

NEWSLETTER

RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS

COVID-19 CORNER

If **ANY** household members exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild, **OR** if they have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person, **OR** if anyone in the household tests positive for COVID-19, that they must:

1. Contact the health department or their medical provider for guidance on testing
2. Immediately self-isolate the household until medically cleared. This includes any in-person contact including visitation, meetings, appointments etc.
3. Notify the child(ren)'s caseworker(s) and the licensing worker within the same business day



Nurture *the* Village

Do you have friends and family ask you about foster care or adoption?

Our Recruitment and Team is a wealth of knowledge and would come to your village (virtually) to help spread the word about foster and adoption. Even in times of COVID our Recruitment and Training are meeting and training resource parents through Zoom. They are able to answer any questions your friends and family may have. Lets work together so every child has a home.

WCHSA is challenging you to talk to three people in your network about becoming a foster parent! Those who refer the most people who attend an orientation will be in the running for a prize...

To schedule, refer or learn more about this call the Recruitment and Training team at 337-4470!

Hello everyone,

A few months back we asked our resource parents to complete a survey regarding training and court information. First, I want to thank everyone who participated in the survey the information and suggestions were amazing! After gathering all the feedback from the survey, we have started working on a plan to ensure that we are providing our resource parents with the information and training that they need and want. Please continue to provide feedback to me regarding any ideas or suggestion you may have.

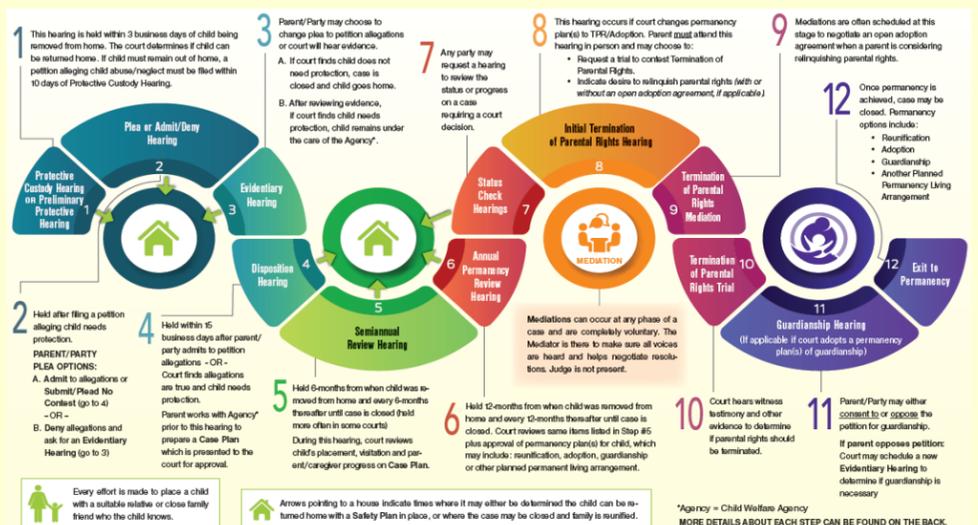
Attached to this email is information regarding court and the Child Welfare Court Process. The attachments are in English and in Spanish.

The first attachment is the Quick Guide for Families which contains the following; a roadmap of the court process with a brief overview of the steps involved in the Nevada Child Welfare Court Process and Ideal outcomes to preserve and reunify the family by making it possible for the child to be safe at home, and the information about how the Parent/Caregiver commitment to completing the requirements of their individualized Case Plan is crucial to helping that outcome become a reality.

The second, is a handbook regarding the court process. This handbook provides parents, relatives, and caregivers with information about what to expect when a child welfare agency becomes involved with your family.

The last attachment is a sample of a letter that you should be receiving to notify you of any upcoming hearing(s) for children in your home. This letter outlines your right (as the caregiver) to come to Court and speak for yourself, your family, and the child(ren) you are caring for. You are also encouraged to submit in writing to the assigned caseworker what you would like the Court to know and the caseworker will ensure the Court receives this information. In addition to the letter, there are question for you to fill out if you cannot attend the court hearing and want to submit an update to the court regarding the child(ren) in your home.

Please reference the attached information on this email and If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.



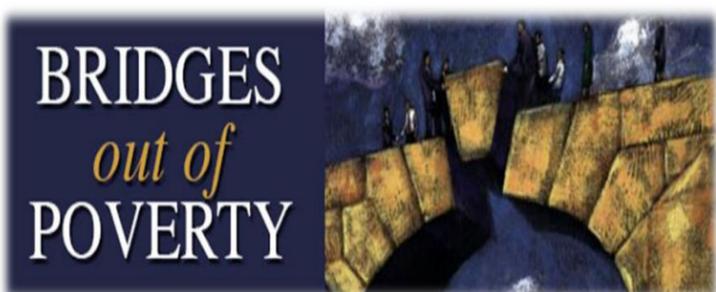
Matt Polley will be going live on the second and fourth Friday of every month!

Don't miss Bridges out of Poverty Live

- May 14th from 9am-3pm
- May 28th from 9am-3pm

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.

MPolley@washoecounty.us



Resource Parent, relative, Fictive Kin & adoptive Support Groups

WE ARE LOOKING TO ENHANCE OUR SUPPORT GROUPS

- **Fatai Langi** offers support group on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday** of every month from **8:30-9:30pm**. Please contact Koula@3angelscare.org to RSVP.
- **Resource Parent Advisory Board** support group is the **4th Tuesday of every month** at **11:00am-12:30**. Please contact kspring@washoecounty.us to RSVP
- **Adoptive Parent Therapeutic Support Group:** For pre- & Post-Adoptive Families. **Wednesday 5-6** vis Zoom. Please contact jcasarez@washoecounty.us or danderson@washoecounty.us for any question or if you want to attend
- **Relative Support Group:** Every **Thursday at 7pm**. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73578283111?pwd=Y2R2eEVKV0RzU0I5VjRjZWZNNmhUQT09>
Meeting ID: 735 7828 3111
Passcode: qp4zU6
- **Be in the Loop Group:** Be in the loop group is a monthly meeting where WCHSA staff, resource parents, and birth parents meet and work collaboratively to improve Quality Parenting within Washoe County. This meeting is held the **Third Thursday** of every month at **noon** on TEAMS. We would love for you to join. Please email Kylee Spring kspring@washoecounty.us to be added to the invite

REMINDER

We are trying to get more support groups together especially in Spanish! Please email Kylee Spring if you would like to start a support group. Kylee can help make that happen!

kspring@washoecounty.us



We are working on getting an updated list and would love to get the word out to others. Please reach out with any other support groups that I have missed.

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE TRAINING

TUESDAY, JUNE 1ST
9:00AM – 5:00PM

HOSTED BY WCHSA AND PRESENTED BY:
HEATHER HUGHES, LCSW
JESSICA CRANE, LCSW
FALON SCHNEIDER, MA, MFT

WCHSA 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

WHERE:
Washoe County Human Services Agency
2nd floor conference room
350 S. Center Street
Reno, NV 89501

WHEN:
Tuesday, June 1st
9am – 5pm

IN ADDITION, PLEASE NOTE:

- Masks are required to be worn by all participants
- Social distancing of 6 feet will be in effect the entirety of the training
- Space is limited
- Lunch will be provided
- Fulfills 8 hours of required annual training for resource parents and providers (licensing requirement)

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT IN THIS TRAINING, PLEASE CONTACT CLAIRE McNAMARA
AT CMcNAMARA@WASHOECOUNTY.US

New Training updates:

QPI WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.QPINEVADA.ORG/](http://www.qpinevada.org/)

Below are amazing new trainings that are on the QPI website that you can get renewal training hours!

How to Get the Job, Keep the Job (CC)

Our presenter is a former foster youth that shares helpful tips on how foster parents can help a youth get a job and maintain a job. The presenter discusses survival mode for youth and how this could be a struggle to maintain a job. How the youth can build a resume, search for work, and interview prep is also discussed, as well as soft and hard skills. **0.5 hour**

Consent (CC)

Participants will learn the meaning of consent and when consent is true. They will learn how to teach children consent and the importance of boundaries and activities. They will learn how to report sexual assault. Participants will learn who the child can talk to when they are dealing with trauma. Participants will also learn about disclosures and how to handle them. **1.5 hours**

Healthy Relationships (CC)

Participants will learn to identify different types and attributes of relationships children may be a part of in the modern world. They will learn to develop skills to effectively communicate with their children. They will be able to recognize and adapt to boundaries presenting in your children to strengthen relationships. They will learn to keep children safe on the internet. They will learn to support children through changes with friends while encouraging them to venture out and meet new types of people. **1.5 hours**

Self Care: Not a Luxury, but a Necessity (CC)

Participants will learn to define self-care. They will learn to demonstrate simple self-care techniques. They will learn how the brain changes during stress. Participants will be able to demonstrate mindfulness. They will learn to understand the perception can be different among others but that does not make it wrong. **1.0 hour**

Online Safety for Foster Parents (CC)

Participants will learn different social media platforms. They will learn to identify and understand risks foster children face on the internet. Participants will learn what to do and how to help children remain safe on the internet. **0.5 hours**

Washoe Quality Parenting Spotlight Award!

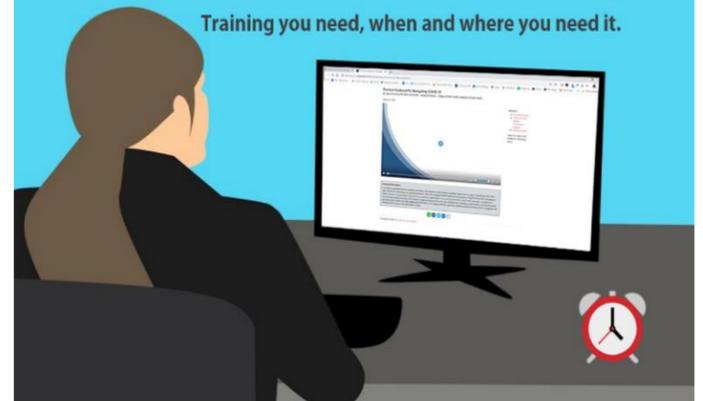
We want to celebrate all team members that touch the lives of children and family in our community and need your help to do so! As you have seen there has been videos going out to resource families and WCHSA staff shining a spotlight on people who are nominated. These nominations can be resource parents, WCHSA staff or any community member we want to hear and shine the spotlight on everyone!

Our mission is to give recognition to every person who is helping children and families. All that has to be done to nominate is to fill out the Quality Parenting Washoe Spotlight Nomination form that can be found on the QPI website (<http://www.qpinevada.org/>). After you fill it out send it to Kylee Spring, QPI Liaison (kspring@washoecounty.us) and she will do the rest of the work. Remember you can nominate resource parents, caregivers, birth parents, WCHSA staff, or community providers.

Let's celebrate together and showcase our amazing community and all the people involved!

Just in Time Training

Training you need, when and where you need it.



Top Tips for Getting a Certificate

- No Fast Forward** (No Fast Forward icon): You will see a box beneath the video where the link to the quiz will be available. But if you fast forward anywhere in the video, the link will not be enabled.
- Avoid Cell Phone** (No Cell Phone icon): You can watch any of the videos on a cell phone. BUT, beware of viewing on a cell phone if you need a certificate. You may be more likely to close the screen or restart the video which will affect your ability to access the link to the quiz.
- 3 Tries And Locked** (3 Tries And Locked icon): You are only allowed 3 attempts to pass the quiz – even if you took the quiz months ago. If you are locked out, we will need to unlock your account before you can try again.
- Download Certificate** (Download icon): Upon passing the quiz, please download (or right click) your certificate before printing or emailing for credit.

We are here to help! We want you to have the best experience possible. If you need assistance (including unlocking your account) email center-support@usf.edu and provide us with your **NAME, TITLE** of the video or quiz, which **STATE** you reside in and the **ISSUE** you are having. We will respond within 24 hours Monday through Friday.

Interested in Adoption?

Madison

11/10/2003

LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

Madison is a fun and bright young woman who loves to be outdoors. She enjoys camping, jumping on trampolines, roller skating, going on family vacations and just hanging out with her friends. She also loves cheerleading and has the trophies to prove it! Madison likes a variety of music including pop, rock, R & B and country. She dreams of going to a live concert one day.

Madison would do best as an only child, with her own bedroom and would love to have pets in her new home. She needs a kind, patient family who is willing to consistently remind her of their unconditional commitment to her.

If you would like to learn more about Madison contact Tawnya Robertson at (775) 785-8659 or troberson@washoecounty.us



Andre'

14-years-old

LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

Andre' is a sweet, well-spoken youth with a great sense of humor. He can be shy when he's first getting to know you, but it doesn't take him long to warm up and show his true "chatty", outgoing self. Andre' likes poetry, art and listen to records, or as he likes to call them, "vinyl's". He is smart and school is important to him. He is currently participating in choir and hopes to get involved in other school activities/clubs such as ROTC.

Overall, Andre' is a typical teen who wants to be able to hang out with his friends and live a typical teen life. Still, he longs for the permanency of a family and is looking for one with pets. Does this sound like you?

If you would like to learn more about Andre', please contact Tawnya Robertson at TRobertson@washoecounty.us

Tristan & Kai

7/2008 & 10/2004

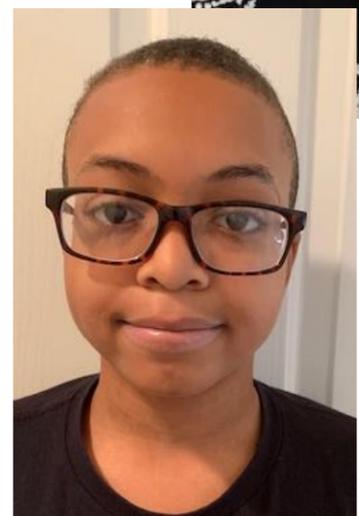
LOCAL FLEX FAMILIES ONLY

Kyndahl "Ky" and Tristan have a "Go big or go home" motto when it comes to being adopted. Either you adopt them both or you don't adopt either! As you might guess this dynamic duo is all about fun and laughter with just the right amount of sarcasm mixed in. They're new family needs to have two parents who are kind and patient with a great sense of humor. Ky will tell you she's got a dark sense of humor, so her new family needs to appreciate this. Ky and Tristan are Christians and want to continue attending church with their new family. Tristan would like to be baptized. These youth are excellent students and recognize the importance of a quality education. Still, they both admit they occasionally need to be redirected.

Not only is Ky fun, she's bright, creative and talented. She loves singing and is actively involved in her school choir. She also enjoys getting lost in a good book like Harry Potter. Ky loves spending time with her foster family learning to create metal art and cooking family meals together. While she is adventurous in the kitchen, don't think you're going to get her to eat brussels sprouts. Ky is an animal lover, but not just any kind of animal. She dreams of owning an albino python, bearded dragon or a frog. She would settle for a snuggly ferret if it was her very own though. Ky aspires to join the air force, then attend college to teach music, orchestra and possibly journalism. Tristan describes himself as an active kid who likes to run and play dodge ball and four square. He loves Legos and considers himself a master builder. He dreams of being a video game designer or engineer. Tristan loves sushi, BBQ and Mexican food, but will not eat tomatoes or oysters. He would also love a pet, and while he likes Narwals he'd settle for something a little tamer, like a German Shepherd. He's hoping for parents who are kind, but who will also be strict and hold him accountable as he recognizes he needs help with this.

If you'd like to learn more about this fun duo please reach out to Tawnya Robertson at

Troberson@washoecounty.us



Welcome our new staff

My name is Amber Hurtado some of you may know me as Amber Davis. I'm a Social worker and have worked for Washoe County since 2013. I've worked in Child Welfare doing both permanency as well as assessment, with part of my experience being with the Child Advocacy Center. I left for a couple years to help the Senior population, but I am excited to be returning as an assessment supervisor. I am a mom to a toddler and a bonus mom to a teenager. I enjoy helping in any capacity and giving back to the community.



My name is Lindsey Klaes, and I am so excited to start my role as the new supervisor over Child Care Licensing! I am a graduate of the University of Nevada and a licensed social worker. I have worked for WCHSA for 4.5 years, with previous roles as an assessment case worker and a licensing worker for our therapeutic foster homes. I have lived in the Reno-Sparks area for most of my life and love that we are in easy driving distance to every type of landscape and outdoor activity. I am married with a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter who keeps me very busy. This summer I am looking forward to spending lots of time outdoors and going on a few vacations – pandemic allowing!

I am looking forward to continuing to promote the health and safety of the children in our community within my new role!

My name is Megan Aguayo. I was born and raised in Sparks and love our beautiful town and community. I graduated from the University of Nevada in 2007 and have been in the Human Services field for over fifteen years. I love the outdoors. You can often find me camping, riding my quad, snowboarding, or hanging out with my dogs. I have two (almost) grown stepdaughters who keep me on my toes. I am very excited to continue my career with Washoe County and look forward to serving children and families in my new role.



Hello! My name is Jessie Cohen, and I am so excited to start my new chapter in child welfare as the second adoption supervisor. I have resided in Reno for over 20 years and originally from Las Vegas. I graduated from UNR with a degree in Social Work in 2005 and completed my internship with WCHSA in the Independent Living unit. I started my career as a permanency worker in 2006 and have been an adoption social worker for the past thirteen years. I am forever grateful to have been a part of the adoption journey for some many children and families! I have had the privilege of finalizing over 270 adoptions! Adoption is a huge passion of mine and I am excited for this new opportunity in adoption leadership! I have been married for thirteen years and have two wonderful children! We are so very busy with sports and activities, but our true passion is camping, hiking and all the things outdoors! We can't wait for all the summer adventures that await us this year!



Reno Rodeo

2021 Reno Rodeo Kids Day FREE Event on June 20th

Cowboy up and join us for Reno Rodeo Kids' Day 2021 on June 20. The FREE event will take place at the Reno Livestock Events Center, Indoor Arena from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. Kid friendly activities of all kinds are offered. The Mutton Bustin' Championship will be happening at Kids' Day as well. Come out, join us and enjoy the western lifestyle. This is a FREE EVENT and no reservations are necessary. Event is subject to cancellation due to COVID. If you would like more information please contact Violet Richards, Kids' Day Chairman at vrrichards@outlook.com

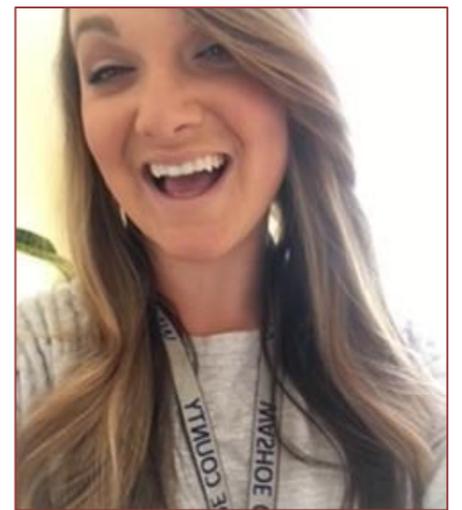


Meet our Family Engagement Center (FEC) Staff



Greetings! My name is Jesse Brown. I am the supervisor of the Family Engagement Center and have been in this position for almost 3 years. In 2018 I was promoted to the supervisor of the Child Care Licensing unit which is something I wanted to do for many years. A month later I found myself helping to cover supervision at the FEC and loved the work, the atmosphere, the staff, and most importantly the families. I have been with the agency since 1999 working primarily with a specialized caseload of children with some of the most significant trauma and mental health backgrounds. I assisted with the creation of several policies and procedures from the Child Commitment process to placement in out of state psychiatric facilities, medication policies and procedures, and others, and then becoming the agency's PLR (Person Legally Responsible for the Psychiatric Care of a Child) from about 2010 to 2018. I am a father to 4, adopting 3 children from WCHSA in 2014/2015 and several fur babies. I love my job and am thrilled to work with the best people/team ever!

My name is Paige and I have been with the FEC and the Human Services Agency for just over 2 years. When I'm not busy putting together spreadsheets, I can often be found in the kitchen cooking up big meals for everyone to enjoy, hosting craft nights or arranging our next family-friendly event. The best part of my job is getting to engage and interact with our families and seeing smiles on everyone's faces. When I'm not at work, I enjoy reading, going on adventures with my dog Ollie, and of course, cooking and eating. I love my involvement at the FEC, and every day I am grateful to be included in the opportunity to help make families stronger. When Paige is not helping the FEC, she supervises our pool of 'Runners' and does a phenomenal job helping to coordinate day to day data tracking for the FEC.



Hello! My name is Betty Sharkey. I moved to Reno from Las Vegas forever ago to attend UNR where I earned my degree in Social Work. I interned for Washoe County HSA in 1992-93 and have worked here almost exclusively ever since. I am the proud mama of a 26yr old nursing school student and 2 rescued fur babies. My volunteer experiences have included the St. Mary's NICU and as a violinist on my church worship team. Although I have worked in many different areas of the Children's Services Division, my Engager role at the Family Engagement Center, where I've been since December 2017, has been one of the most rewarding assignments I've had. Getting to work so closely with caregivers, birth parents, kids, and the most entertaining co-workers ever keeps me coming back each day (and writing new jokes all the time...)

My name is Kin Minor and I am an engager at the Family Engagement Center for Human Services Agency in Washoe County, Nevada. I am a Christian - far from perfect, recklessly loved and simply redeemed. I have been blessed to be surrounded by my beautiful Wife, 3 children, family, friends and co-workers. I had a tough upbringing that helps me with empathy and understanding with the families we work with. I sympathize with their brokenness and serve them without judgement. Athletics opened many doors for me (I was a running back in football) and exposed me to functioning families who believed and filled in the gap for me. I was offered full ride scholarships for all of my education (Sacramento City College and University of Nevada Reno) where I earned an Associates degree and a Bachelors degree. At both higher education establishments, I was a running back in football, and assisted in winning 2 conference championships and many other achievements and awards. Something you may not know about me is: I keep a song in my heart at all times and will burst out into song at any given moment.



Hi! My Name is Ashley Quintero and I have been working for HSA for almost 7 years. My first 4 years was as a 'runner' and the past 3 have been as the primary front desk staff at the Family Engagement Center (FEC). I am married and have 3 children (age 17, 10, and 3) that keep me very busy. In my free time I like to cook, binge Netflix, and get away to go camping. I love working with our foster parents and families, especially the kids! 😊



I began my career at the Kids Kottage in 2004 and fell in love with the opportunity to work with children from stressful and traumatic backgrounds. At the time I, myself, was raising 5 children on my own. I was very blessed to meet my husband in July of 2014 and together we now have 10 kids ranging in age from 15 to 28. In addition, we have 5 grandchildren (with 2 more on the way). I started with Washoe County Human Services in 2016 as an Office Assistant II with the legal/word processing unit and in 2017 when the Family Engagement Center opened I was able to move over as one of the first staff to open the program/building, being promoted to a Human Services Support Specialist (HSSS). This has been a wonderful opportunity to work with birth and foster/resource parents in addition to the children in WCHSA care. In 2019 I was promoted to a Sr. HSSS and have been given an additional assignment of working with families in the Safe Babies Court program. I love everyone that I work with and together, we have made the FEC what it is today. I continue to feel blessed to be where I am and work with an amazing group of people (staff and families included).

Hello! My name is Mayra Quiroz and as a native Nevadan, I was born and raised right here in Reno. Boring huh? I am married and a mother to three children and a grandma to a furry four-legged dog by the name of Rocco. I have been working with Washoe County for 15 years and I was one of the first employees here at the Family Engagement Center. In my spare time you can find me at Target or walking around the Sparks Marina which I do regularly on my lunch. I love working with families and foster parents here at the FEC and learn something new every day from birth and resource parents... and of course the kids too. I love my job, my family and Target. Did I mention that I love Target? Happy Spring!



My name is Patty Daniel and I have been with HSA for the past 18 months with the first year being a Human Services Support Specialist (HSSS) at the women's Crossroads program. I am working on my Social Work degree (if I can conquer math 😊), and also worked with vulnerable adults for several years at the NNAMHS campus. In addition, I have had the pleasure of fostering over 225 children for Washoe county over the past 24 years. I have a passion to help others achieve their best and I love to watch and encourage success. I am new to the FEC and am excited to work with an amazing team and clientele, who focus on the positive! I am looking forward to watching the families I serve reach success in their lives! I consider it an huge honor to work with the families at FEC and do not take it lightly. I look forward to meeting and working with you all.



Hi, my name is Tim Hurst. I have worked with Washoe County HSA for the past 7 years – most of this time as a 'runner'. Recently, I was asked to come over to the Family Engagement Center (FEC) to help at the front desk. I enjoy helping make things run smoothly so that families get the most out of their visits. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family, playing games, watching movies, doing outdoor activities, cooking, and making electronic music.



Hi! My name is Olivia Lynch. I was born and raised in the bay area and moved to Reno in my 20's with my family. I have 2 amazing kiddos, who keep me on my toes. I've worked for Washoe County for 7 years, and I love being able to serve my community for a living. I look forward to working with my families, and colleagues daily.

Hi, my name is Rhonda Walker. I started my career with WCHSA in 2000 as a 'runner' and in 2003 was promoted to an Office Support Specialist where I provided clerical support throughout many program areas. In 2019 I was asked to come to the Family Engagement Center (FEC) to aid with the clothing closet (boutique), donation acceptance/tracking, Christmas functions, and assist with the Pennington Grant facilitation. Over the years, I have chaired and spearheaded numerous campaigns within the agency (including United Way, Wear Red Day for the American Heart Association, and Wear Pink Day for Susan G. Komen). I am a breast cancer Survivor, and In 2009, after one of my family members suffered a brutal attack and was killed, I became a Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) volunteer. I am a former Board Member for the Alliance for Victims Rights, Susan G. Komen, and Washoe County Employee Association. For many years, I was Co-Chair for Hot August Nights (I still have the 1968 Mustang Fastback I purchased on my 19th birthday)! My husband Jerry (a 28-year Washoe County Tech Services employee) has a numbered Ford Mustang Bullitt. Every two years we enjoy a two-week transatlantic Disney Cruise and over the past 20 years we have sponsored a balloon in the Great Reno Balloon Race where we donate rides to a charitable organization.



Washoe County School District

The District has extended the deadline to register for summer school to Friday, May 7 by midnight.

The summer school program is open for all WCSD students to provide extra academic support to prepare for the next school year. Summer school is also an excellent opportunity for students who have engaged through distance learning to transition to in-person learning and obtain additional social and emotional support to return to their schools.

2021 Summer School

- Free to all K through 12-grade WCSD students
- Four consecutive weeks, starting on June 22 through July 15
- Each week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for 5.5 hours.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided, as well as transportation for students within a bus zone.
- Elementary and middle school students will get additional help with math, reading, and language arts in addition to fun and enriching activities.
- High School students will access specific programs at their school for credit recovery and accrual.
- To sign up for students currently attending kindergarten through 8th grade, families need to complete the [online summer school registration](#).
- School sites are still being confirmed. Check with your school for more information.
- Additional updated information at www.washoeschools.net/summerschool

QPI KEYWORD

Person Legally Responsible (PLR)

The Person Legally Responsible for the psychiatric care of a child. The PLR is solely responsible for making decisions related to the psychiatric care of a child, including consenting for such care and authorizing the administration of psychotropic medications.

ONLY a PLR can:

1. Make decisions about which psychiatrist is assigned to a child and specifically provide consent for that physician to see the child.
2. Schedule / reschedule / cancel psychiatric appointments for a child, except in an emergency situation; and
3. Consent to psychotropic medications.

Care Provider Responsibilities:

- A. The care provider will dispense psychotropic medications to the child as directed on the [Psychotropic Medication Record and Informed Consent \(HSACS 546\)](#) and will log this on the [Prescription Medication Administration Log \(HSACS 590\)](#).
- B. Provide copies of the [Prescription Medication Administration Log \(HSACS 590\)](#) to the PLR Unit at least monthly
- C. Monitor the child for any adverse reactions and immediately seek medical attention when a child has a severe adverse reaction. Notify the PLR and case worker immediately when the child experiences any adverse reactions to a medication.
- D. Store all prescription and non-prescription medication in a locked place that is inaccessible to children. Medications, such as inhalers and Epi-pens, that must be kept with the child at all times (pursuant to the instructions of a physician) are exempt from this requirement.



Have a Heart Washoe is a website that has tons of information. There is information about the agency, programs, and children still looking for their forever home. Please check it out and refer your friends and family to jump over to the site to learn about how you can help our kids through mentoring, fostering, and adoption.

HaveaHeartWashoe.com

Who do you know?

Do you know someone who might not be ready to foster but may be willing to provide an occasional, short-term Safe Place bed for a youth in crisis? If interested in learning more, please email Kylee Spring. kspring@washoecounty.us



What is it?

Ourpact is a parental control app that allows the parent to manage screen time, track their children, block, and allow access to any app; even texting, get alerts when their kids arrive and leave home, school, or anywhere, and allows for a screenshot view into their child's online activity. The app is FREE.

More about the App

- The App works for both android and I phone users.
- The free version allows access to one device but can be updated to premium for \$6.99 a month.

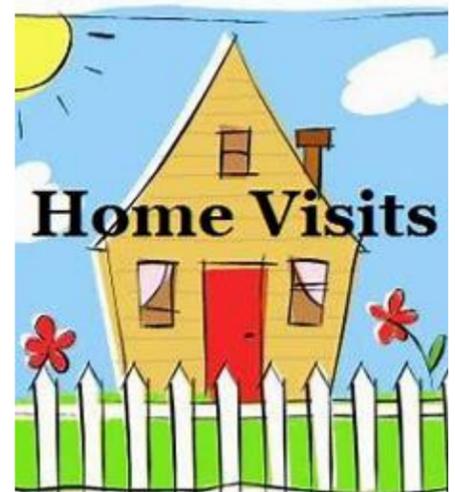


ATTENTION

Washoe County Case Workers and Licensing Personnel may conduct a home visit of a licensed foster home at any point, either scheduled or unannounced. Please be aware that the expectation during a home visit by any WCHSA staff is that all areas of the home are accessible, including but not limited to living spaces, bathrooms, and all bedrooms, including those of foster children, foster parents, biological children, boarders, and direct care staff. Although there may be areas of the home that are restricted from foster children, the entirety of the home should be available for inspection to confirm safe environments and regulation compliance.

This expectation is per **NAC 424.130 Section 3**, "A licensing authority representative shall inspect the entirety of each foster home and any attached property, including, without limitation, areas of the foster home and property that are not accessible to children, for safety. The licensing authority representative may take notes and photographs during the inspection." and per **NAC 424.355**, "A foster home should be reasonably accessible to ...visits from agency staff."

Please contact your licensing worker for questions or clarification. If you are unaware of who your licensing worker is please contact Kylee Spring kspring@washoecounty.us



Spot to Share

The Moorehead Family

"Joy and Larry Moorehead have been a huge asset to Washoe County for many years. They have shown great compassion to caring for every child who has come through their front door, whether it was for a short term, or years. The Moorehead family exemplifies the spirit of QPI in that they incorporate bio parents and family into the daily care of the child, offer education to parents whose child(ren) may have special medical and health needs, and invite the families to join in on holiday traditions. I have witnessed times that they are one of the biggest advocates for parents with reunification providing them positive encouragement during the reunification process. They are well respected among the community of professionals they have interacted with. They work to make every person they interact with feel valued and leaving with a smile. Their years of service to Washoe County have been remarkable. They will be very missed as they move into retiring, but we are so grateful for all they have done to make a difference in the lives of those in this community."



REMINDER: If you have a story to share for the next newsletter please contact Kylee Spring (kspring@washoecounty.us)

Respite

Some good news! Alternative Care (Respite) funding has been approved for the next fiscal year July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021. This means each foster home has 7 days to use during that timeframe. Please note that if you have unused days from this fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, unfortunately those days do not carry over.

Please read the attachments on this email for further details on paid alternative care.

Currently, foster families are able to utilize this funding to take foster children on a family vacation as a family unit as long as approved by the child's caseworker.

When submitting your request forms please copy and paste the following e-mail address:

HSA-RespiteRequests@washoecounty.us instead of typing in the address yourself. The address is very case sensitive, and your request will not go through if the address is not entered exactly as shown. If you submit a paid alternative care request form and do not have a response within 4 business days, please reach out as that may indicate your request was not received. If you have questions, please contact Heather Wenker hwenger@washoecounty.us





WASHOE COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

350 S. CENTER STREET
RENO, NEVADA 89501-2103
PHONE: (775) 337-4470
FAX: (775) 337-4495

Dear Foster Parent:

We are excited to announce that WCHSA has received alternative care funding through June 30, 2021! Each family* is eligible for **7 days of paid alternative care** per fiscal year. The ongoing availability of this reimbursement program will be dependent on funds being available each year. Please note that with the addition of this funding, KK respite will be for emergencies only based on availability, agency discretion, and approval.

Alternative care gives parents and children the chance to have short periods of time apart in which they can reset and recharge. It enhances the quality of care for the child, gives parents a deserved and necessary break, and ensures healthy and stable placements for all children by preventing parental exhaustion and burnout. Some parents also find that taking family vacations together is a means to recharge as a family. Therefore, alternative care funds may also be utilized to provide funding to include the foster children on a family vacation. WCHSA strongly discourages the use of alternative care for foster children so that families can take vacation without the foster children.

Requirements:

- **Prior approval** – The *WCHSA Paid Alternative Care Request Form* must be submitted no later than one week in advance.
- Use of an approved licensed foster parent, cleared direct care staff, babysitter, or other approved care provider to provide the alternative care. Enhanced/SFC+ are required to use the same level provider (ex. SFC+ to use SFC+ provider). Please review the attached Alternative Care Policy.
- Paid alternative care days can be taken in increments from one day to seven days. WCHSA will track number of days used, so contact Victoria Bowers to check your remaining balance.
- Paid alternative care days not taken by June 30, 2020 are not carried over and will be forfeited.

Payment:

- Reimbursement will be \$30/day, per child (regardless of "normal daily rate") for all providers when taking a child/children on a family vacation. For paid alternative care, all families will be paid at a rate of \$30 per day per child with the exception of children placed in Specialized Foster Homes:
 1. **Will be paid to the licensed foster parent performing the care** upon confirmation that the care was provided. In the case of other approved care providers, reimbursement will be paid to the foster parent requesting the care as they are expected to pay their care provider directly.
 2. Paid directly to the family if utilizing funds for a family vacation.
- The attached WCHSA Paid Alternate Care Request form must be submitted to take advantage of the respite reimbursement.

Use of alternative care beyond the seven days is allowed; however, it is the responsibility of the foster parent requesting care to pay the care provider directly. If you need assistance locating a care provider or have other questions about paid alternate care, please contact Victoria Bower at 337-4484.

*Homes licensed for adoption only are, unfortunately, not eligible for this program.

The attached *WCHSA Paid Alternative Care Request Form* must be completed and emailed to HSA-RespiteRequests@washoecounty.us or a hard copy hand delivered to the 1st floor front desk at 350 S. Center Street.

 INTEGRITY

 EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
350 S. CENTER STREET, RENO, NV 89501

 QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICE



WASHOE COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

350 S. CENTER STREET
RENO, NEVADA 89501-2103
PHONE: (775) 337-4470
FAX: (775) 337-4495

Date: _____

I, _____, am applying for alternate care funds to be
(foster parent)

paid to _____ to care for the following foster children:
(identified care provider or list self if utilizing funds towards a family vacation)

_____ (children's names, dates of birth, and caseworker)

for the following days:
_____ (date) to _____ (date) for a total of _____ days.
(#)

In selecting the care provider, I have considered the unique needs and behaviors of each child and have communicated the supervision requirements to maintain child safety. All medical, dental, and therapeutic appointments, as well as visitation and school transportation, have been arranged and covered. I have discussed these arrangements with the child's caseworker and have verified the care provider is in good standing with licensing and/or the child's caseworker and able to accommodate the additional children.

Thank you,

Foster Parent Signature

**** FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 1 WEEK BEFORE ALTERNATIVE CARE.**
Email to: HSA-RespiteRequests@washoecounty.us

**** IF USING MORE THAN ONE CARE PROVIDER, PLEASE USE SEPARATE FORMS**

OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved Denied (explain) _____

Confirmed care performed _____

 INTEGRITY

 EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
350 S. CENTER STREET, RENO, NV 89501
WWW.WASHOECOUNTY.US

 QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICE

Resources

RENO VOLLEYBALL CLUB

The Reno Volleyball Club is willing to offer discounts to children and youth in WCHSA foster care who would like to play volleyball. For more information, visit their website or contact Cindy Lawrence at 775-313-4124 or RenoVBC@aol.com.

SOCCKER SPROUTS

The Reno Sportsdome is offering discounts to foster youth who have an interest in soccer! For more information contact Shannon at sprouts@renodome.com.

RAISE THE FUTURE

Offers several webinar options on their website for families regarding adoption and foster care topics. View their main [Classes and Training](#) page as well as their [Upcoming Classes](#). In addition, they also have a free lending library. They offer a wide variety of books with topics ranging from; exposure, grief & trauma healing, mental illness, sexual abuse, special needs adoption, books for children and more. Visit their website above or call 1-800-451-5246 to learn how easy it is to borrow and return.

NEVADA EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY (NEATS)

If you're interested in learning more about NEATS and how their services can help you or a youth in your home visit their website or call Laurie at 750-9823.

HEAD START

Has openings! The Community Services Agency (Head Start, State Pre-K and Early Head Start) would love to talk to you if you're interested in early education for your 0-3 or 3-5-year-old. Contact Megan Jack at (775) 786-6023 ext. 207 or mjack@csareno.org.

BIGGEST LITTLE BABY

Previously the Nurturing Nest, Biggest Little Baby is a birth and parenting community that offers a variety of free classes from pregnancy and childbirth to yoga. They also offer free weekly circles of support, toddler playgroups and breast-feeding circle to mention just a few.

A CHILD'S WORLD

Offers a community support group for parents of children with attachment or trauma issues. Receive one hour of training credit per group attended. Groups are the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30p.m. (excluding December). **Please RSVP** to Sharon Willams at least 1 day in advance at 322-4650 or Sharonacwoffice@att.net.

WANDA'S BABY CLOSET

Have you ever heard of Casa de Vida? They're a great resource for our teen moms. What you may not be aware of is Wanda's Baby Closet who works in collaboration with Casa de Vida providing free baby clothes and supplies to our bio and foster parents. For information on how to access this amazing resource or to help your bio parent call (775) 329-3211.

KIWANIS CLUB

Has great bikes and accessories available at discounted prices! Contact them at (775) 337-1717 or check out their website above.

FREE TUTORING!

If your youth needs tutoring, please reach out to [Joseph](#) at Sierra Association of Foster Families (SAFF). As a reminder, SAFF can tutor students of all ages who are foster, adopted and/or have reunified.

Nevada 211 YOUTH APP

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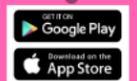
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NEVADA 211 YOUTH APP

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A TUS DEDOS 24/7

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jóvenes Nevada 211
hoy!



- Actividades y campamentos
- Asesoramiento
- Líneas directas de crisis
- Recursos de equidad
- Alimentos de emergencia
- Refugio de emergencia
- Cuidado de la salud
- Servicios LGBTQ
- SafeVoice
- Grupos de apoyo
- Empleo juvenil



¡Y mucho más!

