

2024 Winter Policy Summit

**Thursday, February 29, 2024
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Culinary Academy
710 W Lake Mead Blvd,
North Las Vegas, NV 89030**



**Children's
Advocacy**
ALLIANCE

A Message from Our Executive Director



Dear Esteemed Guests, Community Partners, and Supporters,

Welcome to the Third Annual Children's Advocacy Alliance Winter Policy Summit! It is with great enthusiasm that we host this event for a full day and in person for the first time. After years of navigating the challenges of remote collaboration, being able to share the same space brings a new level of energy and connection to our work. This summit is a unique opportunity to share insights, forge connections, and develop actionable strategies that will drive systemic change in early childhood education, child welfare, and children's health.

As the Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Alliance, I am honored to be a part of an organization that works with a diverse community of advocates, policymakers, impacted individuals, service providers, and others to build coalitions and strengthen the voice of children and families in our state. As we work together, we are empowering the future of not only children but our statewide community.

This Summit serves as a testament to our collective belief that investing in children early in life is an investment in the very fabric of our society. The impact of these formative years resonates throughout a child's life, influencing their health, ability to learn, and their overall well-being.

Today we will have honest discussions about Nevada's alarmingly low standing across nearly every indicator of childhood success, explore the root causes, and present effective policy solutions to ensure every child in Nevada thrives. Together, we can create meaningful change.

Wishing you an inspiring and productive day,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Welborn". The script is fluid and cursive.

Holly Welborn
Executive Director,
Children's Advocacy Alliance

AGENDA

Children's Advocacy Alliance Third Annual Winter Policy Summit
Thursday, February 29th, 8:00am-4:30pm

8:00am - 9:00am	Registration Breakfast	Foyer CMD - Main Room
9:00am - 9:30am	The Children's Agenda Holly Welborn, <i>Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance</i>	CMD - Main Room
9:30am - 9:40am	A Message from Governor Joe Lombardo	CMD - Main Room
9:30am - 10:30am	Numbers Speak: How Data Drives Systemic Change Dr. Tara Raines, <i>Deputy Director and Kids Count Coordinator, Children's Advocacy Alliance, Moderator</i> Dr. Amanda Haboush Deloye, <i>Executive Director, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy</i> Jana Wilcox Lavin, <i>CEO, Opportunity 180</i> Michael Stewart, <i>Research Director, Guinn Center for Policy Priorities</i>	CMD - Main Room
10:30am - 10:45am	BREAK	
10:45am - 11:45am	Hope and Healing: Youth Diversion and Restorative Practices Dr. Tara Raines, <i>Moderator</i> Pastor Troy Martinez, <i>Dad's In Schools & Restorative Nevada</i> Kevin McPartlin, <i>CCSD Education Services</i> Gillian Barjon, <i>Education Advocacy Programs Chief, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada</i>	CMD - Main Room
	Early Childhood Systems 101: Shaping the Future in the Formative Years Jamelle Nance, <i>CAA Early Childhood Programs Director, Moderator</i> Marty Elquist, <i>Department Director, The Children's Cabinet</i> Tiffany Olivas, <i>Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager</i> Tiffany Alston, <i>Director of Programs, Sunrise Children's Foundation</i>	Room A

10:45am - 11:45am	Amplifying Voices for Nevada's Children: Engaging Parents and Families Annette Dawson Owens, <i>CAA Community Engagement Director, Moderator</i> Penni Echols, <i>Educational Advocate, Nevada Hands and Voices</i> Ashley Dines, <i>Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet</i> Anna Villatoro, <i>Children's Cabinet and Advocacy Ambassador</i>	Room B
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11:45am - 12:10pm	LUNCH TRANSITION Grab Lunch and Prepare for our exciting lunch panel!	CMD - Main Room
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12:10pm - 1:00pm	Lunch Plenary: The Business Role in Child Care Punam Mathur, <i>Executive Director, Elaine P. Wynn Family Foundation, Moderator</i> Loryn Duke, <i>CEO, Steamboat Ski Resort</i> Emily Zamora, <i>Executive Director, Silver State Voices</i>	CMD - Main Room
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1:00pm - 1:15pm	BREAK	
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1:15pm - 2:15pm	Revolutionizing Pediatric Care: Community-Centric Approaches for Children's Health Dr. Tara Raines, <i>Moderator</i> Councilman Brian Knudsen, <i>Las Vegas City Council</i> Mitchell Cloward, <i>President, Intermountain Health</i> Leann McAllister, <i>Executive Director, American Academy of Pediatrics</i> Dr. Pam Greenspon, <i>Pediatrician</i> Eric Ballew, <i>Parent Ambassador</i>	CMD - Main Room
	Children's Right to Thrive: Housing & Economic Justice in Focus Holly Welborn, <i>Moderator</i> Treasurer Zach Conine, <i>Nevada State Treasurer</i> Jonathan Norman, <i>Statewide Advocacy, Outreach and Policy Director, Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers</i> Ben Iness, <i>Coalition Coordinator, Nevada Housing Justice Alliance</i> Lily Baran, <i>Housing Justice Advocate</i>	Room A

1:15pm - 2:15pm	Shaping the Future of Child Care: Workforce Challenges and Innovative Solutions Jamelle Nance & Annette Dawson Owens, <i>Moderators</i> Kendra Gipson, <i>Program Lead, Nevada Afterschool Network</i> Tara Phebus, <i>Education Initiative Officer, City of Henderson</i> Kameron Acosta, <i>Director, Spring Stone Montessori School</i>	Room B
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2:15pm - 2:30pm	BREAK
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2:30pm - 3:30pm	Championing Childhood: Elected Officials' Role in Child-Focused Policies Holly Welborn, <i>Moderator</i> Assemblywoman Erica Mosca Assemblyman Brian Hibbetts Senator Rochelle Nguyen Councilmember Nancy Brune Commissioner William McCurdy	CMD - Main Room
	Youth-Led Futures: Policy Ideas from Transition-Age Foster Youth Leah Dodds, <i>Director of Programs, Foster Kinship, Moderator</i> Featuring local and state youth leaders	Room A
	Healthy Starts: Transforming Early Life through Prenatal and Postnatal Care Carissa Pearce, <i>CAA Health Policy Manager, Moderator</i> Kaleigh Mancha, <i>Co-Founder Heart and Soul Collective</i> Cristina Hernandez, <i>Project Manager, UNLV School of Public Health</i> Tony Ramirez, <i>Government Affairs Manager, Make the Road Nevada</i>	Room B

3:30pm - 3:45pm	BREAK
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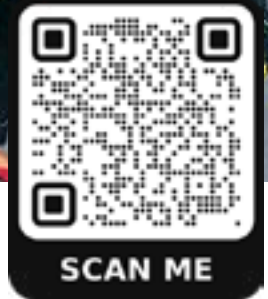
3:45pm - 4:15pm	The Roadmap for Equitable Federal Policies to Serve Nevada's Children Congressman Steven Horsford	CMD - Main Room
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4:15pm - 4:30pm	Closing	CMD - Main Room
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PROUD PRESENTING SPONSOR OF THE 2024 CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY ALLIANCE WINTER POLICY SUMMIT



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Connect with us on social media at @CompassionateLV to stay updated and involved. Your community events matter to us – let's collaborate and make a difference together!



A promotional graphic for the Compassionate Las Vegas Podcast. It features a hand holding a smartphone displaying the podcast app. To the right is the podcast logo: "COMPASSIONATE LAS VEGAS PODCAST WITH WILL RUCKER". Below the logo is the text "GET A DOSE OF HOPE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE" and "STREAM OR WATCH EPISODES ON ALL MAJOR PLATFORMS". There are icons for YouTube, Audible, and other platforms. A QR code is also present. On the right side, there is a grid of photos of various people, with the text "DISCOVER INSPIRING PEOPLE AND THEIR BOLD PATHS OF COMPASSION" at the bottom.

Children's Advocacy Alliance Staff

Holly Welborn, Executive Director

Holly's mantra is that she is an advocate with a law license. Youth justice has always been central to her work. During law school she focused on youth law and interned for Legal Services for Children where she represented children in delinquency and dependency matters, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status applications, and school expulsion proceedings. Holly most recently served as the Policy Director for the ACLU of Nevada where she managed a diverse legislative agenda. She is most proud of her work to limit the transfer of youth under 18 years of age to the adult criminal legal system and to improve living conditions for children in juvenile justice facilities.



She currently serves as a board member of the Institute for a Progressive Nevada, Planned Parenthood Votes Nevada, and the Nevada Coalition Against the Death Penalty. She previously served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Nevada Sentencing Commission and the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice. Holly was recognized as a Reno-Tahoe Young Professionals 40 under 40 finalist and is a recipient of the Community Leadership Award from Silver State Equality. As a Nevada native, and first generation college graduate and lawyer, Holly strives to give back to her community through her advocacy and philanthropic efforts.

Dr. Tara C. Raines, Deputy Director & Kids Count Coordinator



Dr. Tara C. Raines is a licensed psychologist with a history of research promoting equity and access in the areas of education and mental health. She is a former Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Training for the School Psychology program at the University of Denver. She has spent the last decade implementing and supporting a number of grants to improve outcomes for youth at highest risk for mental health disorders. She has partnered with large school districts including Clark County School District, the fifth largest district in the country, to do this work. Tara has been active in the Las Vegas My Brother's Keeper Alliance and sits on the Board of Directors for Democracy Preparatory Academy Nevada and Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains.

Dr. Raines additionally leads cultural immersion experiences in Ecuador to promote cultural humility and Spanish language acquisition in mental health professionals. Dr. Raines has been honored with a presidential citation from APA Division 16 for her work in anti-racism and a presidential award from the National Association of School Psychologists for her work leading the policing in schools taskforce. She believes in the value of using data to identify and implement supports for Nevada's most vulnerable youth.

Children's Advocacy Alliance Staff

Annette Dawson Owens, Community Engagement Manager

Annette Dawson Owens, M.A. is a lifelong education advocate who believes in equity and access to an excellent education for all students. She has worked in both district and charter schools and has studied high performing schools and leaders across the country. She has seen first hand, quality outcomes that are possible with effective school design. Annette attended K-12 in the Clark County School District and went on to earn an undergraduate degree in Zoology, a Masters in Education from UNLV, and a Masters in Administration from Sierra Nevada College.



Annette has been appointed by the last 3 mayors to serve on Henderson's Community Education Advisory Board since its inception and serves on two Charter School Boards. She completed Georgetown's Executive Leadership through the Public Education Foundation, Henderson Leadership and is grateful to be a Jameson Fellow and serve on Compassionate Las Vegas' Steering Committee. Annette recently was Nevada's first White-Riley- Peterson Fellow studying out of school time with peers across the country. In her free time she enjoys exploring the great outdoors. Annette looks forward to working together with the community and improving outcomes for all students and families in the great state of Nevada.



Jamelle Nance, Director of Strong Start Initiatives

Jamelle Nance enthusiastically joins the Children's Advocacy Alliance Nevada team to serve as the Director of Strong Start Initiatives. Jamelle brings vast experiences in the field of Human Services, Education, and Organizational Leadership. Her personal and professional experiences are centered around public service to empower, educate, and provide opportunities for families to thrive not just in her community, but across the nation. She has led similar initiatives in her home state of Maryland to provide equitable educational opportunities to those who need it most.

Jamelle earned a bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science with a concentration in Child Advocacy Studies and a master's degree in Administration of Human Services both from Wilmington University in New Castle, Delaware. Jamelle is passionate about providing access to essential resources and opportunities that strengthen families and level the playing field. She wholeheartedly believes that a strong start provides children and families with a solid foundation to build a strong and promising future. Jamelle is excited about working with Make the Road Nevada where he has the opportunity to work towards creating positive change for immigrant communities, ensuring their voices are heard in policy discussions.

Carissa Pearce Health Policy Manager

Children's Advocacy Alliance Staff

Ben Douglas, Director of Finance and Operations

Ben Douglas joined Children's Advocacy Alliance the summer of 2020. With over a decade of experience with non-profits as a board member, serving as President and Treasurer, Mr. Douglas has finally been able to give back by assisting CAA as their Director of Finance and Operations. Ben comes with a great deal of experience from for-profit business serving as the executive in charge of finance, operations and administration. Mr. Douglas has spent the last 15 years facilitating accounting and management classes at the university. Ben loves helping students obtain their dreams by obtaining their bachelors and/or masters degree. Mr. Douglas graduated with his MBA in 2003 and then obtained his Masters of Science in Accountancy in 2010. Ben's main joy is his family, including his wife of 25 years, three boys, one daughter-in-law and grandson. He is excited to continue fighting for the children of Nevada and beyond.



Jake Matthews, Government Affairs Manager



Jake Matthews is a dynamic relationship builder with an extensive background in Nevada politics. He believes in the power of bringing together good people to create good policy. Jake's experience extends across diverse sectors, from grassroots advocacy to high-stakes lobbying. Leveraging his strategic insights gained from years of successful electoral efforts, Jake seamlessly transitioned into the public policy sector, most recently working at one of the state's top government affairs firms where he conducted research and policy advocacy for a broad spectrum of clients. His deep understanding of coalition building and community mobilization allow him to be effective at driving policy outcomes.

Jake earned his degree in International Relations and Political Science from UC San Diego. He also spent several years living in Thailand teaching English and working with Burmese refugee children where he developed a strong passion for education and youth advocacy. He is dedicated to fostering community-driven solutions towards a brighter future for Nevada's children and families.

April St. James, Children's Welfare Policy Manager

April St. James (formerly LaLone) brings over 8 years of public service experience to her roles in government and community advocacy. April joins after previously serving as Special Assistant to Council at the City of Las Vegas, where she supported Mayor Pro-tem Brian Knudsen in marketing, communications, grant management, and issue advocacy. April also comes to us with over 3 years of experience working federally for Senator Jacky Rosen and state experience working legislative session at the Nevada State Legislature. April has her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego, and an Associate of Arts in Speech Communications and Psychology from San Diego MesaCollege. April has personal experience with children's welfare matters which drives her passion for children's issues.



April is committed to serving the public with integrity, compassion, and promoting civic engagement and social justice in Nevada and beyond.

Children's Advocacy Alliance Staff

Carissa Pearce Health Policy Manager

Carissa Pearce (she/her) is a dedicated advocate for children and family well-being, with a strong background in policy advocacy. Her journey began as an intern with CAA in 2022, and soon after she joined as a team member in Health Policy after graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Public Health. Since joining CAA she has built upon and expanded state and national partnerships leading initiatives to support medical coverage for all children and families in Nevada.



Currently pursuing her MPH in Epidemiology at the University of Nevada, Reno, Carissa is driven by the belief that everyone deserves access to quality care and resources, especially those in underserved populations in Nevada. Through her academic pursuits, Carissa continues to deepen her understanding of health disparities and evidence-based approaches, while building the skills and knowledge to drive impactful policy changes in healthcare, and children and family services. Her commitment to creating equitable systems led her to engage in legislative advocacy, where she played a pivotal role in supporting bills that would benefit vulnerable communities.

Balancing her professional pursuits, Carissa enjoys spending time with her dog, close friends, and family. Her drive, expertise, and compassionate approach make her a valued advocate for creating equitable systems to advance health and family services in Nevada.

Chip Carter, Marketing & Communications



Chip spent most of his professional life in the corporate world before transitioning into the nonprofit space. He has worked with a number of educational organizations including Communities In Schools of Nevada and CORE.

While Chip and his husband do not have children, he believes strongly that every child in our community deserves to grow up healthy, safe, and loved.

He graduated from East Carolina University with a degree in English and worked on marketing campaigns for corporations such as Nike, Pioneer, Paramount Pictures, Valiant Comics, and Artisan Entertainment. He has written numerous licensed books and products for franchises including Star Trek, Harry Potter, The Walking Dead, Marvel and DC Comics.

A Special Welcome From Governor Lombardo

Governor Joe Lombardo

Born in Japan in a military family, Governor Joe Lombardo spent his childhood growing up across the world, until his father was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base and his family put down roots in Las Vegas.

Governor Lombardo attended Rancho High School in North Las Vegas, before going on to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree. After graduating, he served in the United States Army and in the Nevada National Guard.

Following his military service, Governor Lombardo joined the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), where he quickly rose through the ranks and served on nearly every level of LVMPD, from detective to assistant sheriff. While serving at LVMPD, Governor Lombardo earned his Master of Science in Crisis Management from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2006.

After 26 years on the force, Governor Lombardo was elected as Sheriff of Clark County in 2014 and re-elected in 2018. As the sheriff of Nevada's largest county, he oversaw a \$1.3 billion dollar budget, 6,000 employees, and LVMPD's efforts to protect millions of Clark County residents and visitors each day.

Governor Lombardo was elected as the 31st Governor of Nevada in November 2022 and sworn into office in January 2023. Governor Lombardo is focused on diversifying and revitalizing Nevada's economy, restoring law and order in communities across the state, and bringing excellence, school choice, and accountability to Nevada's education system.

More important to him than anything, Governor Lombardo is a devoted husband to First Lady Donna Lombardo, a dedicated father to his daughter Morgan, stepdaughter Lacey, stepson Jackson, and a grandfather to his 1-year-old grandson Teddy



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Closing Remarks

Congressman Steven Horsford

Representative Horsford is a proven champion for Nevada's working families. In the 118th Congress, he is committed to getting Nevada's economy back on track and restoring public faith in American institutions.

Rep. Horsford understands the challenges many families in Nevada's Fourth face each and every day. He fights for responsible gun control and background checks. He lost his father when he was 19 and empathizes with those who have experienced the pain of losing a loved one to gun violence. His work has focused on ending the school-to-prison pipeline and providing the safety net children and families need to succeed. He has worked to strengthen children, families, and communities because these are priorities for so many Nevadans.



For more than a decade, Rep. Horsford led the Culinary Training Academy, the largest job training program in Nevada, helping thousands of workers find quality careers in the hospitality industry. A unique partnership between labor and business, the Culinary Training Academy under Rep. Horsford's leadership placed over 80 percent of graduates into good-paying jobs and completed a multi-million capital construction campaign.

Rep. Horsford made history as Nevada's first African-American State Senate Majority Leader and he delivered. He passed the "Clean Energy Jobs Initiative" and positioned Nevada as a leader in renewable energy. When Nevada's economy was devastated during the recession, Rep. Horsford worked across party lines to solve the worst budget crisis in state history.

While previously representing Nevadans in our nation's capital, Rep. Horsford worked to ensure veterans, senior citizens, and all Nevadans received the benefits they deserved, authored and passed the Nevada Lands Bill to create jobs across the state, and fought to protect a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions.

Most recently a small business owner, in partnership with Intel, Horsford worked to bring the first-of-its-kind workforce development program for youth and young adults to North Las Vegas. He helped to launch a food recovery program with Three Square and major employers like MGM Resorts to address food insecurity among needy children, families and seniors. He brings a principled focus on job creation, community development, and skills development to Congress.

Born and raised in Las Vegas to an immigrant mother, Rep. Horsford has worked hard to raise and nurture his three children.

Lunch Plenary Moderator

Punam Mather, Executive Director, The Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation

Currently, Punam serves as Executive Director of the Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation, a private foundation that exists to advance fundamental change, primarily related to equity, civil rights and conservation. She also operates her own business as a speaker, trainer and writer.

From 2009-2012, she was an officer of NV Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NVE). She joined NV Energy following 13 years in the gaming industry, most recently serving as an officer and senior vice president, corporate diversity and community affairs, for MGM MIRAGE, now MGM Resorts Int'l (NYSE: MGM).



During her tenure, MGM MIRAGE received numerous awards in her areas of responsibility, including being ranked among the "Top 50 Companies for Diversity" by DiversityInc magazine, one of the "Top Corporations in the U.S." for multicultural businesses by DiversityBusiness.com and as one of the "Most Admired Companies in America" by Fortune magazine. Additionally, under her leadership the Company's philanthropy program, including its centerpiece employee-directed foundation, set new standards for strategic philanthropy and employee engagement within the gaming industry.

A champion and advocate for public education, she has a long history of involvement with the Clark County School District, the fifth largest district in the nation, having served on a lengthy list of committees and special task forces over the years, including the Superintendent's Equity & Access Commission in 2019.

She also works closely with the NV Department on Education in a variety of roles to advance the ball on education reform in Nevada, including appointments by the Majority Leader of the Nevada State Senate in 2019 and 2023 to serve on the Commission on School Funding. In 2020, in response to the pandemic, Mathur co-founded Delivering with Dignity, an innovative emergency management solution, in which delicious meals made by independently-owned restaurants were delivered by volunteer Food Heroes to the most vulnerable members of the community.

Her introduction to food insecurity occurred 15 years earlier, as the founding board chair for Three Square, a non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating hunger in southern Nevada. She has served on the Board of the United Way of Southern Nevada for over two decades and is active with Communities In Schools, serving as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors. She is also active in a number of organizations to improve the effectiveness of the child welfare and foster care systems.

PANEL — Numbers Speak: How Data Drives Systemic Change

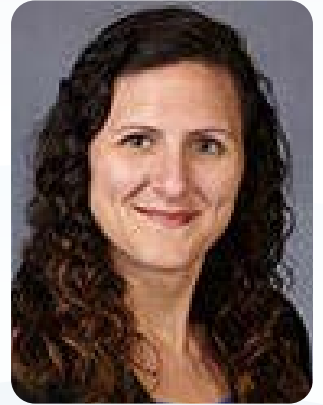


MODERATOR

Dr. Tara C. Raines — Deputy Director & Kids Count Coordinator

Dr. Amanda Haboush Deloye — Executive Director, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy

Amanda Haboush-Deloye earned her Ph.D. in experimental psychology and her Master of Arts in clinical psychology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Amanda's research background is on mental health in adolescent, adult, and older adult populations. She also has a particular interest in improving research methods to be more culturally relevant.



As a researcher at NICRP, she has designed and implemented many research projects regarding children's physical health, mental health, and education, as well as children's advocacy initiatives such as Every Child Matters in Nevada and Prevent Child Abuse Nevada. Being a Las Vegas native, Amanda aims to remain in Nevada and work with NICRP to create a healthy community where families and children are a priority.

Jana Wilcox Lavin — CEO, Opportunity 180



Throughout her career, Jana Wilcox Lavin has championed policies and practices that put student success at the forefront of decision-making. She has led Opportunity 180 since 2017, and prior to that, served as Superintendent-in-Residence of the Nevada State Achievement School District.

Before coming to Nevada, Jana served as both the Chief Program Officer for Scholar Academies and the Executive Director of Memphis Scholars. In that capacity, she designed, developed, and executed organization-wide strategic plans to turn around the lowest performing schools. She worked collaboratively with the community to improve student achievement, develop sound, student-focused policies, inform practices, and build resources for schools to drive outcomes.

Jana had previously served as Scholar Academies' Chief Operating Officer where she led the organization's strategy, operations and school launch teams, opening schools in Philadelphia, Washington, DC and Trenton, NJ. Her previous work also included managing a portfolio of non-profit programs supporting fundraising, strategic planning, program execution and organizational development, and the start-up of a consulting firm in Washington, DC designed to improve the connection between secondary education, higher education and the industry in support of various workforce and economic development initiatives. Jana is a graduate of The Hotchkiss School, Tulane University and Emerson College.

PANEL — Numbers Speak: How Data Drives Systemic Change

Michael Stewart — Research Director, Guinn Center for Policy Priorities

Michael Stewart serves as the Research Director at the Guinn Center for Policy Priorities where he manages and oversees all aspects of the Center's research and policy analysis work and secures collaborative partnerships with higher education institutions across Nevada, policymakers, state and local government agencies, and various nonprofit organizations. Mike spent over 27 years in public service, retiring in December 2021 as the Director of the Research Division of Nevada's Legislative Counsel Bureau. During his time with the Research Division, Mike staffed numerous legislative committees covering dozens of topic areas, including government affairs, natural resources, reapportionment and redistricting, elections, ethics in government, legislative affairs, and transportation.

Mike holds a Master of Science degree in Geography, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography—all from the University of Nevada, Reno. He is also a 2001 graduate of the Legislative Staff Management Institute, sponsored by National Conference of State Legislatures and the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.



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BUILDING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

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PANEL — Hope and Healing: Youth Diversion and Restorative Practices



MODERATOR

Dr. Tara C. Raines, Deputy Director & Kids Count Coordinator

Gillian Barjon — Education Advocacy Programs Chief, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

Gillian S. Barjon, Esq. is the Team Chief of the Education Advocacy Program in the Children's Attorneys Project at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. She has almost a decade and a half of legal experience advocating for children and families in the child welfare system.

She leads the team of attorneys and advocates who provide training, advocacy and legal representation to Educational Decision Makers and Volunteer Education Advocates for children in foster care and parent guardians of children in the greater southern Nevada community. She sits on various local and statewide committees aimed at advocacy for children and education, including the CAA's Restorative Justice Coalition.

Gillian earned her Juris Doctor from Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, IL. She graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in Psychology from Hampton University in Hampton, VA. She enjoys mentoring law students through the Legal Aid Center and supporting the Mentorship Committee of the Las Vegas National Bar Association. Gillian proudly serves on the board of The Evolved Network, a non-profit organization that honors her mother's legacy.



Kevin McPartlin — CCSD Education Services

Kevin McPartlin serves as an Assistant Superintendent for the Clark County School District. He oversees the Education Services Division, which consists of comprehensive schools and alternative educational programs and provides instruction and related services for 50,000 students.

Prior to this position, McPartlin served Clark County students and families as a high school principal for over seventeen years. In 2006, McPartlin became the principal of Chaparral High School, in east Las Vegas. Needing to reverse a decade of negative trends in achievement and climate, McPartlin restructured the school into four autonomous and thematic learning academies to engage students in their learning. In 2011, McPartlin moved to Arbor View High School, in NW Las Vegas, and turned his focus to promoting an inclusive, equity-based environment for all students by implementing an advisory program, restorative practices, and removing obstacles to accessing higher level coursework.

McPartlin has been named the Nevada Administrator of the Year on three occasions by three different organizations and has presented at numerous educational symposiums.

PANEL — Hope and Healing: Youth Diversion and Restorative Practices

Pastor Troy Martinez — Dad's In Schools & Restorative Nevada

Troy is the founder of the Dads In Schools program in 146 CCSD campuses. He is the Chair of Rebuilding Every City Around Peace (RECAP) homicide and violence reduction model with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department which was recognized as best practices by Major Cities Chiefs of Police Association in 2018.

He is a founding member of the City of Las Vegas Mayor's Faith Initiative a recipient of the 2017 US Conference of Mayors City Livability Award. He is a film producer of the "Believe Again Las Vegas," documentary and public safety initiative of the 1 October tragedy.

Along with being President of 10,000 Kids Non-Profit Org, Martinez is a member of various organizations, such as the National Ten Point Coalition Training Hub, National Alliance of Faith and Justice & National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice Award, US Attorney of Nevada Violent Crime Reduction Task Force, Executive Director of Nevada's Sex Trafficking Awareness Campaign and Producer of Emmy-nominated Trafficked No More documentary.



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The Right Care, at the Right Time

For over 30 years, Boys Town Nevada has positively changed the lives of thousands of children and families through its transformative care and services.

Our 2023 Impact for Nevada's Families:

Directly served **8,076**
CHILDREN
in Nevada.



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881 CONTACTS
answered by our
HOTLINE CRISIS COUNSELORS.



Lift with Boys Town™

BEHAVIOR
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6,046 STUDENTS.

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(CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT)



Our Behavioral Health
Clinic served

387
CHILDREN.



BOYS TOWN
Nevada



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2/28/2024

PANEL — Early Childhood Systems 101: Shaping the Future in the Formative Year



MODERATOR

Jamelle Nance, Director of Strong Start Initiatives

Marti Elquist, Supporting Early Education and Development Director, The Children's Cabinet

Marty works for The Children's Cabinet as the Supporting Early Education and Development (SEED) Department Director. Ms. Elquist oversees multiple early childhood support programs including Child Care Subsidy, Resource and Referral, Parent Education and Engagement, Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Coaching, Provider Training and Professional Development, Community Outreach and Data Collection, and Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems development.



Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive System's Manager, The Children's Cabinet

In this role, Tiffany oversees a federal HRSA grant that was awarded to The Children's Cabinet to support the development of an early childhood system in Nevada. In addition, she manages the Early Childhood Community Health Worker (EC- CHW) program and the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) project.

Although most of her professional experience has been in Early Learning, Ms. Olivas has taken to building an Early Childhood System as the next logical step to strengthening services for young children and their families in Nevada. When she is not working, she is a proud wife and mother of two human children and two golden retriever children.



Tiffany Alston, Director, Sunrise Children's Foundations

Tiffany Alston, with her 20+ years of training and leadership experience, has made a significant impact in her role as Director for Sunrise Children's Foundations Early Childhood Education Programs. She oversees Early Head Start, Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting, Nevada Ready, and the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) programs.

Her expertise lies in Parent, Family, and Community Engagement: She has worked extensively to bridge the gap between families, schools, and community resources. Early Childhood Education, Grant Writing, Program Evaluation, and Program Governance.



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PANEL — Amplifying Voices for Nevada's Children: Engaging Parents and Families



MODERATOR

Annette Dawson Owens, Community Engagement Manager

Penni Echols

Penni Echols is an Educational Advocate and the Guide By Your Side Coordinator at Nevada Hands and Voices. She passionately believes that every child can communicate when they have the right support and a willing partner. She is a graduate of the Hands & Voices Leadership to Leadership program and volunteers as one of the moderators in the H&V DHH Plus Parent Support Facebook community.

She serves on the Nevada Department of Education Special Education Advisory Committee as a parent of a child with disabilities. Penni participated in the 2022 Children's Advocacy Alliance Strong Start Parent Ambassador cohort. In addition, she volunteers as a member of the Board of Directors for the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation and their Nevada liaison.

Penni and her husband, Micah, live with their six daughters in Las Vegas, Nevada. Their youngest, Martha, was born in 2014 with CHARGE syndrome and is deafblind with additional medical needs.



Anna Villatoro, The Children's Cabinet

Anna Villatoro is currently working as the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Program Specialist at The Children's Cabinet. She is a passionate advocate for mental health and has recently obtained a Certificate in Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Family Leadership from Georgetown University.

Anna holds a Bachelor's degree in English and Digital Technology and Culture from Washington State University (WSU).



Ashley Dines, The Children's Cabinet

Ashley Dines is a Las Vegas native and passionate about Parent leadership and advocating on behalf of our children in Nevada. She has been emerging in advocacy efforts through many spaces. "I wanted to create a better world for my children and realized I was changing the lives of others also" Ashley plans to continue to support children and families with purpose and lifting others up.



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Lunch Plenary — The Business Role in Child Care



MODERATOR

**Punam Mather, Executive Director,
Elaine P. Wynn Family Foundation**

Loryn Duke, Steamboat Ski Resort

Loryn Duke a 23-year veteran of the Ski and Public Relations/ Communications industry is responsible for the strategic communications direction of Steamboat Ski Resort, the Steamboat Grand Hotel and resort development projects. She has served as the President of the Ski Town U.S.A. Morning Rotary Club, and on the board of the Steamboat Springs Chamber, Partners in Routt County, Steamboat Reading and other local nonprofit organizations.



Loryn is passionate about advocating for working parents and was a member of the team who initiated the Steamboat Child Care Center which opened in December 2021. Loryn continues her advocacy as a Network member of EPIC (Executives Partnering to Invest in Children) and a member of Moms FIRST. Loryn and her husband are proud to call Steamboat Springs home and instill a love of the outdoors for their 2.5 year old daughter.



Emily Zamora, Executive Director, Silver State Voices

Emily Persaud-Zamora is the Executive Director. She has served in this role since March 2017. Previously, she has served as the Nevada State Coordinator for SEIU's immigration campaign, iAmerica, and as the Nevada c4 Director for Mi Familia Vota. Emily graduated from the University of Nevada Las Vegas with a B.A. in Political Science.

Emily serves on the 501 c3 boards of The Ballot Initiative Strategy Center Foundation. In addition, she is a member of the National Coordinating Committee for State Voices. Her most important role is being a mother to her 9-year-old son William Alexander. In her free time, she is planning her

next travel adventure!

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PANEL — Revolutionizing Pediatric Care: Community-Centric Approaches to Children's Health



MODERATOR

Dr. Tara C. Raines, Deputy Director & Kids Count Coordinator

Las Vegas City Councilman Brian Knudsen

Brian Knudsen was elected to represent Ward 1 in June 2019, enabling him to continue to pursue his passion for public service. Since moving to Las Vegas in 2005, Councilman Knudsen has built programs and services for people and populations in Las Vegas and continues to serve the community as a member of the City Council. Brian was named Mayor Pro Tem on Dec. 21, 2022.

For nearly a decade, Mayor Pro Tem Brian worked in the city of Las Vegas on initiatives that shaped the downtown core, redefined the educational landscape, and rethought how city services are provided to Las Vegas residents. As a Councilmember, Brian now focuses his energy on: transforming the landscape of the Las Vegas Medical District to bring world-class healthcare to the Las Vegas Valley, working with key community leaders to overhaul the crisis management system in our community which are aimed at increasing safety across the board, and improving overall outcomes for Ward 1.

Brian is happily married and he and his husband have adopted two children. Mayor Pro Tem Knudsen believes that his children, and all Las Vegas, deserve leadership committed to making Las Vegas an even better place to live, work and play. He plans to continue to build a community that ensures equal opportunity, has great schools, provides strong public safety, preserves our neighborhoods and strives to be world class in all we do.



Leann McAllister, American Academy of Pediatrics

Leann McAllister has been the Executive Director of the Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics for the past five years and, like all the leaders at the chapter, is a volunteer. Originally from the Boston area, Leann has lived in many regions of the US thanks to her husband's career with the US Air Force and has held many titles including marketing communication manager of a dotcom startup, pediatric practice administrator, blogger for Physicians Practice magazine, and Chair of the Practice Management Committee at the Pediatric Physicians' Organization at Boston Children's Hospital (PPOC).

Leann graduated from Barnard College in 1996 with a degree in women's studies, sociology, and economics and obtained a master's in business administration in 2006 from the University of New Mexico. Leann lives in Las Vegas with her husband Terence McAllister, MD, FAAP and their young-adult adopted foster child where she enjoys fine dining, Cirque du Soleil shows, and the occasional poker game.

PANEL — Revolutionizing Pediatric Care: Community-Centric Approaches to Children's Health

Dr. Pam Greenspon, Pediatrician

Dr. Pam Greenspon is a general pediatrician who has lived in Las Vegas for nearly twenty years. Originally hailing from the Chicago area, she attended medical school at Northwestern University. She completed her residency at Emory University in Atlanta. She was a pediatrician in Connecticut before moving to Las Vegas with her family, and she presently practices pediatrics at Desert Valley Pediatrics.

She has been an active member of Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) serving as a chapter breastfeeding coordinator, and on the executive board for eight years including time as the Chapter President during pandemic. She has initiated community projects like Walk With A Doc and is currently the Nevada AAP chapter Champion for the Council on Early Childhood.



Eric Ballew, Parent Ambassador

Eric Ballew is a father, youth sports coach and elementary school parent volunteer. He is also a combat proven senior leader and Air Force Command Pilot. As a member of the Nevada Air National Guard, Eric instructs new students and leads flying missions around the world.

In June 2021, Eric's 12-year-old son, Tyler was diagnosed with cancer. Tyler was seen by some of the best pediatric doctors in the world. Despite every hope of his family, doctors and incredible community of friends they lost Tyler in December 2022 on I-15 as they drove to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles for more treatment.

Eric says his family had the opportunity and capability to travel out of state for treatment, but not every family in Las Vegas has that opportunity. For Tyler's legacy, as our city continues to grow, he would like to see a comprehensive Children's Hospital in Southern Nevada.

Mitchell Cloward, President, Intermountain Health

Mitch serves as the Region President for Intermountain Health's Desert Region. Prior to his role as Region President, he served as Market President – Desert South Utah, and President of Intermountain St. George Regional Hospital.

Mitch joined Intermountain Health in October of 2002 as an operations director for Intermountain's Medical Group. In 2015, the St. George Chamber of Commerce recognized Mitch with the "Innovator of the Year" award.

His diverse background has given him broad and deep experience in insurance, physician practice management and hospital operations. He and his wife, Jennifer, are the parents of five children, proud grandparents of Olive and Russell, and reside in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mitch loves spending time with family, mountain biking, trail running, mogul skiing, going off road in his Jeep, and spending time at Bear Lake.



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PANEL — Children's Right to Thrive: Housing & Economic Justice in Focus



MODERATOR

Holly Wellborn, Executive Director

Zach Conine — Nevada State Treasurer

Zach Conine currently serves as Nevada's 23rd State Treasurer. Elected in November 2018, Zach knows that responsible financial management and effective investing is the key to ensuring long-term growth for the State. As Treasurer, Zach leads a team of more than 45 professionals that are responsible for investing public money, financing community assets and facilities, processing payments for public agencies and collecting and returning unclaimed property. Zach is also responsible for Nevada College Savings Plans and administration of numerous scholarship programs and other services that help Nevadans plan, save, and pay for post-secondary education.



In his time as Treasurer, the State has received three bond rating increases, generated the highest investment returns for the State in history, and returned the largest amount of unclaimed property back to Nevadans since the inception of the State's Unclaimed Property Program.

Prior to serving as State Treasurer, Zach built a successful business career in the gaming, finance, and consulting sectors. Zach graduated with a B.S. from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration and holds a J.D. from UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law. He and his wife Layke are happily raising their daughter Ruby, twin sons Rutherford and Theodore, and two dogs, Democracy and Keno.



Jonathan Norman — Statewide Advocacy, Outreach & Policy Director, Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers

Jonathan first started with Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada in 2017 as an attorney in the Children's Attorney Project representing abused and neglected children. Prior to joining the Legal Aid Center, Jonathan practiced law in New Mexico, working for Diné be'iiiná Náhiitna be Agha'diit'ahii (DNA-People's Legal Services), the largest Native American based Legal Aid provider in the United States.

The Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers consists of Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Senior Law Program, Northern Nevada Legal Aid and the Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans.

Jonathan received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Xavier University. He received his juris doctor from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 2011, and is barred in both New Mexico and Nevada.

PANEL — Children's Right to Thrive: Housing & Economic Justice in Focus

Ben Innis — Coalition Coordinator, Nevada Housing Justice Alliance

Ben Innis is the coalition coordinator for the Nevada Housing Justice Alliance, a coalition of grassroots organizers and community advocates working with Nevada tenants to address the root causes of housing insecurity. Ben centers his work in his lived experience, having been displaced, evicted, and directly-impacted by housing instability throughout his childhood. Above all, his work is driven by the deep-seated belief that housing is a human right, and this guides his efforts to challenge the structural oppression embedded in the commodification of housing and advocate for meaningful policy reforms.



Ben's leadership within the Alliance has catalyzed a series of impactful campaigns aimed at protecting tenant rights, abolishing summary evictions, and promoting housing stability — all to better Keep Nevadans Housed.

Ben is a lifelong Nevadan, growing up in (every corner of) Las Vegas and living in Reno for the last 15 years. Ben received his Master's in Social Work from UNR, and during his time in the program served as a practicum student for PLAN.



Lily Baran — Housing Justice Advocate

Lilith Baran is a leading housing justice advocate in Reno, known for her unwavering dedication to addressing the housing crisis facing marginalized communities. With a background rooted in social justice, Lilith has focused her career on advocating for affordable housing, tenants' rights, and sustainable urban development.

From organizing community workshops to lobbying for policy changes, Lilith's work spans a wide range of activities aimed at promoting equitable housing practices. She collaborates closely with local nonprofits, housing coalitions, and grassroots organizations to drive systemic change and improve housing policies and support services.

Lilith's pragmatic approach to advocacy, coupled with her commitment to empowering communities, has made her a respected leader in the field. Her belief in the power of change and her deep understanding of advocacy complexities drive her passion for creating lasting social and political progress. With her diverse skill set and unwavering dedication, Lilith continues to make a meaningful impact in her community and beyond.

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PANEL — Shaping the Future of Child Care: Workforce Challenges and Innovative Solutions



MODERATORS
Annette Dawson Owens, Community Engagement Manager
Jamelle Nance, Director of Strong Start Initiatives



Kendra Gipson, M.Ed. Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy (NICRP) Research Analyst, Nevada Afterschool Network (NAN) Program Lead

After briefly working as a Legal Virtual Assistant, Kendra decided to focus on undergraduate studies and being a mom. It was through the experience of parenting that she developed a passion for advocacy. After completing her undergrad, Kendra decided to pursue a graduate degree in Education specializing in educational leadership. Subsequently, she began working as an advocate, supporting families of children with various disabilities, and providing the parent perspective on several committees, coalitions, consortiums, task forces, and workgroups advocating for systems change.



Kendra graduated with her M.Ed. in 2021 and now works for the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy at UNLV as a Research Analyst with a main focus on the Nevada Afterschool Network project as the newly-appointed Network Lead.



Tara Phebus, City of Henderson

Tara Phebus has worked to support Nevada's children and their families since 2004. She spent 15 years working at the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP) in the School of Public Health at UNLV, serving for 8 years as the Institute's Executive Director. In her time at NICRP her projects covered a variety of children's issues including early childhood education, children's health and safety, child welfare, and juvenile justice giving her a broad perspective on the issues facing Nevada's families.

Under her leadership the organization brought in more than two million dollars in extramural funding for the Center, including both public agency funding as well as private foundation support.

Since 2019 Tara has served as the Education Initiatives Officer for the City of Henderson. In this role, she is responsible for the implementation of the City's Quality Education strategic priority, working internally across City departments as well as in collaboration with local early childhood education providers as well as both school district and charter public schools.

Tara received her Bachelor of Arts in both Sociology and Business Administration from Doane University in Crete, Nebraska and completed her Master of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

PANEL — Shaping the Future of Child Care: Workforce Challenges and Innovative Solutions

Kamerine Acosta, Director, Spring Stone Montessori School

Kamerine Acosta is currently a Program Director/Lower Elementary Principal at SpringStone Lakes Montessori School. She has her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education Administration, Nevada K-12 License, and NAMC Montessori Certification in ages 3-6. She has taught preschool, elementary, and middle school, and has been an Early Childhood Education Director for 8 years in both public and private schools.



She has two children and is a former foster parent of three toddlers. Kamerine is from the island of Guam, grew up on Edwards AFB, CA, and has been a resident of Las Vegas since 2019. She is a children's book author writing literature that promotes kindness and compassion.

She takes pride in living out her passion educating young children, being a resource for families, and supporting both new and veteran teachers.

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PANEL — Championing Childhood: Elected Officials' Role in Child-Focused Policies



MODERATOR

Holly Wellborn, Executive Director

Assemblywoman Erica Mosca

Erica Mosca is a proud first-generation college graduate who is a former teacher, Non-profit Founder & Executive Director and the first Filipina to serve in the NV State Legislature.

Growing up in a low-income household, Mosca experienced first-hand the resilience, tenacity and promise of individuals growing up in marginalized communities and how lack of access and systems perpetuated inequitable opportunities. As her parents always reminded her the definition of success was helping others, Mosca joined Teach For America in 2008 in East Las Vegas after graduating Summa Cum Laude from Boston University.



During her freshman session Mosca passed 5 out of 6 bills into law, Chaired the Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Caucus and organized regular community members to visit Carson City weekly. She is a proud military spouse and dog mom of their border collie mix Panda.



Senator Rochelle Thuy Nguyen

Senator Rochelle Thuy Nguyen is an attorney and currently serves in the Nevada Legislature. She was appointed to the Nevada State Assembly in December 2018, and she was subsequently elected to the position in both 2020 and 2022. In December 2022, she was appointed to the Nevada State Senate, where she currently represents District 3 in Southern Nevada.

During her time in the Nevada State Assembly, particularly during the historic 80th session, Nguyen cofounded the state's first Asian American and Pacific Islander legislative caucus. She served in various leadership positions, including Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, Vice Chair of the Judiciary Committee, and a member of the Education committee. In 2023, as a member of the Joint Finance and Ways Subcommittee on Human Services, she served as the Chair.

Outside of her legislative duties, Nguyen practices law as a criminal defense attorney. She obtained her law degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law, where she cofounded the Public Interest Law Association and played a key role in the establishment of the law journal. She has been a resident of Las Vegas for over 24 years and lives with her husband, Matt, their two children, Henry and Hannah, her father, Thang, and her father-in-law, Dale, along with their dog Neil.

PANEL — Championing Childhood: Elected Officials' Role in Child-Focused Policies

Councilmember Nancy Brune

Councilwoman Brune was elected to the Las Vegas City Council on Nov. 8, 2022 to serve a four-year term and represent the residents of Ward 6. She grew up in a family that emphasized service to God, to country and to community, and she is committed to bringing common-sense solutions to City Hall and restoring public trust in local government.

Prior to running for office, Councilwoman Brune served as founding executive director of the Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities, Nevada's only bipartisan policy center, for almost a decade. She has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, reports, essays, blogs and op-ed pieces, and was a regular columnist with The Nevada Independent. Councilwoman Brune is currently a research professor at Desert Research Institute and a principal at Luz Development Institute.

Currently, she serves on the boards of the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, Southern Nevada Health District, Tule Springs Fossil Bed Advisory Council, Yucca Mountain Nuclear Repository Committee and the Nellis Civilian Military Council Executive Board (Alternate).



Commissioner William McCurdy II

Commissioner William McCurdy II was elected to the Clark County Commission in 2020 and sworn in for his first term on Jan. 4, 2021. Commissioner McCurdy previously served two terms (2016-2020) in the Nevada State Legislature as the representative for Assembly District 6.

During his tenure as Assemblyman, he was elected as the first African American and youngest chair of the Nevada State Democratic Party. Significant legislation introduced by McCurdy improved Education, Public Safety, Healthcare and Economic Development. While at the Legislature, he served as vice chairman of the Government Affairs Committee and was a member of the Commerce and Labor and Legislative Operations and Elections committees. Additionally, he served on the Homeland Security Commission.

McCurdy is a native Las Vegan, born in the very Commission District he now proudly represents. He holds an Associate's degree from the College of Southern Nevada and a Bachelor's of Arts in Urban Studies from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He plans to attain a law degree in the future. McCurdy enjoys spending time with family, especially attending sporting events with his two sons.

PANEL — Championing Childhood: Elected Officials' Role in Child-Focused Policies

Assemblyman Brian Hibbitts

Brian was born and raised in Las Vegas, NV growing up in a middle-class household. The son of a commercial plumber/pipefitter and a registered nurse, Brian learned a strong work ethic from an early age. "You get what you work for" was drilled into him early and often.

As a proud graduate of the public school system, Brian is a firm believer in quality early childhood education. Brian also realizes the public school system may not be the right fit for every child and is a strong advocate for school choice.

Brian began as a volunteer with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) at the age of 15 with the Law Enforcement Explorers. Hired as a full-time civilian employee in 1994, he worked in the Clark County Detention Center. In 1998 Brian graduated from the LVMPD police academy as a police officer. In 2007 Brian was promoted to Police Sergeant. Throughout his career Brian worked in Patrol, Investigations, Intelligence, and administrative assignments.

Upon retiring on December 31st, 2021, Brian was the 14th most senior Police Sergeant out of more than 300 on LVMPD. Shortly thereafter, Brian decided his life of public service was not over and he was elected to the Nevada State Assembly on November 8th, 2022, representing the 13th assembly district.

Now Assemblyman Hibbitts served in the 82nd session of the Nevada State Legislature and the 34th and 35th special sessions. Assemblyman Hibbitts proudly served on the Government Affairs, Legislative Operations & Elections, and Health and Human Services Committees.



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PANEL — Youth-Led Futures: Policy Ideas from Transition Age Foster Youth



MODERATOR

Leah Dodds, Director of Programs, Foster Kinship

Leah Dodds is a compassionate advocate for children in nonparental care. Currently, she serves as the Strategic Program Director at Foster Kinship. Leah holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Motivated by her personal experiences with kinship care within her own family, Leah has dedicated her career to creating meaningful change for children and youth in similar circumstances. Her passion lies in the development and implementation of innovative programs, community organizing and partnership, and policy work that addresses the unique needs of those in non-parental care.

Panel Featuring Foster Youth Leaders

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PANEL — Healthy Start: Transforming Early Life Through Prenatal and Postnatal Care



MODERATOR

Carissa Pearce, Health Policy Manager

Kayleigh Mancha— Co-Founder, Heart and Sol Collective

Kaleigh Mancha has served as a full spectrum birth worker & Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist for almost 15 years, specializing in perinatal & postpartum mental health conditions, reproductive experiences, medical trauma & complex PTSD. She has been a certified yoga teacher for 10 years & currently oversees all yoga programming & mentorship of teachers at Yoga Haven as their Program Director.

Additionally, Kaleigh co- founded Heart & Sol Collective in 2020, a queer & BIPOC founded & led non profit that provides accessible & culturally responsive services to address maternal health disparities in the Las Vegas community. As a result of her passion for community, she enjoys providing mentorship for BIPOC perinatal professionals & creating trauma informed programming. Programming she has created & facilitated include trauma informed courses for perinatal professionals through UNLV's School of Nursing, a community stewardship training for wellness professionals in partnership with Yoga Haven & a trauma informed doula training housed at Heart & Sol Collective.



Cristina Hernandez— Project Manager, UNLV School of Public Health

Cristina (ella/she/her), was born and raised in Las Vegas and her people come from Mexico and Cuba. She graduated from UNLV with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2005, graduate certificate in Women's Studies in 2012, and in 2020 received her Master's degree in Public Health. Her professional paper topic was on lesbian and trans men's pregnancy, birth experience, and birth outcomes based on provider (i.e. OB/GYN, Midwife, and Nurse Practitioner) and setting (i.e. hospital, home, and birth center).

She has been a doula since 2017, a certified childbirth educator since 2018, and certified as a full spectrum doula via Birthing Advocacy Doula Trainings (BADT). Currently, she is a Project Manager for EARN-FS (Early Responsive Nurturing Care for Food Security) at the UNLV School of Public Health in the Department of Social and Behavioral Health. This project is researching maternal and child health & nutrition within the West Las Vegas Promise Neighborhood.

She is also Board President for Heart and Sol Collective and the Treasurer for the Southern Nevada Breastfeeding Coalition.

PANEL — Healthy Start: Transforming Life Through Prenatal and Postnatal Care

Tony Ramirez — Government Affairs Manager, Make The Road Nevada

Tony Ramirez was raised in a small farm town in Washington. He's the son of two immigrant farmworkers from Mexico and is a former farmworker himself, his parents instilled in him a strong work ethic and a profound understanding of the challenges faced by immigrant families.

Tony is a seasoned organizer with many years of experience working for campaigns and labor movements across the country, including United Farm Workers (UFW) and the Clark County Education Association (CCEA). He currently has the privilege of working with Make the Road Nevada where he has the opportunity to work towards creating positive change for immigrant communities, ensuring their voices are heard in policy discussions.



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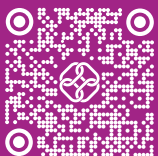
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