

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!



Below is a touching story demonstrating the heart of Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) and Foster Relationship through Visitation (FVR)

The case involves a newborn placed due to the birth parent's years-long struggle with addiction, homelessness, and multiple prior removals without reunification. Within 3 visits and lots of direct communication between the resource family and the birth family, the birth parent shared with the resource parent that her most prominent trigger to use is her unresolved grief over a prior child who had died in care in another state.

The resource parent suggested they could help the birth parent design a memorial and go through it together to help the birth parent say, "goodbye," as a first step on the path to healing toward reunification.

The resource parent has also provided ongoing reassurance to the birth parent that they are in this together, that they are a "family now" and can overcome together to provide what's best for the child, whatever that needs to look like. The resource parent told the birth parent, "When you're up, we're up. When you're down, we're down to help you back up."

Please check out our QPI website ([QPI Nevada Just in Time Training | 2 Column with Sidebar Nav on Left](#)) where you can find videos of our local resource and birth parents talking about reunification as well as other resources!

If you have a reunification story or have heard a reunification story, please email it to Kylee Spring kspring@washoecounty.us. We want to high light these stories and will be sending them out to all our resource parents and HSA workers all month long!

Building relationships not only helps the birth parent but it also helps the children involved. Thank you, resource families for everything you do to help the children and families in our community!

Family Reunification

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

Do not miss Bridges out of Poverty Live!

Dates will be emails out once set.

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.

MPolley@washoecounty.us

BRIDGES
out of
POVERTY



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@washoeounty.us to RSVP
- **Adoptive Parent Therapeutic Support Group:** For pre- & Post-Adoptive Families. **Wednesday 5-6** vis Zoom. Please contact jcasarez@washoeounty.us or danderson@washoeounty.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@washoeounty.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@washoeounty.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.

New Training updates:

QPI WEBSITE:

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

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

How to Build A Better World, One Child At A Time

Successful futures for our children are directly tied to their healthy development as human beings. One way to approach the vast topic of positive youth development is through the framework of the “40 Developmental Assets.” Join us for an in-depth discussion about how the 40 Developmental Assets can be a powerful tool to help caregivers support young people to become caring, responsible adults. This dynamic presentation will assist participants in the creating of strategies for the child welfare professional to partner with caregivers to support the 40 Developmental Assets in their daily involvement with children. These strategies will support the caregivers to provide a nurturing home environment where their children will thrive physically, emotionally, and cognitively. *1.0 Hours*

Lifebook Training

Foster children need a sense of value and a way to maintain connections while in foster care. Lifebook’s document a child’s journey through foster care. This training helps to define what a Lifebook is for foster children. It discusses the importance of a Lifebook. The training teaches participants options for pages to work on with the child. It reviews the parameters and expectations of a Lifebook. Lifebook’s can prepare a child for reunification and/or adoption. The training helps to engage a child with the book. *1.0 hour*

Affirming Care of LBGTQIA+ Youth (CC)

In this presentation you will learn about child development and gender and orientation. LGBTQ+ youth are over-represented in the child welfare system, and this presentation explains that affirmation can be life changing for youth. You will learn about the psychological evaluation process, puberty blockers and hormone therapies, and the importance of seeking help from affirming professionals. *0.5 Hours*

Understanding & Supporting Children with Oppositional Defiant Disorder

Is your child angry and irritable? Vindictive? Defiant? Our presenters explain the criteria for an ODD diagnosis, and several parenting strategies you can use to help with these behaviors. *0.25 hours*

Regulation for Preservation

This brief training defines dysregulation and provides examples of what dysregulation could look like for some children. The training also touches on brain functioning and the differences between “old brain” and “new brain” responses to dysregulation. Techniques on how to identify dysregulation for children and how to help children identify their own dysregulation, as well as techniques on how to encourage regulation when a child is triggered are also discussed. *0.25 hours*

Managing Children’s Emotions & Behaviors

Connections and relationships are foundational to help children manage their emotions and behavior. Our presenters offer several techniques to connect with children and build relationships that will sustain challenges. *0.25 hours.*

Transitioning for success

Whether big or small transitions, it is important to understand how to help our children. Our presenters give helpful techniques to use to honor our children and help them develop the skills they need to successfully manage transitions. *0.25 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*

Interested in Adoption?

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

TRobertson@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

Jessica

16-years-old

LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

Jessica is an individual in the best sense of the term, and a remarkable self-advocate. Initially she can be shy and her trust must be earned. When she is comfortable, Jessica is outgoing and insightful beyond her chronological age. Jessica has a good sense of humor and appreciates that quality in others. Jessica is hopeful to meet a family who will embrace her uniqueness, and will benefit from a home where she is the only child to open and flexible parent/s.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mitch Matthews, LSW mmatthews@washoecounty.us



Washoe County School District

Summer Programming & School Prep 2021

Summer 2021 Prep courses – for 7th, 8th and 9th Click [here](#) for more info!

Summer School through WCSD – most deadlines have passed, but please reach out to the specific school for clarification, per info sent previously. (see attached)

Students with Special Needs – WCSD ESY Programming – See info below re. summer school for our kids with IEPs. This is info sent out to all families and circumstances vary depending on the student's specific disability and resources available.

Email fm. WCSD to all parents:

We are reaching out to provide **updates** regarding our WCSD Extended School Year (ESY) program for 2021. We are excited to have the opportunity to have our ESY program align with summer school sessions that will also be happening at our schools throughout the district! Due to this new opportunity, our ESY schedule has changed slightly to better align with district offered programs. Below please find information regarding ESY program changes:

- The ESY session will run for 3 days a week on **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday** from 6/22 – 7/16. Please note, students will no longer attend Mondays and Fridays.
- Students will attend these 3 days for a full day: 5.5 hours.
- Start times will vary based on grade/location: times to be determined
- Transportation will be provided for any students requiring the bus.
- Breakfast/lunch will be provided on site.
- Students in our specialized programs (CLS, Strategies, SIP) will attend ESY for **one extra day, July 16th from 8:30 – 12:30.**
- Resource students who attend *summer school* programming and have ESY in their IEP will receive instructional support from a Resource Teacher based on IEP service minutes.
- Early Childhood students will be attending for a 2-week session (6/22 - 7/2), **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**, for a full day.
- The purpose of ESY is to continue to address progress on IEP goals and objectives.



Community Summer Programming

- **Boys & Girls Clubs** - See their webpage at <https://bgctm.org/programs/summer-camps/> Cost \$40 per week. Subsidies/scholarships available.
- **Kings Row Community Life Center** – see website <https://www.kingsrowclc.org/> Cost \$185 per week. This facility also provides excellent distance learning and tutoring support throughout the summer months!
- **City of Reno Parks & Rec.** – All programs are full at this time, but you can put your name on the waiting list! Link to webpage [click here!](#)
- **City of Sparks Parks & Rec.** – Most programming is full. Please call 775-353-2376 for more info. and/or to be added to the waiting list. Main website [click here](#). Online brochure for all activities [click here](#).
- **Kids University** through UNR– weekly specialty camps based on age and topic. Pretty pricy, but very valuable. [Click here](#) for more info.
- **Camp Discovery** through the Discovery Museum – weekly specialty camps based on age and topic. Limited availability [Click here](#) for more info!

Funding for Summer programming: For youth ages 14+ there is Chaffee funding available so check with your sup. Also, many youth have received stimulus funds that can help offset the costs.. Check with your supervisor and do not hesitate to reach out to me as well kpruitt@washoecounty.us !

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 Licensing Staff!

My name is Melissa Coates. I am the current Foster Care Licensing and Investigations Supervisor. I have worked for the county for 13 years in several different areas including assessment and permanency. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. We are here to support our Foster Families and appreciate all you do for the children in our community.

And don't forget our Foster Care Licensing staff are here to guide you through the licensing and renewal processes as well as provide retention support, collaboration with other agency team members and service referrals. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are all here to support you all!



Hello everyone! My name is Sandra Espino, I grew up in Ventura and Santa Barbara County in California. I attended Cal State University Northridge and graduated with a degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Social Welfare and a Master in Public Administration. I have been in child welfare since 2006. I worked at LA County DCFS for almost 8 years before joining Washoe County Human Services Agency. Here at WCHSA, I was an assessment worker for 4 years before joining the Foster Care Licensing team. I love working with my resource families and just being there to support and provide any guidance. I love to learn about QPI as I also believe that every child deserves excellent parenting no matter what situation they are in. I married my best friend in 2010 and we have two beautiful little humans. As a family we enjoy the outdoors- camping, hiking, gardening, and fishing. We enjoy spending time with our family and friends and love to have them over for dinner.

CASELOAD ZIP CODES: All Spanish Speaking Homes, 89439, 89441, 89503, 89523, 89519

Hello! My name is Codi Soap and I have worked in foster care licensing with WCHSA for 13 years. Prior to that, I worked at the Children's Cabinet. Since high school, I knew I wanted to work with children and families, and I graduated from UNR with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. I will forever be grateful that my path led me to foster care licensing. I enjoy forming partnerships with all my foster parents and seeing them provide supportive care to the children. Being able to see foster parents and the agency have an opportunity to support each other and the children through traumas together is a very powerful thing. I strive to be very compassionate, caring, organized, and I love to help and support others both in my personal and professional life. I have immense respect for foster parents and their motivation to continue to care for children in foster care is admirable. I grew up in a small little country town in Eastern Nevada (population just under 4,000) which I credit for keeping me humble. I am very family oriented, and my family is most important to me. I have two sisters—one is a twin! - and one seven years younger. I have been happily married to my husband for 14 years and I have three children: my angel baby in heaven, and my daughter (12) and son (8). My number one item on my bucket list would be to go to Alaska and see the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). For fun, I like to play softball, spend time with family and I enjoy watching my kids play multiple sports. In my spare time, when I can find it, I love to read and scrapbook.

CASELOAD ZIP CODES: 89431, 89433, 89508, 89512, 89704, 89506 (North of Stead Blvd; Cold Springs; Bordertown; Silber Knolls)

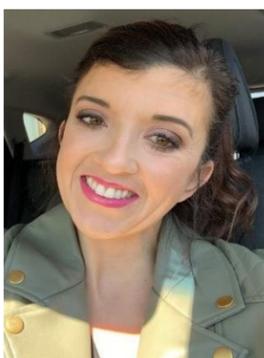
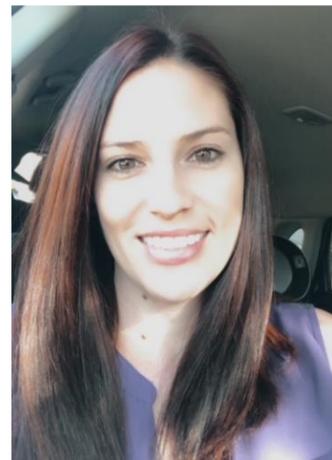


Hi! My Name is Barbara Jaime. I grew up in Old South West Reno and graduated from UNR. I began my Public Employee journey at the Nevada State Welfare Office where I started in 2002. Five years later I came over to WCHSA as a CPS Case Manager in Permanency. I then transferred into the licensing department where I have been since 2010. My mother, father and twin sister all reside in Reno, and I am very close to them. I live with my boyfriend Rob along with our two dogs and two cats. In my downtime I enjoy snowboarding, going to Lake Tahoe, floating the Truckee River, spending time with our dogs, exercising at the gym or jogging outside, binge watching shows on Netflix and hanging out with friends and family. It is a pleasure working with all of our foster parents as a licensing worker and I am thankful for such a strong licensing team to work with.

CASELOAD ZIP CODES: 89509, 89436, 89506 (South of Stead Blvd; Panther Valley; Golden Valley; Lemmon Valley)

Hey there! My name is Jessica Shepherd. I am the proud mother on an adorable toddler who keeps me on my toes. have been with Washoe County Children's Services for nine years. I worked as a case worker for families and foster youth for eight years prior to transferring to foster care licensing. During that time, I spent four years working directly with teens. I can tell you that I have a passion for working with teens and came to licensing to help encourage resource parents to consider taking them into their homes while offering support and guidance to those willing to take the plunge. 😊 While teens can be a challenge at times, I promise they are worth it! If any of you, have it in your hearts to consider inviting them into your home and accepting them as part of your family, please let your licensing worker know. We would love to answer any questions you have. Additionally, I hope you all are enjoying the warm weather and getting back to some level of "normalcy." I know this past year has been a doozy and cannot thank you all enough for hanging in there with us through the ever-changing days/weeks/months. You are truly heroes, and we could not protect this community's children without you! You ROCK!

CASELOAD ZIP CODES: 89434, 89450, 89451, 89502, 89521, 89706, 89511, 89510, 89501



Hi there! My name is Anastasia Cooper. I have been a social worker at Washoe County Human Services Agency for 12 years, working both investigations and permanency cases. In May, I became a part of the licensing team, and I am really excited to work with foster parents in a different way. In my time away from the office, I enjoy spending time with my husband and 8-year-old son.

CASELOAD ZIP CODES: All Specialized Foster and Enhanced Homes

ATTENTION



Recalled 4-in-1 Rock 'n Glide Soother (Glider Mode)

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – Recall with Health Canada

Release Date: June 4, 2021

Release Number: 21-147

Fisher-Price Recalls 4-in-1 Rock 'n Glide Soothers After Four Infant Deaths; 2-in-1 Soothe 'n Play Gliders Also Recalled Parents and Caregivers Urged to Stop Use Because of Suffocation Risk

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2021/Fisher-Price-Recalls-4-in-1-Rock-n-Glide-Soothers-After-Four-Infant-Deaths-2-in-1-Soothe-n-Play-Gliders-Also-Recalled>

Name of Product: Fisher-Price 4-in-1 Rock 'n Glide Soothers and 2-in-1 Soothe 'n Play Gliders

Hazard: Infants who are placed unrestrained in the product and later found on their stomach are at risk of suffocation.

Remedy: Refund

Incidents/Injuries: Four infant deaths have occurred in the 4-in-1 Rock 'n Glide Soothers. No deaths have occurred in the 2-in-1 Soothe 'n Play Gliders.

Consumer Contact: Fisher-Price online at www.service.mattel.com, and click on "Recall & Safety Alerts," or toll-free at 855-853-6224 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday for more information.

Washington, D.C. -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Fisher-Price are announcing the recalls of the Fisher-Price 4-in-1 Rock 'n Glide Soothers and 2-in-1 Soothe 'n Play Gliders. There have been reports of four infant deaths in the 4-in-1 Rock 'n Glide Soother. The infants were reportedly placed on their backs unrestrained in the product and later found on their stomachs. These incidents occurred between April 2019 and February 2020. The fatalities were a 4-month-old from Missouri, a 2-month old from Nevada, a 2-month old from Michigan and an 11-week old from Colorado. There have been no fatalities in the 2-in-1 Soothe 'n Play Gliders.

"These types of incidents are heart-breaking," said Acting Chairman Robert Adler. "Loving parents put their babies in these products never expecting a tragedy. Inclined products, such as gliders, soothers, rockers and swings are not safe for infant sleep, due to the risk of suffocation."

"There is nothing more important to Fisher-Price than the safety of our products and the trust that families put in us," said Chuck Scothorn, General Manager of Fisher-Price. "These incidents are indeed heart-breaking. We are committed to educating parents and caregivers on the safe use of all of our products, including the importance of following all warnings and instructions to ensure the health and safety of babies and children."

This recall involves CHP56, CHP55 and CBT81 4-in-1 Rock 'n Glide Soothers. This recall also involves the GDD28, GDD39, GDD41, GGW85, GNX43, GVG43, HBD26 and HBD27 of the 2-in-1 Soothe 'n Play Gliders. HBT17 is sold in Canada only. The products have two use modes: A powered glider seat and an infant rocker. In both modes, the product can move in a head-to-toe or side-to-side motion. The model number is located on the underside of the base. Approximately 120,000 4-in-1 Rock 'n Glide Soothers and 55,000 2-in-1 Soothe 'n Play Gliders were sold at juvenile product stores and mass merchandisers nationwide and online, including Walmart and Target stores and Amazon.com. The 4-in-1 Rock 'n Glide Soothers were sold from January 2014 through December 2020, for about \$108. The 2-in-1 Soothe 'n Play Gliders were sold from November 2018 through May 2021, for about \$125. Approximately 25,000 4-in-1 Rock 'n Glide Soothers and approximately 27,000 2-in-1 Soothe 'n Play Gliders were also distributed in Canada.

Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled products and contact Fisher-Price for a refund. To obtain a refund, consumers should visit Fisher-Price online at www.service.mattel.com, and click on "Recall & Safety Alerts," or call toll-free at 855-853-6224 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.

CPSC continues to emphasize that the best place for a baby to sleep is on a firm, flat surface in a crib, bassinet or play yard. Parents and caregivers should never add blankets, pillows or other items to an infant's sleeping environment. Babies should always be placed to sleep on their backs.

Note: Health Canada's press release is at: <https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2021/75741r-eng.php>

About the U.S. CPSC

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death associated with the use of thousands of types of consumer products. Deaths, injuries, and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$1 trillion annually. CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products has contributed to a decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 40 years.

Federal law bars any person from selling products subject to a publicly announced voluntary recall by a manufacturer or a mandatory recall ordered by the Commission.

For lifesaving information:

- Visit CPSC.gov.
- Sign up to receive our [e-mail alerts](#).
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), Instagram [@USCPSC](#) and Twitter [@USCPSC](#).
- Report a dangerous product or a product-related injury on www.SaferProducts.gov.
- Call CPSC's Hotline at 800-638-2772 (TTY 301-595-7054).
- Contact CPSC's Office of Communications at 301-504-7908.

Visit our blog, OnSafety at <http://onsafety.cpsc.gov>

Get information about free product safety resources, from our Neighborhood Safety Network at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Neighborhood-Safety-Network/NSN-Signup-Form>

See our videos on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/uscpsc>

Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/USCPSC>

See our photos on Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/uscpsc>

This message is from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (<https://www.cpsc.gov>), an independent federal regulatory agency, located at 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814 Toll-free hotline: (800) 638-2772

Report an Unsafe Product: www.SaferProducts.gov

Family Engagement Center (FEC) Resources

Accessing new clothing, diapers, shoes, etc. for kiddos coming into care is difficult for most resource families to do at the 'drop of a hat'. I am happy to announce that with 'leftover' monies from our 2020 Pennington Foundation grant, the FEC was able to purchase a large amount of new clothing items and diapers for kiddos. At this time, however, the items purchased are ONLY for NEW kids coming into care. If you receive a new placement, give the FEC a call (775-352-3230) or stop by (905 E. Prater Way in Sparks) to gather a few of the following items for kiddos 0-18:

- Diapers/wipes (including pull-ups, goodnites, etc.)
- Shoes
- Socks
- Underwear
- Pajamas
- Shorts and T-shirts.
- Bathing suits
- Hygiene items
- Etc.

In addition, for any foster home that has African American children, we have a large **supply of ethnic hair care products** just for them.'



QPI KEYWORD

Reunification

Reunification is when a child(ren) whom have been separated from their birth parent(s) and is placed into foster care is able to return to their birth parent(s) home.

When a foster parent supports family reunification through a positive relationship with birth parents/family members, which includes mentoring and supporting visitation, achievement of reunification happens more often. The Agency expects that any foster parent who accepts the responsibility of caring for a child will facilitate visits between the biological parent and/or relative and the foster child and will engage in a positive co-parenting relationship with birth families.



We are updating our Have a Heart website! 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. Once complete 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.

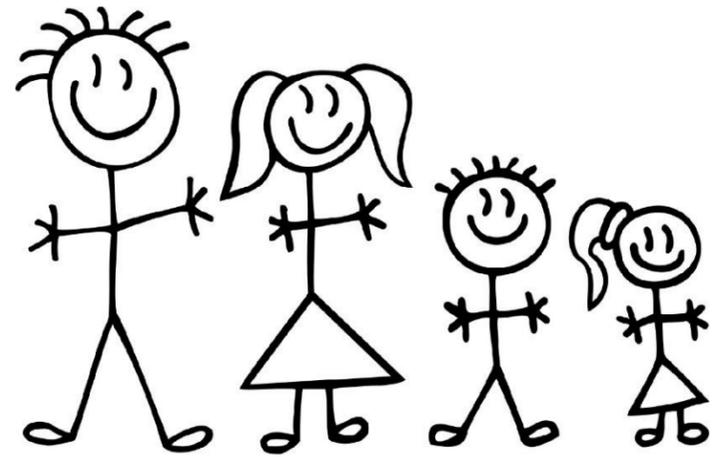
Who do you know?

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



Spot to Share

Anthony and Lucia Young. They are the relative resource parents for their 5 nieces and nephews. They have given up so much and changed their household so much to accommodate the children and their needs. They have been amazing in advocating for the children's needs. We are in the process of finding a forever home for the children and they have stepped up to the plate to help interview the families and asking critical questions. As hard as it is, they are rock stars!



You can do this

I have been working with **Janie Broliar** who has a kiddo of mine in foster care and she has been absolutely wonderful. She has been so encouraging to the bio mom, responsive to me, and communicative with everyone involved. The bio mom loves her and feels very comfortable with her.

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 go to the QPI Website to find the attached items.

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 QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICE
 350 S. CENTER STREET, RENO, NV 89501

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 QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICE
 350 S. CENTER STREET, RENO, NV 89501
 WWW.WASHOECOUNTY.NV.GOV



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

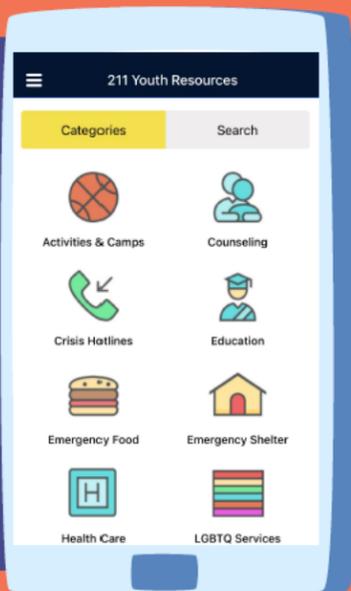
Has great bikes and accessories available at discounted prices! Contact them at (775) 337-1717 or check out their website above.

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

Ages 12 to 19
Easy
Fast
Confidential



SEARCH FOR LOCAL RESOURCES
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS 24/7

DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY



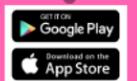
Find help 24/7 by dialing 2-1-1
texting 898-211 or
visiting www.nevada211.org

NEVADA 211 YOUTH APP

BÚSQUEDA DE RECURSOS LOCALES

A TUS DEDOS 24/7

¡descargue su aplicación para 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!

