building 8, Room B

Contact Elyne Greene, Interim Director of Southern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force regarding Sex Trafficking Training at e4959g@lvmpd.com . (No specific dates listed)

3rd Annual Night Out with News3 benefitting The rape Crisis Center at LAVO restaurant in the Palazzo. **Oct. 21st** from 5:30-8:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 includes small bites and signature cocktail.

Child Seekers is hosting the Youth Empowerment Festival at the Springs Preserve on **10/24/15** from 10am-3pm. Vendor, performer and sponsor applications are available on the website: <http://nevadachildseekers.org/youth-empowerment-festival>

Valerie Hick of SAFY announced several upcoming trainings. There will be trainings on **11/20 or 11/21** (2 days/same agenda) focused on how to engage fathers in parenting. These training will be held at the Monte Carlo from 8:30am-4pm. Call 702-385-5331 or email Brandice Vincent at laneb@safy.org for details. In January 2016 there will be 2 trainings directed to service providers and 1-2 trainings in Spring 2016 focused on clients.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM

NEXT MEETING will be held on Thurs., January 21, 2016 from 7:30 – 9:30 am in the Rotunda Room at the Las Vegas Country Club.

Informal Networking-continued

Handouts Attached:

Grants Brochure

Thunderclap Flier

VOCA FAQs

Suggestions for future meetings:

January 2016

- 1) PCA and RCC to speak on Enough Abuse Campaign...to be confirmed with Denise
- 2) CCSD (Tamara White would like to present on Foster Care Services in the CCSD...to be confirmed with Denise
- 3) Request for Catherine Cortez-Masto to make a presentation at a CWN meeting in the near future.