

Thanks to the generous donations from our wonderful community, our luggage needs have been filled! We now have a sizable inventory of luggage kept in multiple locations for youth in care!

We appreciate all of your donations and assistance!



Our office is closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday May 25th. Please make sure to touch bases with your case worker if you have any visits scheduled to make alternate arrangements.



Moving?

Please remember you must report the move to your licensing worker!

Per regulations, you are required to report any changes to your household to your licensing worker! This includes the following:

- ⇒ before anyone moves in/out of your home
- ⇒ before have any visitors staying with you
- ⇒ before you move to a new home
- ⇒ before you do any remodeling of your current home
- ⇒ before you take placements from other agencies

See the NAC regulation [here](#) and reach out to your worker if you have any questions!



*You're
Invited!*

**Come participate in our monthly
QPI Steering Committee meeting!**

**It's held the 3rd Thursday of every month
from 9:30-10:30am via ZOOM**

**Contact Kylee Spring if you'd like to
participate!**



Check out our new All About Me pages on the QPI website!

The All About Me is not only for the child that is being separated from their family and placed with yours, but also for your family. On the website, there is one specific to your family and multiple for the children to complete. This can be used as an ice breaker between your family and the child to help the child feel comfortable in their new home.

Have some fun and feel free to get creative with it!



**Last newsletter we met some of our new
WCHSA team members—
Now let's meet the rest of our licensing
team...**

Barbara Jaime has been working as a foster care licensing worker since 2010! Before taking her current position, Barbara worked for Washoe County as a permanency worker for 4 years. She graduated from UNR with a degree in general studies and a minor in psychology. Although originally unsure of what career to pursue, she was roped into welfare casework by one of her restaurant customers and has stuck with it ever since. Barbara has countless strengths that have helped her succeed in this career, some of which include being level-headed and calm under stressful and difficult situations, the ability to rationalize well, making people comfortable in uncomfortable situations, and being an overall caring and sensitive person.

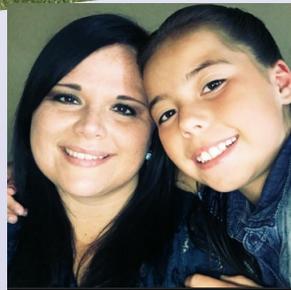


Although not born in Reno, Barbara spent most of her life here and thinks of Reno as her home town. She enjoys living with her boyfriend, 3 cats, and 2 dogs, and considers her pets to be like children. Barbara is very close to her twin sister and describes her mom as her biggest role model. It seems as though she has taken a lot after her mom, who she says is “an infectious person whose happiness and spirit is warming and comforting”. Barbara considers herself to be both an indoor and outdoor person...she loves to go snowboarding in blizzards and float the river in the summer, but she also enjoys time to just sit on the couch and watch Netflix! She hopes to someday travel to Greece, but in the meantime is content being able to work with so many great foster parents!





CODI SOAP has worked in foster care licensing for 13 years. Prior to that, she worked for the Children's Cabinet. Since high school, Codi knew she wanted to work with children and families and she graduated from UNR with her degree in Human Development and Family Studies. She will forever be grateful that her path led her to foster care licensing. She enjoys forming partnerships with all her foster parents and seeing them provide supportive care to the children and states "being able to see foster parents and the agency have an opportunity to support each other and the child through traumas together is a very beautiful thing." Her strengths are that she is compassionate, caring, organized, and she loves to help and support others both in her personal and professional life. She can prioritize and remain calm during difficult situations, which helps others stay calm and comfortable. Codi would like foster parents to know that she values them, and she is always there to support them and they can contact her anytime. She has much respect for foster parents and their motivation to continue to care for children in foster care is admirable.



Codi grew up in a small little country town in Eastern Nevada (population just under 4,000) which she credits for keeping her humble. Codi is very family oriented and says her family is most important to her. She has two sisters—one's a twin! - and one seven years younger. Codi shares that her biggest role models are her grandmother and mother. Her grandmother was witty and had a great sense of humor. She describes her mother as very kind and caring; someone who has been able to overcome many adversities in her life, and Codi feels she has inherited all these traits from her. Codi has been married to her "high school sweetheart" for 13 years and they have three children; her angel baby in heaven, and her daughter (10) and son (7).

Codi's number one item on her bucket list would be to go to Alaska and see the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). For fun, Codi likes to play softball, spend time with family and enjoys watching her kids play multiple sports. In her spare time, when she can find it, she loves to read and scrapbook.

SANDRA ESPINO came to us from LA County DCFS where she worked for 7 ½ years as a Children’s Social Worker in Family Maintenance/Reunification, Licensing, and was supervisor over a unit. Joining WCHSA, she was an assessment worker for just over 4 years before joining the Foster Care Licensing crew in November 2019. Sandra grew up in Ventura and Santa Barbara County in California. She has a double Bachelor’s degree in Chicana(o) Studies and Sociology with emphasis in Social Welfare as well as her Master’s in Public Administration which she received from California State University, Northridge. She didn’t know she would end up in Social Welfare but as a child she always enjoyed volunteering and helping others. Her parents indicated that the meaning of her name is “defender of mankind” and it has suited her well.

Sandra met her husband in college, and they have been married for almost 10 years and have lived in Reno for the past six years. Together they have two beautiful children and Sandra loves to watch them grow. Sandra’s fur baby is a Yorkshire Terrier named Coco, who is so kind and protective of the children.

Sandra describes her strengths as being a hard worker, an active listener, helpful, positive, organized, and dependable. She is also bilingual and supports and advocates for the families she works with. Her parents are her biggest role models - they taught her to work hard, respect others and enjoy life! Her number one item on her bucket list would be to travel the world. She would love to visit each state in the US at least once. Her favorite vacation she has been on was traveling to Barbados and she hopes to take our children back there someday. For fun they enjoy camping, hiking and being outdoors and having friends and family over for dinners.



Sandra has learned so much from her fellow licensing colleagues and has really enjoyed working with all of her resource families. She has learned they have a strong support system with other resource parents and have been able to recruit new resource families. Bilingual Resource Parents have taught her that when children connect to their Resource Parents on a cultural level and linguistic need, it changes the children’s experience in foster care.

Sandra’s words to our Resource Parents...

“All of your sacrifices and your hard work do not go unnoticed. I respect and thank you for all that you do for our children.”

“Todos sus sacrificios y trabajo no pasan desapercibidos. Los respeto y les agradezco por todo lo que hacen para los niños.”

LINDSEY KLAES is the newest addition, joining the foster care licensing team this past February! Prior to being in licensing, Lindsey was an assessment worker for WCHSA for three years. She came to WCHSA from UNR Early Head Start after eight years in administrative work, enrollment, and recruitment. Lindsey was interested in licensing as she wanted to build relationships with foster parents and build on her knowledge of policy and practice in another area of the agency.

Born in Iowa, Lindsey has lived in Sparks since elementary school. She received her bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Nevada with a minor in Addiction Treatment Services. She has been with her husband for ten years and together they have an 18-month-old daughter, Charlotte, in addition to their three dogs, which Lindsey feels is too many. Lindsey doesn't have one specific role model and says there are a lot of people in her life and in the public eye that have a lot of great qualities, so she tries to model her actions after those she admires.



Lindsey's strengths are that she is compassionate, patient, loyal, and my willing to always learn more. On her bucket list is to visit all 50 states. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family, having game nights with friends, going on bike rides, and going on vacation (they have Disneyland Annual Passes that they miss using right about now!)

In her new position, Lindsey really enjoys being able to support foster parents and see some of the positive outcomes within the child welfare umbrella. She would like resource parents to know that your hard work, love, and dedication to children does not go unnoticed! She is so appreciative of all you do.

RECALLS

Kolcraft Recalls Inclined Sleeper Accessory Included with Cuddle 'n Care and Preferred Position 2-in-1 Bassinets & Incline Sleepers to Prevent Risk of Suffocation

- ◆ Recall involves the inclined sleeper accessory sold with the Kolcraft Cuddle 'n Care 2-in-1 Bassinet & Incline Sleeper (model starting with KB063) and the Kolcraft Preferred Position 2-in-1 Bassinet & Incline Sleeper (model starting with KB061).
- ◆ Inclined sleeper is the only portion of product being recalled
- ◆ Consumers can contact Kolcraft for a \$35 voucher or a \$20 refund, which can be used until February 2022.



Expanded Recall—Contigo Water Bottles



Contigo is now recalling water bottles AND the replacement lids that were given to consumers as part of the August 2019 recall.

The water bottle's clear silicone spout detaches, posing a choking hazard. Go to www.gocontigo.com and click on Recalls at the bottom of the page for more information.

Puffy Sidewalk Paint

A fun take on sidewalk chalk, this paint squirts easily and stays "puffy" when it hits the concrete! Fun for children and adults!

Supplies needed:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup water
- 1 Tbsp dish soap
- 1 piece of sidewalk chalk (this is a great way to use up leftover chalk remnants!)
- 1 plastic squeeze bottles

Instructions:

1. Mix 1 cup of flour with 1 cup of water.
2. Add 1 tablespoon of dish soap.
3. Mix well until all clumps are gone.
4. Using a cheese grater, grate 1/2 to 1 full piece of sidewalk chalk piece on the finest setting in the color of your choice. Add more to make the color brighter, less to make it lighter.
5. Mix well to combine the color, adding more chalk if you want it brighter.
6. Funnel and pour the paint into a squeeze bottle.
7. Have fun!

Recipe is good for 1 day. To clean, use a garden hose on the highest setting. The dish soap should help to make it easier to clean. It's recommended to not let it dry in the sun, however if you do, using a broom to help scrub some of the paint off while spraying with water.



MANDATORY

BRIDGES *out of* POVERTY



We are excited to announce this very special training of
Bridges out of Poverty!



Please plan to attend this work shop for resource parents as we look to counter poverty and its impact on people and businesses in our community. Bridges Out of Poverty solutions give us the structures, ideas and concrete tools a community needs to prevent, reduce, and alleviate poverty. Bridges Out of Poverty is an approach that helps employers, community organizations, social-service agencies and individuals address poverty in a comprehensive way. People from all economic classes come together to improve job retention rates, build resources, improve outcomes and support those who are moving out of poverty.

This training is now being
offered over Zoom!

Wednesday April 29th
2-5pm

Please RSVP to [Matt Polley](#) to
reserve your spot.

This is a **mandatory**
training requirement
for your license
renewal.

Stay tuned for more
Bridges updates!

Independent Living News

The **Washoe Youth Advisory Board** meeting is held
the second Thursday of every month
from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at
New Government Project

ON HOLD

To RSVP or for transportation assistance, contact Monica Dupea at monica.nyep@gmail.com or Nina Shapey at nina.nyep@gmail.com.

If you have teens in your home over the age of 14 you are required to complete the Independent Living Modules. Need a reminder of what to do?

“Introduction to Independent Living Modules” are the instructions for the monthly “Independent Living Modules”. The youth’s worker will also be following up during their monthly visits!

Check out the resources on the QPI Documents page in the Independent Living Section. There are power points/slideshows for additional training and useful information for our youth looking to or who have aged out. (Some of this information can also be used to meet the requirements in some of those modules!)



We know times are tough
right now and we just want to
take a second to say...



We couldn't do this without you!

Please continue to keep your eye on emails about
important announcements during this time.

Support Groups

Support groups may be on hold at this time. Please contact group leaders to get updated details of how they are conducting their groups.

Coffee and Conversations: Adoptive and Foster Support Group

Every 2nd Monday starting April 13th at 10am

Starbucks on Lemmon Drive

Contact: Raina Stetson * 775-997-4127 or RainaStetson@gmail.com

(new)

“Instant Family”– A support group for resource parents

Support is available and training is offered! Contact us today!

Contact: Brittney Augustenborg *775-846-6745 or Arlene Carter *775-737-1603

Cindy Johnson * 775-250-4765 or cindyinsparks@gmail.com or Patty Steen

*j-psteen@sbcglobal.net or 775-544-3388

Resource Parent’s Night Out

Third Thursday of each month @ 6pm

Reach out to Jerri Ann to find out which restaurant they’re going to this month!

RSVP to Jerri Ann Fredeen * 224-1380

3 Angels Support Group

Third Thursday of each month @ 6pm

Food, child care & training offered

1095 East Taylor St. * Reno

Provided by Fatai & Raymond Langi with 3 Angels Care LLC

* RSVP to koula@3angelscare.org

Faith Based Relative Resource Parent Support Group *TBD*

Faith Ministries located * 2301 Kings Row *Reno

Please RSVP to Gloria Torma at

tfi.nevada@gmail.com

**Please share any information of any discontinued or added support groups so this list can provide the most up to date information by emailing Katie Nichols at knichols@washoecounty.us.



Washoe Quality Parenting

Spotlight Awards!

THANK YOU TO | Dena Cross for her commitment to children! She recently took on 4 children at almost a moment's notice for respite for a very expanded time-period. Dena rolled with the complications, frustrations, like a trooper. She went on to accept them for placement, driving them to multiple schools!

- Kristy Baker, Supervisor

THANK YOU TO | Jerri Ann and John Fredeen who go above and beyond for the children in their care. They also show incredible compassion and empathy to the biological parents of the children they foster. Although their intent is to adopt a sibling set of boys, they invite the children's mother to come to Thanksgiving dinners in their home and support her remaining connected to her children. This is the definition of co-parenting and setting a child's needs above their own. I commend Jerri Ann and John for the selflessness. They are AMAZING!

- Jessica Shepherd, Licensing Worker

THANK YOU TO | Chris and Jackie Kline for continuing to maintain some of the hardest children we have ever placed. Being able to be coached through difficult times and never giving up because it's all too much, when we know it is. Being able to hang in there when 98% of people would have given up and staying connected to tough kids and making them feel like they belong to a home and family.

- Steve Canale, Supervisor

INTERESTED IN ADOPTING?

Joey, age 15

Joey is an individual in the best sense of the term, and a remarkable self-advocate. Initially he can be shy and his trust must be earned, but when he is comfortable, Joey is very outgoing and insightful beyond his chronological age. Joey has a good sense of humor and appreciates that quality in others. This winter he has aspirations to learn to ski and enjoy the mountains as much as possible.

Joey is hopeful in finding a family who will embrace his uniqueness, and will benefit from a home where in he is the only child to open and flexible parent(s). He is 100% available for adoption.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact [Mitch Matthews](#) via email or at 775-785-8695.





Jamir, age 12

Jamir is described as smart, creative, intelligent and kind. He enjoys playing video games and learning new things. He is involved in sports which he has enjoyed. Jamir enjoys one-on-one time and thrives with positive reinforcement and encouragements of his successes. He is thoughtful of others and desires to be part of a family unit who can help him navigate through challenges and provide him a stable, safe and supportive home.

Jamir's ideal family will provide structure, have established rules and expectations and be able to provide guidance in his young life. Jamir has many exceptional qualities which will only be enhanced by him gaining a sense of support, reliability and understanding from his prospective family.

Check out his [Have A Heart video!](#)

If you would like more information about Jamir please email [Tawnya Robertson](#) or call 775-785-8659.