



Rural Nevada Caregiver Newsletter

Foster/ Relative/ Fictive Kin/ Adoptive Parents

National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption month, a month to raise awareness for the need of adoptive families for foster children and teens, a month to encourage others to learn about adoption, to hold adoption related events, and to acknowledge the people in this country whose lives have been impacted by adoption. The mission of National Adoption Month is to celebrate the families who have grown through adoption and to recognize the many children who are still waiting for forever families. So far in 2021, 49 children who were in foster care in Rural NV have been adopted! There are several children from the rurals who are still looking for their forever home, and you can read about them [here](#). Check out the QPI website (click [here](#)) for a ton of great resources and information about how you can participate in National Adoption Month.

DCFS works with an agency called **Raise the Future** to assist in finding permanent connections for youth. Raise the Future's Youth Connections Advocates come onto cases to work with children that DCFS identifies as not having an identified permanent placement. Our goal is to ensure we intentionally work with the child as well as their team to find connections for them, primarily for the intent to achieve permanency. We are using a model that requires us to see the children face to face monthly. We love working with their caregivers, as they know these kiddos the best! Children referred to us don't have to say they want to be adopted, in fact, the research-based model we use shows that children saying they don't wish to be adopted and want to age out of care end up finding a permanent connection 60% more of the time when working with Youth Connections Advocates. Youth Connections Advocates for the Rural Region include Rose Eshe, Gloria Torma, and Sara Josifko. When they contact you to schedule a visit with the children, they don't necessarily need to meet in your home. We understand that caregivers are extremely busy, so we can pick kiddos up from school, after school care programs, or pick them up from your house to visit with them. We may want to be in the home the first few times when meeting to ensure the child is most comfortable while we build rapport, but we can be super flexible! Our job includes bringing up a lot of tough conversation with family, caregivers, and children. Sometimes this brings up a lot of emotions, and although we try to process with children in the moment, we know that they like to stew on things too. We love the communication caregivers share with us, so that we can address these feelings with everyone as well as tweak ways we can better bring up the thought and discussion of permanency. We use things like lifebooks, games, and reading material to start these conversations. We stay on with the youth we are referred to until they either find permanency, or age out of care. This is because we really value creating connections and being a consistent figure for these children. Feel free to ask us about these when we're in the home! We offer a lot of resources for anyone curious about transitioning children in and out of homes, adoption and permanency discussions, and many other topics. We'd be happy to connect you to webinars and our lending library! To learn more, access resources through Raise the Future, or to read about some of the children Raise the Future is currently working with, visit their website, <https://www.raisethefuture.org/>.

Interested in Adoption?

Dakoda

13-years-old

LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

You'll be excited to learn more about Dakoda! He appreciates staying active, and he is happiest when swimming or playing sports. When he wants to relax, Dakoda likes reading and watching movies or television. He is also keen on playing cards and board games. This friendly teen enjoys when he gets to spend time with his peers.

Dakoda likes attending school as a seventh grader. He would do best as the youngest child in a home; however, his caseworker will consider all family types. Click [here](#) to watch the "Wednesday's Child" featuring Dakoda, or to ask about him!





Licensing Corner


Here are the main regulations that we'd like incoming, as well as established foster parents to now be aware of:

- **NAC 424.270:** All Primary Caregivers *must* have basic first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training, regardless of whether or not there is a body of water on the property: The following link will suffice for caregivers to take this course online; however, there is a fee of \$35/person: [Child and Baby First Aid/CPR/AED Online \(redcross.org\)](https://www.redcross.org).
- **NAC 424.120:** All adults in a foster home caring for infants (0 – 12 months) and medically fragile children, must provide proof of current immunizations for Influenza & Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccinations.
- **NAC 424.120:** a medical history of each Primary Caregiver must be provided by all incoming Licensees.
- **NAC 424.120:** Results from a medical examination of applicants conducted within the immediately preceding 12 months conducted by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or advanced practice registered nurse indicating that the applicant is physically, mentally and emotionally capable of caring for foster children is required.
- **NAC 424.400:** Carbon monoxide detectors must now be on each floor/story of the home and/or near the bedrooms where foster children sleep.
- **NAC 424.615:** The Family Disaster Plan that is developed by the Licensee must be submitted to the licensing authority, as well as, now be posted **PROMINENTLY** in the home for easy access.

It's also worth noting that some of these regs are so "new" that they are not yet listed on the online NACs that everyone has access to – but they will be.

Also, a simple reminder for foster care providers to *document, document, document!*

document! Things that are wise to keep documented with dates/times and a short comment/note:

- Incidents of minor injuries – scabbed knees, bonked foreheads, small cuts or bruises (that are considered minor) and *certainly* major injuries as well, but seek medical care first, then document what happened!
 - Medical appointments – vaccinations given, suggestions from the pediatrician, purpose/outcome of the visit.
 - Behavioral incidents at home, school, out in public, especially after visits or contacts from relatives, etc.
 - School issues/changes/conversations w/ teachers of your foster children.
 - **Any time** you give medication, whether over the counter or prescription (date/time/dosage/purpose – this is **very** important!
 - Keep your receipts for purchases for your foster children (i.e. clothing, supplies, etc.)
 - Make an inventory (yes, even if it's only a few items) of what your foster children came into care with (i.e. clothing, shoes, toys, blankets, items that belong to them) even if the items are damaged or need to be tossed out – DOCUMENT those items too!
 - **Document positive things**, too! When your child says something positive about their parents or relatives, write it down so you can share it at the right time with the child's family (please consult with your caseworker first).
 - Write down things they like (and don't like) – foods, activities, school subjects, etc. Then you can share that with whoever asks about the child's preferences.
 - Encourage your foster child to create things (crafts, etc.) for their family members during special events and holidays (birthdays, anniversaries, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Mother's and/or Father's Day, Easter, etc.).
 - You can also use emails to social workers for documentation purposes (i.e. if you are requesting to take your foster child out of state for a vacation in the months ahead, don't call but *send an email* to document the date/time you brought this to your caseworker's attention). Any time you have an emergency, though, don't hesitate to call 911 (depending on the emergency), the worker and/or supervisor!
 - Ultimately, every time you document an event/situation/change/etc., with your foster children, you are protecting them and keeping a record of the child's issues that will help the agency and court make the best decisions for your child. Remember, too, that when you document, you are also protecting yourself!
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Training and Events

Monthly QPI Meeting – 3rd Wednesday at 11am. Email the QPI Coordinator, Liz Stetson, lstetson@dcfs.nv.gov, for the meeting invite.

New training videos and quizzes are posted on the QPI website, <http://www.qpinevada.org/videoRecent.html>

Check out the QPI [calendar](#) for upcoming QPI meetings, QPI Webinars and Practice Exchange, and upcoming trainings!

Which side of the turkey has the most feathers?

Answer: The Outside!



MORE FUN KIDS JOKES AT FUNKIDSJOKES.COM

October's Training, "Understanding Attachment and Implementing Self-Regulation" is being offered again!

This training will cover attachment styles, attachment theory and how it relates to caregivers and youth in care, developmental stages, relating and connecting with youth, and how best to self-regulate.

Two sessions via Microsoft Teams will be offered:
Monday 12/13/2021 6pm-8pm (no breaks)
Tuesday 12/14/2021 9:30am – 12pm (with a break)

Please RSVP by Monday, 12/6/2021 to KMcKiddie@dcfs.nv.gov and/or Stacy.Peters@dcfs.nv.gov.

You will receive a link to the training when you RSVP.

ALL interested parties are invited (licensed foster parents, relative, fictive kin, caseworkers etc).

Foster parents, you will receive 2 re-licensing hours for participating in this training!

The Division of Child and Family Services presents:

PRE-SERVICE TRAINING FOR FOSTER CARE APPLICANTS

The training will be held on four Saturdays January 22, 29 & February 5, 12, 2022

The training day goes from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This is a virtual, live training and will held via *Microsoft Teams*. You will be able to attend the training from home or from wherever you have your computer or laptop. *Participants will need a computer or laptop.*

Topics Covered in the Training Include:

- **The "Life of a Foster Care Case"**
- **Foster parent roles**
- **Keys to successful fostering**
- **Helping children with special needs**
- **The foster care licensing process**
- **Helping children who have experienced trauma**
- **Working with the birth family**
- **Transitions**
- **You will also hear from current foster parents, former foster children, birth parents, and more**

Participants must attend all four sessions to obtain credit and move on to the next step in foster care licensure

To register, please contact: Kevin Quint
Division of Child & Family Services
1-775-684-1973
kevin.quint@dcfs.nv.gov

Space is limited so please register today! We look forward to hearing from you!

Will you Weigh In?

We would like to interact with you through this newsletter and provide information that is important to you! Please click [here](#) to take a short survey about what you would like to see in future newsletters!

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please email n.bennett@dcfs.nv.gov.

Rural Quality Parenting Spotlight

We want to celebrate all team members that touch the lives of children and families in our communities and need your help to do so! Our mission is to give recognition to every person who is helping children and families. Please take a minute to nominate a foster parent/ caregiver, DCFS staff, parent, or any community member who you feel deserves to be recognized!

Fill out the Rural Quality Parenting Spotlight Nomination form [here](#) and the QPI Coordinator will do the rest of the work.

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

Angel Trees

Throughout the region, DCFS offices are getting busy with organizing Angel Trees so that all children can have some cheer this holiday season! Your caseworker will be in contact with you to get a wish list from each child in your home. If you do not hear from your caseworker by the end of November, please reach out to them!

Join Carson DCFS for SWEETS WITH SANTA!

December 11, 2021

10 AM- 4PM

Pictures with Santa

Cookie Decorating

Arts & Crafts

Pizza lunch provided at 12 PM

Carson City Children's Museum

813 N Carson St

Carson City, NV 89701

RSVP:
CLICK OR SCAN BELOW



Help DCFS Recruit More Foster Homes!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Most effective and successful way to recruit foster families is through foster families?

The DCFS foster care recruiter would like YOUR help in finding more outstanding homes like yours!

Helping Us Recruit Can Look Like:

- Partnering with your organization or church to host a recruitment event.
- Decorate and help at recruitment booths.
- Organize a raffle or donation drive.
- Any other ideas, we are open to them!

EMAIL FC RECRUITER, SHELBY RILEY TO LEARN MORE

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

SHELBY.RILEY@DCFS.NV.GOV

DID YOU KNOW

The Nevada Adoption Reunion Registry was developed in 1979. The database contains contact information provided by birth parents, adoptees, and relatives. If you are an adoptee over the age of 18, birth parent, or relative and the adoption was finalized in the State of Nevada, you are eligible to register. The Registry is a free, mutual consent registry; both applicants must apply and have a notarized application on file for there to be a family connection (match). Adoptees can be matched with birth parents, siblings, and other relatives. To learn more, visit the adoption registry website [here](#), call 775-684-7294, or email the Adoption Reunion Registry Coordinator at

DCFSReunionRegistry@dcfs.nv.gov.