

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

Quality Parenting Washoe

QPI STEERING COMMITTEE

The QPI Steering Committee is a monthly meeting where WCHSA staff, resource parents, and birth parents meet and work collaboratively to improve Quality Parenting within Washoe County. The QPI Steering Committee is the third Thursday of every month at 9:30am on Zoom! We would love for you to attend. Please reach out to Kylee Spring, QPI Liaison for the Zoom link. kspring@washoecounty.us



NEW SUPPORT GROUP!

ADOPTIVE PARENT THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT GROUP

FOR PRE- & POST-ADOPTIVE FAMILIES



Adoptive parenting comes with a unique set of ups and downs. In this group, you can connect with other parents in the adoption journey. Contact Jimmy and Danica to join!

WEDNESDAYS 5-6PM VIA ZOOM

CO-FACILITATED BY
JIMMY CASAREZ, LCSW &
DANICA ANDERSON, LCSW-I

Have questions or want to find out if the group is right for you? Contact Jimmy and Danica at:
JCasarez@washoecounty.us
DAnderson@washoecounty.us

Home visits are changing!



Permanency caseworkers have resumed **in-person, in-home** monthly visits with children. Virtual contacts will only be allowed if a household member is under quarantine for exposure or has tested positive for COVID-19. To ensure the health and safety of everyone, please alert the caseworker if anyone in the household is exhibiting any signs of illness.

BRIDGES out of POVERTY



Dates of training:

Saturday, January 23rd, 2020

10:00am-12

This is a **mandatory** training requirement for your license renewal.

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.
MPolley@washoecounty.us

RESOURCE PARENT, RELATIVE, FICTIVE KIN & ADOPTIVE

Support Groups

WE ARE LOOKING TO ENHANCE OUR SUPPORT GROUPS

- **3 Angels Care** 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:**
Coming soon



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.

KEYWORD

Fostering Relationships through Visitation

Family Engagement and Visitation is essential for a child's well-being, fundamental to permanency and vital to a child maintaining family relationships and cultural connections.

Visitation is a right, not a privilege.

Visitation should be embraced and encouraged.

Children who visit frequently with parents have fewer behavioral problems and show less anxiety and depression.

It is the expectation that all foster parents will engage birth parents using the FRTV model to build a positive co-parenting relationship, improve visitation experiences for parents and children and to support reunification. The foster parent should facilitate visits until a positive co-parenting relationship has been established. At that point, the foster parent may only need to check in with parents during visits to provide updates on the child.

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.



**Washoe Quality Parenting
Spotlight Award!**

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

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

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

New Training updates:

QPI WEBSITE:

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

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

Co-parenting in Foster Care

Presenters Kim White and Victoria Camper have lived experience as a foster parent and birth parent. After their presentation you will be able to identify ways to take a "child-centered" approach to coparenting with families of origin. Understand how coparenting improves outcomes measures in terms of success of reunification, minimization of re-traumatization to the child and improved stability of reunification. And, learn specific ways that you can engage families of origin in the coparenting process. .5 hours

Co-Parenting in Kinship Families with Birth Parents

Grandparents and relatives are raising many of the most vulnerable at-risk children in the US. This presentation will offer an overview of the successes and challenges for kinship caregivers in one of the areas that impact children- coparenting with birth parents. Our presenter will discuss and demonstrate the importance of coparenting and successful strategies for families. This presentation is designed for kinship caregivers, foster parents, and child welfare professionals. 1.5 Hours

Co-Parenting: What Foster Parents Need to Know

This training discusses co-parenting in addition providing a refresher on trauma, what family centered practice and family centered engagement is, and why it is important to work with families in partnership. 1.5 Hours

Parent Perspective for System Change for QPI

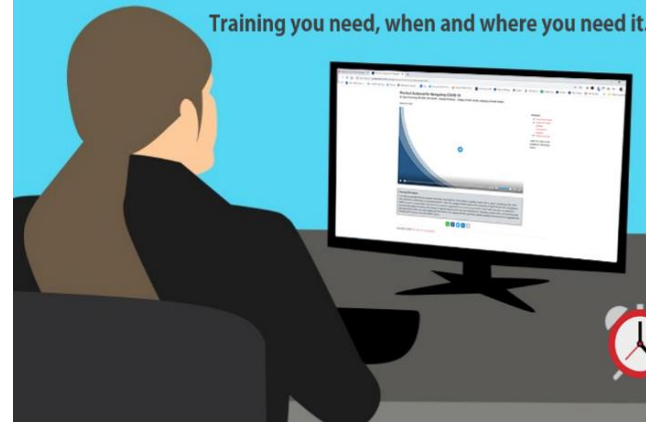
This Panel will give voice to the perspectives of birth parents whose children are in the child welfare system and of foster parents who are caregivers for children in that system. The session will highlight the experiences birth parents and foster parents have in being part of the child welfare system, emphasize birth parents and foster parents working together to ensure good outcomes for the children, and summarize system challenges and strategies for better supporting parent.. 1.5 Hours

Supporting Respectful Partnership: Coparenting

The Florida Partnership Plan calls for caregivers and agency staff to partner together to assist birth parents in improving their ability to care for and protect their children, and further provides that partners will act in a supportive and respectful manner that allows children to maintain ties to their family. While the words "coparenting" are not used in the Partnership Plan, the expectations are clear; coparenting is an essential element to providing quality parenting to children. Successful coparenting requires a partnership with agency staff, caregivers and birth families. This training will answer the following questions: What are the foundational principles of coparenting? Are those principles supportive of child development and trauma sensitive practices? What are the challenges to implementing coparenting practices? What are the successes of implementing coparenting practices? What role do agency staff, caregivers, and birth parents play in successful coparenting? How can coparenting be implemented in your local QPI site?1.0 Hours

Just in Time Training

Training you need, when and where you need it.



Top Tips for Getting a Certificate

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

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

Interested in Adoption?

Jamir

February 28, 2008

LOOKING FOR ADOPTIVE HOME

Jamir is described as smart, creative, intelligent and kind. He enjoys playing video games and learning new things. He is involved in sports which he has enjoyed. Jamir enjoys one-on-one time and thrives with positive reinforcement and encouragements of his successes. He is thoughtful of others and desires to be part of a family unit who can help him navigate through challenges and provide him a stable, safe and supportive home.

Jamir’s ideal family will provide structure, have established rules and expectations and be able to provide guidance in his young life. Jamir has many exceptional qualities which will only be enhanced by him gaining a sense of support, reliability and understanding from his prospective family.

Below is a link to his Have a Heart video:

<https://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Have-a-Heart-Meet-Jamir-503896881.html>



If you would like more information about Jamir please email Tawnya Robertson trobertson@washoecounty.us or call 775-785-8659.

David

June 7, 2009

LOOKING FOR ADOPTIVE HOME

David is longing for a forever family. This genuinely thoughtful boy is wise beyond his years and full of personality. He loves to please others and is an excellent big brother who takes pride in looking out for his little brother.

David’s favorite super-heroes are Batman and Black Panther. His favorite food is sushi and his favorite dessert is ice cream. Foods he simply will not eat are tomatoes, sweet peppers, zucchini and mushrooms. Although David admits if mushrooms are on his pizza, he won’t pick them off. David says he is a dog person but will tolerate cats if they’re loving and cuddly. David loves building Legos and will talk for hours about the ones he’s already built as well as those he’d like to. David likes to play video games and dreams of one day having his own Xbox Series X and or a PS5.

David is hoping for a two-parent household where he is the only child. His forever family will love him unconditionally, while providing a safe, structured environment where he can grow, thrive and heal.

If you’re interested in learning more about this amazing boy please contact Tawnya Robertson at trobertson@washoecounty.us



Luna

July 2020

FLEX HOME REQUIRED- LEGAL RISK

This beautiful five-month-old can melt hearts with her smile. Luna is described by those who know her best as, “Calm, happy and a perfect baby!” Luna is an active little lady who enjoys standing, bouncing, and building her core. Luna loves being around other babies and has done well around pets. Luna loves her Similac Advanced Formula and is a diligent eater doing so twice between bedtime and the morning. Luna is easy to sooth when she is upset which typically is only when she requests a clean diaper. Luna’s eye-hand coordination is remarkable, and she appears to be meeting all developmental milestones early. NEIS will evaluate Luna when she is 6 months.

If you interested in learning more about this beautiful little girl contact Mitch Matthews, LSW Children’s Division - Washoe County Human Services Agency mmatthews@washoecounty.us



Washoe County School District Update

BACK TO SCHOOL

- Elementary students are back as of 1/4 and Middle/High students return 1/19 and are on mandatory Distance Learning until then (again, with the exception of those in self-contained programs). Middle and High schools are open so if your youth is changing mode of instruction or you need any support at all, please reach out to them.
- WCSD Board of Trustees Meeting 1/14 at 4:00, if you would like to view meeting and/or send in public comment. [Click here](#) for more info. The agenda isn't posted yet but they should be confirming the return date for Middle and High school and discussing any other COVID related challenges.

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.
- Please understand that HSA must follow federal and state law as it pertains to educational stability and protections for foster youth. School of Origin is one of the most important, so if you're bored feel free to read up on it ([NRS 388E.045](#)) or reach out to your case worker "especially if there are discussions about a potential school change. Remember that foster youth lose an average of 6 months of instruction per school change, which puts them at greater risk for not graduating (national average for foster you is already at a low 50%). ☹️"

TRANSPORTATION - WILL GET EVEN MORE CHALLENGING AS COVID CALMS AND KIDS RETURN TO SCHOOL

- Budget belts are tight, and bussing will be a "thing" for a while, so...
 - Don't forget that reimbursement is available from WCSD and no tracking is required!
 - Keep your eyes open for emails asking for your help as we get creative to keep our kids stable in their "Schools of Origin".
 - Some very special foster parents have helped drive other kids to school and can be a "game changer" to maintain school stability while our kids settle into their new placements.
 - Reimbursement also available for transportation helpers (angels!).
 - COVID PPE precautions apply.

TUTORING SUPPORT

- Please don't hesitate to request a tutor through your worker if your student needs a leg up!

DISTANCE LEARNING

- There are a few options to support Distance Learning for our kids, either full-time or just a couple days per week, to give parents and kids a break. See below.
 - Please talk to your case worker to inquire about any funding assistance if there is a need.
- LAPTOPS –
 - If your student needs a laptop and is attending distance learning full-time or hybrid, please check with the school first, then reach out to your worker. The schools should be able to accommodate most needs by now.
 - If you have an iFoster laptop issued by WCHSA and having trouble with it, please first refer to the [sheet](#) that accompanied it as there are some quick reset options and also tech support contact info directly through iFoster. Contact your worker or Keri Pruitt kpruitt@washoecounty.us if you are still having issues.
- Would you like to make a difference by supporting Distance Learning for an additional foster youth?**
 - Many foster parents have unique skills in supporting distance learning and have "figured it out". 😊
 - Some kids/families need extra support and/or a break from their everyday environment.
 - "It takes a village" and we are in this together, so let's support one another as much as possible!
 - If you are interested, please contact Kylee Spring at kspring@washoecounty.us

Distance Learning Support

- Tips provided by HSA previously (ask for another copy!)
- PLEASE utilize the WCSD website as they are continuously adding supportive resources!
 - Offers technology support for families! Please see [WCSD homepage](#) for details (toggle through the rotating options)!
 - Guidelines and tips for families re. on-line learning
 - Support for Edgenuity, Envision, MathXL and MANY other on-line platforms utilized by WCSD
 - IC Parent Portal support - MS Teams - Much more!!



TECHNOLOGY LEARNING SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES

GUIDELINE FOR FAMILIES

Families can find resources to support distance learning for middle school and high school students. These resources include tutorial videos on the online programs schools use for distance learning instruction.

[High School](#)
[Middle School](#)

Distance Learning Facilities:

NV PREP

- Serves grades K-5
- Licensed preschool - fees apply, no subsidies available currently (rates similar to daycare)
- Before/after school programs also available
- Can utilize distance learning 2,3 or 5 days/wk
- Capacity 12 students total
- 780 Sandhill Rd., Reno, NV 89521 775.415.7737 info@prepsm.com

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

- Serve ages 6+ K-12
- 3 locations – maximum capacity 300 – Gyms are organized for studying with staff support, so kids are not mixed in with the masses, other than during breaks.
 - 9th Street Facility** 2880 E. Ninth St., Reno, NV 89512
 - Pennington Facility** (next to Reno HS) 1300 Foster Dr., Reno, NV 89509
 - Carano Facility** (Near Vassar/Keitzke) 1090 Bresson Ave., Reno, NV 89502
- Low rates, subsidies available
- Contacts for distance learning
 - Arantza Alcantara 775-360-2410 aalcantara@bgctm.org
 - Sarah Odom 775-360-2471 sodom@bgctm.org

DISCOVERY MUSEUM

- Grades 2-8 Open 7:50am to 5:30pm
- Capacity 108 total – see site for current availability nvdsm.org A lot of current availability!!
- 490 S. Center St., Reno 775.786.1000 Fees apply, financial assistance available.
- Website says Registration is currently available for sessions through March 12, 2021 but will likely be extended.
- Earbuds and computers are provided, but kids are encouraged to bring their own.
- Packet work is also supported!
- Staff is supportive with technology and basic academic skills, but not licensed teachers.

Are you able and willing to offer distance learning support to other foster youth?

There are some resource parents who could use support from fellow families. If you feel like you've mastered distance learning and have room to offer support for another youth, please email Kylee Spring (kspring@washoecounty.us) to learn more.

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



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.

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



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

Haveaheartwashoe.com

SPOT TO SHARE

CHARLOTTE AND JOSHUA BRONSON

Charlotte and Joshua Bronson are amazing resource parents with Washoe County Human Services Agency. WCHSA workers as well as community providers have reached out regarding this family's co-parenting relationship and the support they provide birth parents.

Charlotte made a beautiful calendar for the mother with multiple photos of her child. Even after a child in their home reunified with his mother Charlotte and Joshua continue to be a support! They will babysit for the mother while she is at work. This birth parent stated that the Bronson's have helped her so much and are still a huge support!

WCHSA thanks the Bronson family for everything they do for the children and families in our community!

If you have a story that you would like to share on the next newsletter please email kspring@washoecounty.us.



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.