



RURAL NV CAREGIVER COURIER

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



NEW YEAR

SAME NEED

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF FOSTERING

In 2023 we finally established a new “normal” from the pandemic. Many community partners returned back in full operation. We have met month after month to implement and learn quality parenting across rural Nevada foster care. Thanks to amazing community partners, there were six different appreciation events hosted across the state for foster families. We have increased our training frequency to 4 times per year and welcomed 22 new homes to the rural NV fostering community. The need for foster homes remains high though. Throughout this article you’ll find facts and data on our foster population. We’re also featuring the results of our Rural NV QPI Champions! Thanks for fostering with us through 2023 we wish another safe and healthy year!

LINKS & VIDEOS

[Connect Our Kids- Tech advancements in Child Welfare](#) 🤖

[10 New year resolutions for foster families](#) 🎉

[Child Psych Podcast- talking to our children and teens about sex, consent, and physical boundaries](#) 🎙️

[Child Psych Podcast- Putting an end to mealtime struggles](#) 🎙️

[Infant Safe Sleep Training](#) 🎬

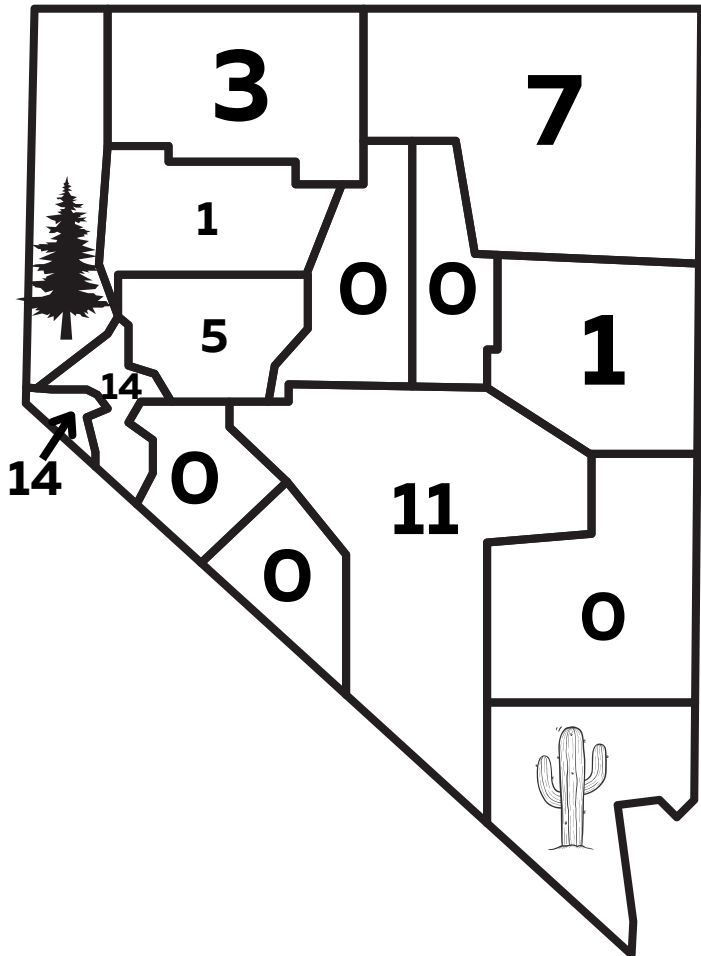
[New Federal Rule breaks down barriers to kinship care](#) 📄

Happy
New Year

YEAR IN REVIEW

Are you a numbers person? Check out some of the facts and data about our foster population. More data can be found in the DCFS data book published [Here](#).

LICENSED GENERAL & AFC HOMES BY COUNTY



2023 FOSTER HOME STATS

TOTAL LICENSED GENERAL FOSTER HOMES:
56

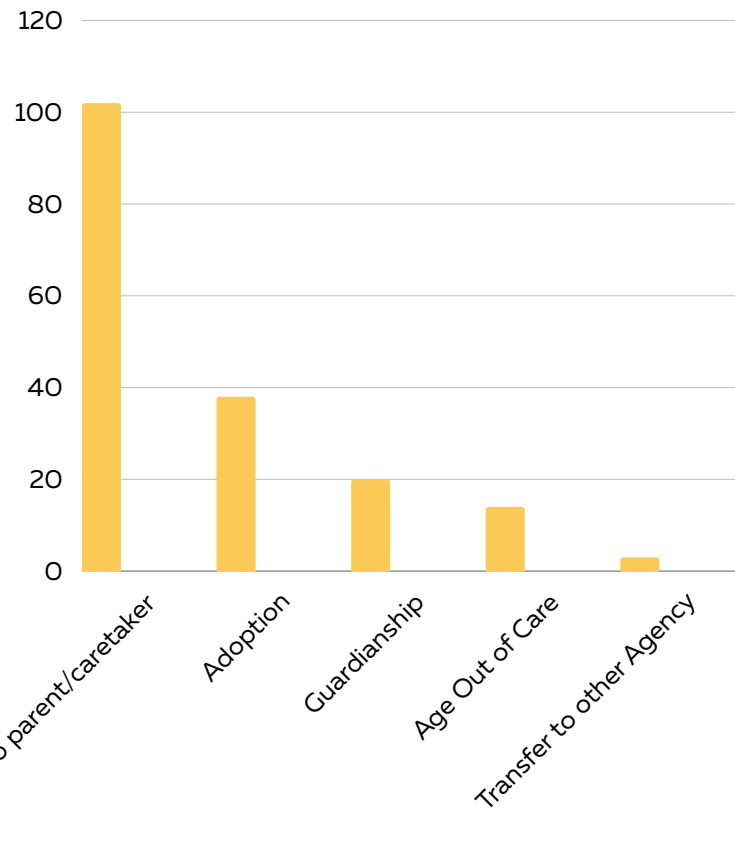
TOTAL BEDS:
155

FOSTER HOMES GAINED IN 2023:
22

FOSTER HOMES CLOSED IN 2023:
17

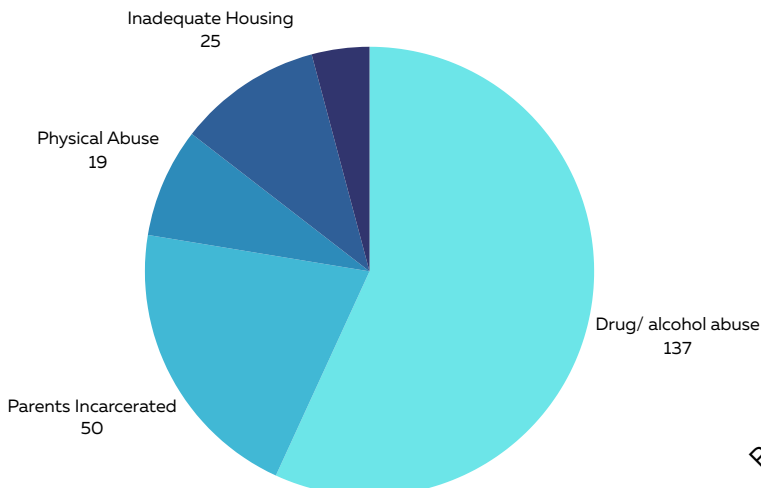
AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN FOSTER CARE:
21 MONTHS

REASONS WHY CASES CLOSE



TOP REASONS FOR NEED OF CARE

- Drug/ alcohol abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Prenatal Drug Exposure
- Parents Incarcerated
- Inadequate Housing





RURAL NV QPI CHAMPIONS



RESULTS

In December we asked you to nominate those who are doing exemplary work in child welfare and the results are in! Thank to those who submitted your nominations and congrats to those who were named as champions! This list is not exhaustive and highlights only some of the amazing work being done in the foster community!

CHAMPION FOSTER PARENTS



ALEX & KELSIE HALL

Alex & Kelsie Hall have gotten their church involved in several service projects that serve foster care. This includes creating new foster parent welcome baskets, celebrating youth who graduate, helping with our angel tree tasks, and upgrading the Carson visit room. They are passionate about serving the many needs of foster youth from all ages. Thank you Alex & Kelsie for getting your community involved!



ART & MICHELLE NEMIROW

Art is an ever present parent for the youth and comes with great experience to our monthly support groups. Michelle is respectful, compassionate, and she is able to provide a stable, loving, and nurturing environment. She teaches sign language, encourages healthy relationships and activities and what a child needs in their life. Thank you Art & Michelle for your continued dedication to DCFS families.



CONCEPTION & CYNTHIA MADRID

Mr. & Mrs. Madrid are always willing to take placements and once a child is placed in their home, they take on all the responsibilities of the child, including transporting them to school, doctor appointments, therapy, and visitation. The Madrid's are kind and loving people and selflessly serve the children in need in our community and have done so for over 15 years. Thank you for your long service to our youth!

HONORABLE MENTIONS: DEBBIE PILLMAN, JASON SMITHBERG, SHAD & GIMAREE PITTS, KENNETH & KATE KIDWELL, HEATHER FRYDENDALL, BRIANNA & DAVID WENDELL

CHAMPION CASE WORKERS



BRISTOL HANTZSCHE

"Bristol's patience and care of our foster daughter is amazing. She loves the kids she works with and they love her. She goes above and beyond. She is even traveling out of state with us to the dr to make sure our foster daughter has what she needs!" Thank you Bristol for ensuring our youth are supported while in care!

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

- PETE RUBIO**
- MICHELLE WEAVER**
- BRITTANY BEST**
- LEANNE ROBERTSON**
- RYAN DIXON**
- KRISTINE DAVIS**
- ROSE SAVEA**
- LAURA MURILLO**
- LAURA RUIZ**
- TY SULLIVAN**
- JENNIFER SANTOS**
- CHARLOTTE TORRES**
- KATIE BEATTY**



JENNIFER JONTE

Jennifer has been astronomical with getting our adoptions completed in a timely manner and goes out of her way to ensure that tasks are completed timely and correctly. Jennifer Jonte is not afraid to get her hands dirty and works very hard to ensure that our children achieve permanency as quickly as possible. You can always count on Jennifer to give you a pep talk when you are done and keep you motivated to keep going on hard days. Jennifer deserves to be recognized for her hard work.



RURAL NV QPI CHAMPIONS



RESULTS

CHAMPION COMMUNITY PARTNER



LIVING FREE HEALTH

Shelley and her substance abuse program has the highest integrity, accountability, and empathy for the clients we serve in this community.

Shelley has been astronomical to the Division, keeping us updated on how many beds are available at her sober living housing and making our cases her highest priority when accepting placements. She has gone out of her way on numerous occasions to coordinate with the courts so that clients can be released directly to her program, even picking them up from jail herself. She is amazing and her hard work and dedication should be recognized!



NORTHERN NV MOSES PROJECT

Talk about a community partnership that truly cares for foster kids. They create events, give supplies and clothes. They make sure that every child is truly cared for.



DR. JENNIFER MCKAY

Dr. McKay is a board certified psychiatrist that has served many youth in the rural counties for years. Here's what one nomination had to say about her: "How will we ever live without her! She has the best advice and has so much knowledge as to help these kids. She soon will be moving to Ireland and our community will miss her so much!"



JILL WITH INDEPENDENT LIVING

Jill has been amazing. She is quick to help out with anything the kids need. She is always available to talk to them or text with them, even if it's just about how their day was or if they just wanna vent about something. Jill is quick with everything she handles for the kids. She responds fast to requests and always takes calls or returns them promptly. She ALWAYS does what she says she's going to do. On top of being efficient, accommodating and expedient, Jill is a genuinely good person. She has a heart of gold and goes out of her way to make these kids feel special and loved. She always has a smile on her face, even thru the most tedious of tasks (like sitting at the DMV with us!) The kids look forward to visits from Jill, which she does regularly. She does monthly visits (at the very minimum) and special visits for holidays, birthdays and just because. I can't think of anyone who looks out for these kids, aside from myself, as much as Jill does. She is truly a Godsend and we are very thankful to have her in our lives. If anyone deserves to be recognized for being exemplary, it is, without a doubt, Jill Skelton.

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

CARSON CITY CASA, ACONS NYE CO, 20/30 CLUB CARSON VALLEY, HUMBOLDT COUNTY LIBRARY, CHRISTINA ABERLE, MICHAEL BORDEN OF LIBERTY FITNESS, NEIS, SUSAN NEAL

TRAININGS, EVENTS AND OTHER

QPI MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES:

INNOVATION IN CHILD WELFARE: SHARED FAMILY CARE

JANUARY 18TH AT
11:00 AM PST / 12:00 PM MST /
1:00 PM CST / 2:00 PM EST

youth law center



Presented by:
Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW
University of Maryland School of Social Work

QPI MONTHLY WEBINAR:

INNOVATION IN CHILD WELFARE

1/18/2024 11AM

**DOUBLE CLICK TO PICTURE
REGISTER**

Welcome! You are invited to join a webinar: Innovation in Child Welfare: Shared Family Care. After registering, yo...

Join us for an engaging webinar featuring a presentation and conversation with Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, Professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, who has a distinguished background...

Zoom



RURAL NEVADA
www.qpinevada.org/rural



NEXT RURAL NV QPI MEETING:

1/17/2024 @ 11 AM

Via Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 225 703 733 440

Passcode: gP6Uyn

OR

Email kevin.quint@dcfs.nv.gov for meeting link



Online Caregiver Corner

2/7/2024 @ 8 PM

Via Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 225 703 733 440

Passcode: gP6Uyn

OR

Email shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov for meeting link

The Division of Child and Family Services
presents:

**Reframing: Thoughts and Beliefs that are
unhelpful or unhealthy**



Topics Covered in the Training Include:

- Viewing our youth's motives, behaviors and needs in a different manner i.e. trauma lens
- Assisting the Worker or Caregiver with assessing and reevaluating their own Core Beliefs
- Exploring Cognitive Reconstruction of Unhealthy and Unhelpful Thinking
- Tools that teach you how to teach youth how to change/process their thinking errors

Next DCFS In House Training

1/18/2024 @ 11:30AM

OR

11/22/2024 @ 6PM

Licensed homes will earn 2 training hours and Social Workers will earn 2.25 C.E.U.'s

Email

kmckiddie@dcfs.nv.gov

OR

Sunshine.perry@dcfs.nv.gov

to register by January 15th

ANNOUNCEMENT & OTHER NEWS

FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT

Challenge

HERE ARE THE RULES:

1. PRINT OUR TRAINING FLYER. [Download Flyer](#)
2. POST IT AT YOUR WORK, GYM, CHURCH, KID'S SCHOOL, FACEBOOK GROUPS SOCIAL MEDIA OR WHEREVER YOU CONGREGATE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.
3. TAKE A PICTURE/SNAPSHOT AND EMAIL IT TO SHELBY.RILEY@DCFS.NV.GOV WITH THE LOCATION YOU POSTED IN.

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN SEND THE FLYER IN AN EBLAST AND CC SHELBY ON THE BLAST

A LUCKY WINNER WILL BE DRAWN ON JANUARY 19TH 2023!

HELP US GAIN MORE AMAZING FOSTER HOMES IN RURAL NEVADA!



HELPFUL LINKS:



[Agency Forms and Documents for Foster Parents](#)



[QPI Just In Time Training](#)

2024 Workshop Schedule Rural Region Independent Living Program

JANUARY FINANCIAL LITERACY Banking & Budgeting Learning About Credit Building Credit Taxes	FEBRUARY RELATIONSHIPS Safe Sex Education Boundaries & Consent Money in Relationships Improving Relationships	MARCH EDUCATION Success in School Exploring College Financial Aid Admissions
APRIL CAREER PLANNING Exploring Careers Choosing A Career Career Paths Certificates & Trades	MAY MENTAL HEALTH Community & Identity Goal Setting & Values Building Resiliency Self-Care	JUNE EMPLOYMENT Resumes Job Applications Interviews Workplace Etiquette
JULY TRANSPORTATION IDs & Licenses Car Ownership Registration & Insurance Other Transportation	AUGUST HOUSING Locating Housing Moving In Rights & Responsibilities When Things Go Wrong	SEPTEMBER DAILY LIVING Housing Maintenance Balancing Adulthood Shopping & Cooking Pet Ownership
OCTOBER COMMUNICATION Improving Your Skills Medical Appointments Conflict Resolution Self-Advocacy	NOVEMBER MISCELLANEOUS Future Planning Game of Real LIFE Holiday Planning Voting & YAB	DECEMBER No Workshops

Wednesdays from 4:00pm-4:30pm
Zoom ID: 487 374 3854



Ron Wood Family
Resource Center

Welcome

NEW FOSTER HOMES
SAMANTHA THURBER
CARSON CITY, NV

LINDSEY & THOMAS
CROWDER
YERINGTON, NV

KENNETH &
MICHELLE WEAVER,
PAHRUMP, NV

SHAE TRAVIS
& TYLER CREIGLOW
FERNLEY, NV

JOIN THE COMMUNITY



CLICK TO JOIN

