

# NEWSLETTER

RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENT!

### RATE INCREASE

Effective July 1, 2022, you will see a 10% increase to the daily foster care reimbursement rates for family foster homes and licensed relative/fictive kin homes. Rates haven't increased in over 2 decades and WCHSA did not want our providers to go another year without an increase. The state is also conducting an actuarial study to assess a more long-term increase and rate change. A huge thank you to Director Amber Howell and our fiscal team for making this increase possible!

Below are the new rates:

Family Foster Care:

\$44/day for the first 90 days a child is in legal custody

\$33/day for over 90 days in legal custody

Licensed Relatives/Fictive Kin:

Age 0-12 is \$24.70/day

Age 13+ is \$28.00/day

Bridges is a mandatory training for all resource parents and is offered throughout the year to ensure all resource parents have the opportunity to attend. Please sign up at your earliest convenience.

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.  
[MPolley@washoecounty.gov](mailto:MPolley@washoecounty.gov)

BRIDGES  
*out of*  
POVERTY



# Resource Parent Appreciation Event!

## ...Oh, What A Night!!!

The Resource Parent Appreciate Event was an incredible success. It was truly an honor to celebrate you all and to see you all enjoy the festivities. The award ceremony was truly unforgettable, and we hope you all felt just how special you are to our community and our youth.

We would love to keep the tradition alive and plan to make this event an annual affair. We hope you can make it next year, and for those of you who were unable to attend, we hope to see you at the next one. In the meantime, please consider taking part in our other events that promote connection, support, and advocacy. Resource Parent Avenues to Connection (RPAC) events are held monthly for families to connect with one another. Please be on the lookout for the upcoming dates! We also have a private Facebook page that offers up a chance to connect with one another and the “Be in the Loop Group” held monthly via Zoom. And as always, come by HQ at 2395 East Prater Way, Sparks, NV 89434 to say hello and connect with us.

A special Thank You to the sponsors of the event- we couldn't have pulled this off without their hard work and dedication:

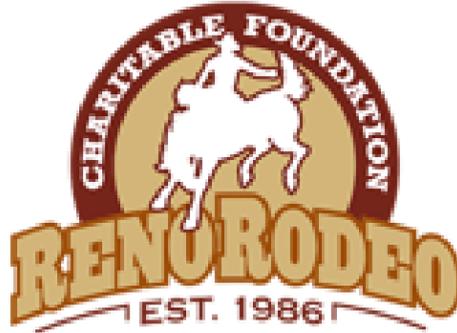
ZACK & RAINA STETSON



“Huge thank you and kudos to everyone who helped with tonight's event. That was really special and so well done. It was valuable to have a time to socialize with others who understand and to hear all their stories and to connect with these great folks.”  
-The Hertzler's PAGE 2

# Reno Rodeo Closet

## Reno Rodeo Foundation Clothing Closet



The Reno Rodeo Foundation generously provides clothing, teddy bears, and rolling backpacks to children who are newly placed into foster care or transitioning from an emergency placement.

Resource parents and children can visit the Reno Rodeo Closet to "shop" for clothing essentials, ensuring that the children can pick out items in the correct sizes and preferred style.

The Reno Rodeo closet is open 24/7. The instructions to access the closet are below:

<p><b>Step 1:</b> Visit the Kids Kottage Front Desk, located at 2075 Longley Lane. Inform the front desk staff that you are there to check out keys for the Reno Rodeo Closet. Please fill out the key check-out log to the best of your ability.</p>	<p><b>Step 2:</b> The resource parent and child visit the Reno Rodeo Closet, located in the Kids Kottage Gym, 2085 Longley Lane. The Reno Rodeo closet is located through the double doors and to the right before you enter the gym.</p>
<p><b>Step 3:</b> The child picks out new clothing to meet their immediate needs.  There is no specific number of items available per child, but please be reasonable in the amount of items taken so that other children can have the same access to new clothing.</p>	<p><b>Step 4:</b> Resource parent completes the RRF tracking sheet, located in an envelope next to the door, and places completed form back in the envelope upon exit. This step is very important as it helps the Reno Rodeo Foundation replenish the closet! <b>Please be mindful to leave the closet in an orderly condition following your visit.</b></p>
<p><b>Step 5:</b> Resource parent locks both the Reno Rodeo Closet door and the KK Gym door upon exit.</p>	<p><b>Step 6:</b> Resource parent returns key and completes sign out log.</p>

**Tip:** The closet is located right next door to the Child Advocacy Center, so visit following your new placement's medical evaluation!

If you have taken placement of a child who has an immediate clothing need and you absolutely cannot get to the closet, please email the attached request form to [HSA-RRFCloset@washoecounty.gov](mailto:HSA-RRFCloset@washoecounty.gov) and we will ensure the request is fulfilled. Please indicate in your email if you would prefer to pick up the items somewhere or have the child's case worker deliver at their next child contact.

## *Respite Reminder*

This is just a friendly reminder that the remaining respite funds for this fiscal year expire on 6/30/22. We do not know yet if we will get respite funding next fiscal year, but of course will keep you all posted.

Respite funds can be used for true respite (cleared/approved person caring for your foster children), or inclusive respite which would be like a family vacation! Respite funds can be used for past respite/vacations as well!

If you have any questions at all, including how many days you have left, the form to request funds, or a current list of respite providers, please reach out to Heather Wenker at [hwenker@washoecounty.gov](mailto:hwenker@washoecounty.gov)



## *Northern Nevada Moses Project*

One of our very own WCHSA foster/adoptive parents Lauren Dees has a nonprofit to help support foster / relative/ kin/ adoptive or birth families!

The Moses Project can help families with clothing, furniture, basic necessities, anything a child might need!

If you are in need of anything or have donations, please reach out to Lauren Dees at 775.857.7924

Find more on the Northern Nevada Moses Project by going to their website- [www.nnmosesproject.org](http://www.nnmosesproject.org)



## *Family Engagement Center (FEC) Resource*

FEC is working on the Pennington Grant for 2022 and School supplies/backpacks will be available at the end of July!

Please keep your eye out for an email as information will be sent out at a later date



## *HQ is now open!*

### ***Hello Resource Parents!***

We are pleased to announce the lobby of Headquarters (HQ) is now open. Our goal for the HQ lobby is to serve as a place for our Resource Parents to have a place to seek out resources, connect with staff, and to utilize the lobby as a waiting space if you've dropped kids off for FEC visits and are not participating in visits. We have plans to grow our supportive services for Resource Parents and we hope this location can be a catalyst to do so. For now, the lobby will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. You do not need an appointment to visit. If you are hoping to connect with a certain member of your team, its best to reach out to ensure they will be in the office when you plan to stop by as many of our staff work part time from home. Please feel free to come by and say "hi."

### **Address:**

2395 East Prater Way, Sparks, NV 89434

**Main Phone Line:** 775-784-7330

**Hours:** 8-5pm



## *Washoe County Foster & Adoption Virtual Support Group*

This is our Resource, Relative, Fictive Kin & Adoptive Family Facebook Support group!

Washoe County QPI presents to you the Washoe County Foster & Adoption Support Group! This group welcomes ALL WCHSA's Resource families, Relative/ Kin families, SFC families & Flex and Adoptive families. This group is to share support and resources with one another. The ONLY WCHSA staff in this group is the QPI Liaison to help promote a safe place to share successes, frustrations, and things you've learned along the way. We want to share stories and have our group be more of a community supporting one another. Please reach out to the QPI Liaison with questions or concerns Kylee Spring [kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov)



QR code for  
Washoe County Foster & Adoption Support  
Facebook group

## *Interested in Adoption?*

### **Da'Michael & Michae'la**

*10 & 8-years-old*

**100% FREE**

These fun, silly, close-knit siblings are looking for an equally fun and active family to call their own.

Da'Michael can be a little shy at first but don't let that fool you! He is playful and full of energy. He is also a loving, protective big brother and is eager to please. Da'Michael loves basketball and being outside. He enjoys learning, going to school, using his creativity in his play and is a master builder who is always looking for a challenging Lego set. Da'Michael's favorite superhero is the Black Panther, and his favorite food is tacos.

Michae'la is a very active, bright and sharp-witted little girl with a smile that will light up a room. Just try not to giggle right along with her as she cracks herself up. She is a happy child who enjoys making people laugh and engaging others in play. Michae'la likes gymnastics, dancing/performing and in general being the center of attention. She thrives with positive feedback. Michae'la enjoys school and her favorite part of the day is recess. Her favorite foods are tacos and ice cream.

If you would like to learn more about this adorable sibling group, please contact Tawnya Robertson at (775) 525-4583 or [troberson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:troberson@washoecounty.gov)



### **Taylor**

*13-years-old*

**LOOKING FOR HIS FOREVER FAMILY**



Taylor is described as a sweet, loving, kind and active boy who likes to help out. His case worker will tell you "he has a big heart that radiates through his smile." Taylor plays football and has the awards to prove it. He has also participated in Ju-Jitsu and is getting ready to try his hand at boxing. Taylor would love a family who enjoys road trips to places such as Six Flags or Disneyland. He also enjoys camping and riding dirt bikes. Taylor dreams of having his own bedroom with pets and a kind, patient family who will support ongoing contact with his adult siblings.

Check out the link below to watch his Have a Heart video:  
<https://www.kolotv.com/video/2020/09/04/have-heart-meet-taylor/>

If you'd like to learn more about Taylor please contact Tawnya Robertson at (775) 785-8659 or [Troberson@washoecounty.us](mailto:Troberson@washoecounty.us)

## Cealy

*9-years-old*

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LOOKING FOR THEIR FOREVER FAMILY

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Cealy is a daring boy with an infectious smile. He needs a family that can provide him love, acceptance and one on one attention. Cealy is sweet, funny, and soft spoken. He is shy at first upon first meeting someone new, but once he gets to know someone, he opens up. He loves receiving individual attention from his caregivers and loves feeling accepted and a part of the family. Cealy would do best in a family where there are other children in the home, as he loves playing and bonding with his foster siblings.

Cealy loves watching Spidey Cartoons, kicking a soccer ball, riding his bike, and playing on his tablet. Cealy takes pride in looking nice and enjoys dressing up in his tie and bowties. He has an adventurous palette, as he will try new foods at least once. Amongst his favorite foods are pizza, fast food, pork belly bites, fruits, and veggies. Cealy loves going on family outings, participating in birthday celebrations, and having fun with family. He is very fond of little kids and dogs.

Cealy will need a family that can provide him structure, consistency and provide him with a sense of security. The ideal family will be patient, committed and loving. If you are interested in learning more about Cealy, please contact **Brenda** at [Bsilis@washoecounty.gov](mailto:Bsilis@washoecounty.gov)



## Kyler

*12-year-old*

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100% FREE

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Kyler is described as a happy, articulate, active young man! He finds joy in drawing, playing football and going to church/youth groups. He also loves, singing, dancing, and learning new instruments. He adores his younger siblings and is an excellent big brother.

To see his Have a Heart video from KOLO 8 News Now click on the link below:

<https://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Have-a-Heart-Meet-Kyler-508160191.html>

If you would like more information about Kyler, please contact Tawnya Robertson at [trobertson@washoecounty.us](mailto:trobertson@washoecounty.us)



## Jaiden, Lilly & Temperance

*11, 6 & 4-years-old*

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LOOKING FOR THEIR FOREVER FAMILY

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Meet this charming crew, who are ready to find their forever family with whom the three of them can flourish and grow. This sibling group will be a great addition to a loving, patient, and caring forever family.

Jaiden, Lilly and Temperance have individual interests, yet they interact well with one another, and enjoy spending time together.

The three siblings are good eaters and are not picky at all. They are described as very well-mannered and polite.

Jaiden is the eldest and is described as a bright young man, who is likeable, charming, and outgoing. He enjoys watching football and hopes to play professionally someday. Jaiden is an avid reader, who also enjoys playing with his toys and Legos, watching cartoons (Sponge Bob), riding his bike, and playing video games. He is a young man with big emotions. A talker yet guarded; he must feel safe and trust his caregivers before he will open-up. Jaiden would love to have pets as part of his forever family, he loves cats and dogs, although, big dogs can be a bit intimidating for him. He will need a family that can provide him unconditional love and patience.

Lilly is a shy, sweet, and loving little girl, who brings much joy to those around her. She enjoys watching videos and dancing, playing with baby dolls, and spending time with her younger sister. Lilly loves to color, draw, and feel the fresh air in her hair as she swings. She is quite the helper, never frowning at any chore and always seeking ways to help around the home. Lilly is calm by nature and can be sensitive, but overall, she is a happy little girl that want to be loved, nurtured and a sense of safety.

Temperance is a little firecracker, who is outgoing and sassy. She is a very active girly girl, who loves to dance and sing, but also enjoys watching Disney movies and being read to. Temperance is happy and bounces back quickly from her emotions. Like her sister, she too enjoys doing chores and helping around the home. She is eager to start school and is a natural learner. Temperance needs a family that can provide her with structure and love.

These siblings need a loving home, where they can feel safe, know their routine, and be accepted for who they are. They need guidance, support, patience, and love as they continue to grow. Their forever family will be trauma informed, structured, patient, kind, and of course be animal-lovers! If you are interested in learning more about Jaiden, Lilly and Temperance please contact **Brenda** at [Bsilis@washoecounty.us](mailto:Bsilis@washoecounty.us)



## Up Coming Meetings:

- **Resource Parent Advisory Board** support group is the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month** at **11:00am-12:00**. Please contact [kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov) to RSVP
- **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 **11:00 am** on TEAMS. We would love for you to join. Please email Kylee Spring at [kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov) to be added to the invite

## Nevada Statewide Support Groups:




**Nevada Statewide Kinship Support Group**

**"All in This Together"**

Partnering with birth parents a 5-week curriculum of support and learning

Wednesday, March 2nd @ 5pm  
Friday, April 1st @ 5pm  
Friday, May 6 @ 5pm  
Friday, June 3rd @ 5pm  
Friday, July 1st @ 5pm

Meetings are online via Zoom.

Email [Rose@fosterkinship.org](mailto:Rose@fosterkinship.org) for additional information or view our public calendar at [www.fosterkinship.org/contact](http://www.fosterkinship.org/contact)

702-546-9988

## NEVADA STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Kinship, Foster, and Adoptive families can join us for our Nevada Statewide partnership meeting to share **strength**, receive **support & resources**, and get additional **training opportunities**.

\*Participants will receive one hour of re-licensing credit\*

- Thursday, 2/17 @ 5PM
- Thursday, 3/17 @ 5PM
- Friday, 4/15 @ 5PM
- Friday, 5/20 @ 5PM
- Friday, 6/17 @ 5PM

Meetings are online via Zoom.

Email [Rose@fosterkinship.org](mailto:Rose@fosterkinship.org) for additional information or view our public calendar at [www.fosterkinship.org/contact](http://www.fosterkinship.org/contact)

702-546-9988

## 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.

## New Training updates:

QPI WEBSITE:

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

Below are amazing new trainings that are on the QPI website. You can receive renewal training hours for these trainings!

### Substance use in Human Trafficking (cc)

Substance use and human trafficking occur together very often. Traffickers use drugs and alcohol to groom, lure, manipulate, and control the people they are trafficking. Victims and survivors who are substance dependent are targeted by traffickers because of this vulnerability. How can those who work with adults or youth who are sex and labor trafficked understand how to best support survivors who have substance use disorders? What do substance use disorder professionals need to know about human trafficking? How can we all do more to understand the intersection of substance use and trauma and how this can impact survivors over the short and long terms? (1 hour)

### Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome & Substance Exposed Infants

This presentation provides an overview of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and Substance Exposed Infants (SEI). Topics discussed include symptoms, treatment, prevention efforts, reporting and resources. The presentation emphasizes a holistic, whole person-whole family, approach to care and treatment. (0.5 hour)

### Diabetes Type 1: Diagnosis Specific Education

A general, informative, and educational presentation to support the previous learning of caregivers who are providing care for a child with Type 1 Diabetes. (0.5 hour)

### Power Struggles

This presentation for parents is designed to provide evidence-based, practical information in dealing with Power Struggles. A trauma-informed approach is discussed to help parents understand why a reaction might occur and presents proven strategies for improvement. (0.5 hours)

### Parenting a Child with Food Allergies

Parenting a Child with Food Allergies is designed to provide evidence-based, practical information for those caring for children with serious food allergies. (0.5 hours)

### Understanding Autism

As the prevalence of Autism continues to rise across our nation, now up to 1 in 44 children, more families are caring for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Historically, children with ASD have been served using Applied Behavior Analysis, focusing on reducing problem behaviors and teaching skills. While this approach is effective, it does not take into consideration the relationship and connection that is so critical to our children's growth and development. This session discusses the utilization of Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) with children with ASD and share how impactful this approach is using Connecting, Empowering, and Correcting Principles. (1 hour)

### Teens & Technology: What to do when Technology is in Control? (cc)

The presentation discusses several of today's most popular technology platforms for youth and how to connect and protect them while accessing these platforms. The audience will learn the necessity of today's technology, interventions and strategies to build safe boundaries while also maintaining connection with teens, safeguards for the most popular platforms and how to access them, and how to determine healthy and unhealthy relationships with technology. (1 hour)

### Top Tips for Getting a Certificate



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.



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.



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.



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 [centersupport@qpi.org](mailto:centersupport@qpi.org) 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.

## Runner Spotlight

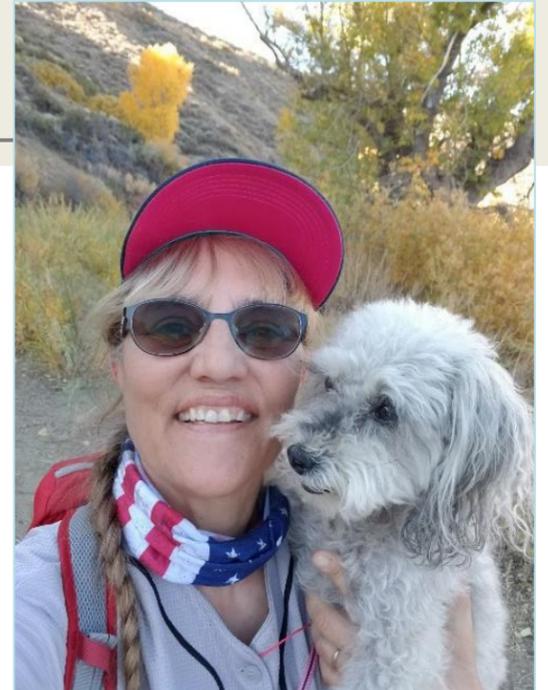
Meet Debbie!

I moved from Santa Cruz/Monterey California, where I was born and raised, to Nevada in Oct. 2020. My interests are attending events at church, watching movies, and hiking with my dog, Lucy. Nevada has so many wonderful places to hike and I'm looking forward to exploring some of them since the weather is getting nicer.

I am a SF Giants fan and have attended several SF Giants vacations. I have seen games in Boston, New York (2 different ball parks), Baltimore, Pittsburg, San Diego, Spring Training in Arizona and many games in San Francisco. I have met some Giants players/sports casters: Dave Dravecky, Barry Zito, Ty Blach, Mauricio Dubon, Dave Flemming, and Amy G. I was at the World Series Game at Candlestick Park, SF Giants vs Oakland A's, in 1989 during the BIG earthquake.

I love my job as a runner for Washoe County. The team I work with is amazing! I like being able to help people and it's really refreshing being around the kiddos since I love children, but don't have any of my own. These kiddos are interesting, smart, and funny and I enjoy getting to know them. Some of them make me laugh on a regular basis and that is uplifting to my spirit. I also like helping at the events that the HSA has for the kiddos. It's fun getting a lot of kids together and seeing the joy they are experiencing at these wonderful events.

Be sure to say "hello" next time you see Debbie!



### *Did you know?*

*Runners make sure the County fleet vehicles at HSA are fresh and clean! You may just run into one of our team members the next time you are at the car wash!*

## WCHSA Newest Clinician!

### Welcome Zack Rybak!

I was born and brought up in Reno, Nevada and earned a graduate degree in writing poetry before turning toward clinical social work. Beginning with the understanding of how foundational connection and relationship are within healing, I approach the present distress of each individual or family with attentiveness and empathy to build a strong therapeutic alliance which allows me to support them throughout the process of building more effective ways of being in the world. Coming to Washoe County from Willow Springs Center, my background involves intensive work with adolescents and their caretakers, with a particular focus around increasing emotion regulation and validating interactions. I currently live with my wife and our dog, and I enjoy taking desert walks, reading, and chatting across coffee



## 2022 Graduation!

We want to honor and celebrate our 14 foster youth who are on track to graduating this year!

WCHSA is celebrating their accomplishment with a graduation celebration at the Renaissance later this month!!

We want to thank these students for all the hard work and thank all the resource parents and workers who helped them along the way!



### Congratulations!

- Alexis
- Alia
- Blake
- Elijah
- Gavin
- Kari
- Keviyahn
- Mandy
- Rebecca
- Sumara
- Taurino “Jr”
- Triston
- Cristel
- Josh  
(Graduated 2021!)

## Ace's Tickets

We still have tickets for this week and a ton for the upcoming weeks! Don't miss out!!

Please read carefully. We have six Ace's baseball tickets for multiple games this year. Below you will find a link on how to register for tickets. Please only request tickets for one game as we are hoping multiple families will get the opportunity to attend. If you register for tickets, you will receive an email at a later date on when/where to pick up your tickets. If you can't attend for any reason, please change/cancel your registration. Regarding birth families, as long as your worker is ok with it, we are more than welcome for you request additional tickets for the birth parents! Please let me know if you have any questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49AAA629A7FAC07-reno>



## Washoe County School District

# DON'T FORGET.

- All Boys & Girls Club locations are closed for training, the first and last week of the school year! This will affect only 2 school days (June 6th & 7th) Thank goodness!
- Check to make sure your student(s) are enrolled in the correct school next year. IC populates the zoned school by default, so we get to make it right!
- Check your students' IC accounts for grades and any missing assignments that need attention. If you are unable log into IC, you will need to call the school and get your password reset.
- PLEASE make sure your student is enrolled in summer school if they need extra support! Most of our kids do and it's only a few weeks, so it's always a good idea!
- Tutors are available over the summer, so please reach out to your worker to make the referral if this is needed – whether your student is in a summer school program or not!
- If your student needs transportation to/from summer school, please let the school know and let your worker know if there are any snags in that process!

### FAQ – Educational Quick Facts re. Youth in Foster Care

#### INCLUDING important WCHSA policy updates!!

(Updated 9/30/21)

#### Did you know??

- **SCHOOL OF ATTENDANCE:** Foster youth have the right to remain at their School of Origin (see definition at end of document) when they come into care and/or change placements – even if it's an adoptive placement - to reduce additional disruptions and maintain their educational stability.
  - WHY?
    - Often the school they attend when they come into care is the “only” stable environment in their world – while parents and placements are in flux.
    - Statistically, foster youth lose an average of 6 months of education for every school move/disruption.
    - WCHSA is bound by State and National legislation, to ensure that every effort is made to maintain our foster youth in their School of Origin.
    - IF it is determined to be in the best interest of the student to change schools, it MUST be approved by WCHSA leadership. This process is coordinated through the student's worker and the WCHSA educational liaison.
  - Foster Parents, relatives and fictive kid CANNOT change a youth's school without proper approval through WCHSA.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Mileage reimbursement is available to whomever is assisting with transportation if there is no bus available. This applies to “anyone” transporting the youth, while the case is open.
  - The district tracks the miles, so you don't have to! The reimbursement is one round trip, based on mapped miles between school and placement address and is disbursed once a month (electronic payments are available!) for the prior month of transport.
- **STRONG COMMUNICATION IS KEY**
  - The relationship with your student's school is your first line of defense in providing support.
  - Communicate with your worker when things get confusing or challenging.
  -
- **INFINITE CAMPUS:** Get acquainted with Infinite Campus to follow student progress – provide kudos earned and track missing assignments. “It takes a village” and caregivers are an essential part of that village!
- **WCSD Board of Trustees meets (almost) every other Tuesday**, so if you would like to be “in the know” and have the opportunity to have your voice heard, please tune in! <https://www.washoeschools.net/domain/168>
- **SUPPORT:**
  - WCHSA Educational Liaison & WCSD Foster Liaison work together to support all things education! Your case worker can reach out when things get sticky!
  - **TUTORING** is always available. Be sure to check with your worker.

Frequent Asked Questions.

# WCHSA Directory

**Center Street Front desk:** 775.785.8600

**Emergency After hours number:** 1.833.900.7233

In case you have an emergency that occurs after hours please call.

## Administration:

### Division Directors:

- Cara Paoli
- Ryan Gustafson

### Coordinators

- Amy Sandvik- [asandvik@washoecounty.gov](mailto:asandvik@washoecounty.gov)
  - Child Care licensing, Licensing, Recruitment & Training, Adoptions
- Kim Martin- [ksmartin@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ksmartin@washoecounty.gov)
  - CQI, Training Unit
- Shannon McCoy- [smccoy@washoecounty.gov](mailto:smccoy@washoecounty.gov)
  - Permanency
- Stacy Lance- [slance@washoecounty.gov](mailto:slance@washoecounty.gov)
  - Clinical, FEC
- Tammi Williamson- [twilliamson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:twilliamson@washoecounty.gov)
  - Assessment

## Assessment / Permanency:

### Assessment Supervisors

- Amber Hurtado- [ahurtado@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ahurtado@washoecounty.gov)
- Cassie Pasley- [cpasley@washoecounty.gov](mailto:cpasley@washoecounty.gov)
- Denise Tyre- [dtyre@washoecounty.gov](mailto:dtyre@washoecounty.gov)
- Jennifer Bascom - [jbascom@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jbascom@washoecounty.gov)
- Jennifer Kelly- [jlkelly@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jlkelly@washoecounty.gov)
- Kacie Schwin- [kschwin@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kschwin@washoecounty.gov)
- Kassi Morris- [kmorris@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kmorris@washoecounty.gov)
- Megan Aguayo - [maguayo@washoecounty.gov](mailto:maguayo@washoecounty.gov)

### Permanency Supervisors

- Julia Nesser - [jnesser@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jnesser@washoecounty.gov)
- Kasey Pomerleau - [kpomerleau@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kpomerleau@washoecounty.gov)
- Melony Elam - [melam@washoecounty.gov](mailto:melam@washoecounty.gov)
- Natalie Miller - [nmiller@washoecounty.gov](mailto:nmiller@washoecounty.gov)
- Rocio Lopez - [ralopez@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ralopez@washoecounty.gov)
- Scott Sheldon - [shsheldon@washoecounty.gov](mailto:shsheldon@washoecounty.gov)
- Steven Canale - [scanale@washoecounty.gov](mailto:scanale@washoecounty.gov)
- Tara Sterrett - [tsterrett@washoecounty.gov](mailto:tsterrett@washoecounty.gov)

## Adoptions:

### Supervisors

- Emily Smith- [esmith@washoecounty.gov](mailto:esmith@washoecounty.gov)
- Jessie Valencia – [jvalencia@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jvalencia@washoecounty.gov)

## Recruitment & Training:

### Supervisor

- Laura Caprioli- [lcaprioli@washoecounty.gov](mailto:lcaprioli@washoecounty.gov)

### R&T Staff

- Brenda Silis – [bsilis@washoecounty.gov](mailto:bsilis@washoecounty.gov)
- Mitch Matthews - [MMatthews@washoecounty.gov](mailto:MMatthews@washoecounty.gov)
- Myra Yeargan – [myeargan@washoecounty.gov](mailto:myeargan@washoecounty.gov)
- Tawnya Robertson – [troberson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:troberson@washoecounty.gov)

**Foster Care Services Front Desk:** 775.337.4470

### Foster Care Licensing Supervisor:

Melissa Coates: 775.815.3827

### Licensing team: Call or text

Codi Soap: 775.842.1992  
 Barbara Jaime: 775.842.1704  
 Jessica Shepherd: 775.622.6919  
 Anastasia Cooper: 775.560.7773  
 Sandra Espino: 775.530.6373

### Relative Support:

Ana Bassett- [abassett@washoecounty.gov](mailto:abassett@washoecounty.gov)  
 Marci Hlade - [mhlade@washoecounty.gov](mailto:mhlade@washoecounty.gov)

### Placement Support

Heather Wenker - [hwenker@washoecounty.gov](mailto:hwenker@washoecounty.gov)  
 Katie Proctor - [kproctor@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kproctor@washoecounty.gov)

### SFC Support

Mele Peaua - [mpeaua@washoecounty.gov](mailto:mpeaua@washoecounty.gov)  
 Rayna Labarry- [rlabarry@washoecounty.gov](mailto:rlabarry@washoecounty.gov)

### Post-Adoption Support

Erika Meszaros - [emeszaros@washoecounty.gov](mailto:emeszaros@washoecounty.gov)  
 Mary Encarnacion- [MEncarnacion@washoecounty.gov](mailto:MEncarnacion@washoecounty.gov)

**OPI Liaison:** Kylee Spring: 775.530.1646  
[kspring@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov)

**Family Engagement Center (FEC):** 775.352.3230  
 905 E Prater Way, Sparks, NV 89434  
 Corner of Prater and Howard

### FEC Supervisor

- Jesse Brown - [jbrown@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jbrown@washoecounty.gov)

### Engagers:

- Betty Sharkey- [BSarkey@washoecounty.gov](mailto:BSarkey@washoecounty.gov)
- Kin Minor - [KMinor@washoecounty.gov](mailto:KMinor@washoecounty.gov)
- Leona Lopez - [LLopez@washoecounty.gov](mailto:LLopez@washoecounty.gov)
- Mayra Quiroz - [MQuiroz@washoecounty.gov](mailto:MQuiroz@washoecounty.gov)
- Olivia Lynch - [olynch@washoecounty.gov](mailto:olynch@washoecounty.gov)
- Patty Daniel - [pdaniel@washoecounty.gov](mailto:pdaniel@washoecounty.gov)

**Medical Unit:** 775.284.2763

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)  
 2097 Longley Lane, Reno, NV 89502  
 next door to Kids Kottage

### WCSD Liaison

- Keri Pruitt - [KPruitt@washoecounty.gov](mailto:KPruitt@washoecounty.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

GET IT ON **Google Play**  
 Download on the **App Store**

**Find help 24/7 by dialing 2-1-1**  
**texting 898-211 or**  
**visiting [www.nevada211.org](http://www.nevada211.org)**

The advertisement shows a smartphone displaying the app interface with categories like Activities & Camps, Counseling, Crisis Hotlines, Education, Emergency Food, Emergency Shelter, Health Care, and LGBTQ Services.

**NEVADA 211 YOUTH APP**

**BÚSQUEDA DE RECURSOS LOCALES A TUS DEDOS 24/7**

¡descargue su aplicación para jóvenes Nevada 211 hoy!

GET IT ON **Google Play**  
 Download on the **App Store**

- 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!**

2-1-1 Nevada

The advertisement shows a smartphone displaying the app interface with categories like Activities & Camps, Counseling, Crisis Hotlines, Education, Emergency Food, Emergency Shelter, Health Care, and LGBTQ Services.