

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!

WCHSA Medical Unit

The Washoe County Human Services Medical Unit is located at the Children's Advocacy Center at 2097 Longley Lane. Next door to the Kids Kottage.

Our medical staff are able to see any and all of our children who are in foster care. Every child that comes into care should be seen by the medical unit.

Types of exams that are completed.

- **EPSDT** –The EPSDT is a comprehensive exam that is meant to provide a general overview of the child's health. It's like a yearly physical where we look at all the body systems, head to toe, and ask them questions about many other aspects of their life. We start by checking for previous medical records at St. Mary's and Renown, we look at both emergency room and urgent care visits as well as regular doctor's office visits. We also look for vaccination records through the state's WebIZ program. We would like to address any concerns the children have or any concerns the foster parents have noticed. Then we measure their height and weight, get their temperature, and blood pressure and their other vital signs then do a full exam. Staff will check all their skin for any injuries and ask a few questions about their mental health and social habits. Depending on what we find we can recommend getting early intervention services for kids with delays or we can recommend getting blood testing done, STD testing or x-rays and CT scans. We can start new medications; we can also get them seen by a specialist's office and schedule a follow up visits with us to make sure that the kids are getting better.
- **Illness** – patients with COVID symptoms are referred to Renown and St Mary's Urgent care facilities. Rashes, conjunctivitis etc., can be evaluated in the office. We are trying to prevent any COVID exposure from coming into the medical unit, all adults must wear a mask when bringing the kids in, if the kids are old enough to tolerate a mask, we encourage that as well. Depending on the child's symptoms we may route them instead to the urgent care locations where they can test for COVID. Otherwise, we can evaluate a lot of the illnesses that you would normally take care of at your regular doctor's office. This is mostly helpful for those new fosters that haven't been able to establish with a doctor's office yet or if they can't get seen at their regular doctor's office in a timely manner.
- **Exams for Daycare, school, sports, and treatment center-** A lot of the forms that daycare, school, and sports activities give out to the kids often just require a routine head to toe physical and check up on vaccines that we can do in the medical unit
- **Vaccines** are being referred to Health Department: 775-328-2402 or at the child's primary care office.

SCHEDULING • Contact phone number for the Medical Unit: 284-2763.

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

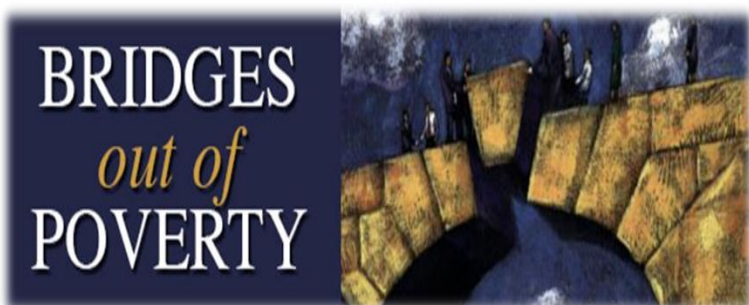
August 13, 2021, and August 22, 2021.

9am to 4pm

County Complex- Building A
Human Resources Training room

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

- **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=Y2R2eEVKVV0RzU0I5VjRjZWZNNmhUQT09>
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 were missed.

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 Certificate**: 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@supportus.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.

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!

Taking the Blame Off Kids: Understanding Systems and the Ecological Model

Exploration of the Ecological Model as an effective way of understanding family dynamics and individual behavior within larger systems and communities. This presentation includes information specific to children and youth in foster care. (0.5 Hours)

Child Centered Strategies for Supporting Families

Children from hard places manifest the trauma they have experienced in many different ways. Caregivers report the child in their care acting out in ways such as running away, lying, stealing, and arguing but also with children who shut down, become isolated, and stop communicating. Despite the services and trainings available to support families, caregivers often report they continue to feel unprepared and not provided with adequate tools to support children who display significant intensity of behaviors in their home display. This panel will provide a brief overview of recent media events highlighting caregiver's responses to the behaviors of the children in their homes and engage participants in a discussion in approaches to assist in the moment. The panel will be interactive, providing a significant question and answer segment as well. (1.5 hour)

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

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 hours)

Consent

Participants will learn the meaning of consent and when consent is true. They will learn how to teach children consent and the importance of boundaries and activities. They will learn how to report sexual assault. Participants will learn who the child can talk to when they are dealing with trauma. Participants will also learn about disclosures and how to handle them. (1.5 hours)

Healthy Relationships

Participants will learn to identify different types and attributes of relationships children may be a part of in the modern world. They will learn to develop skills to effectively communicate with their children. They will be able to recognize and adapt to boundaries presenting in your children to strengthen relationships. They will learn to keep children safe on the internet. They will learn to support children through changes with friends while encouraging them to venture out and meet new types of people. (1.5 hours)

Interested in Adoption?

Brian

9-year-old

100% FREE FOR ADOPTION

Meet Brian, a sweet and active young boy who will melt your heart with his smile and keep you busy with all his interests. Brian enjoys playing outside, swimming, bike riding, playing soccer and golf and is in the process of learning to skateboard. When Brian is not engaged in a physical activity, you will find him playing video games (Mine Craft), drawing, playing with Legos and Hot Wheels or making cards for people. Brian loves fast food and salad; however, he dislikes veggies and chores.

Brian is respectful of adults and interacts well with kiddos his own age or older than him. He enjoys helping others and enjoys receiving one-on-one attention.

Brian will benefit from a patient, committed and loving family who is willing to provide him with the love and attention that he needs and thrives on. If you are interested in learning more about Brian, please contact **Brenda** at

Bsilis@washoecounty.us



James

1-years-old

LEGAL RISK

Meet this little fighter, who has been fighting an uphill battle since birth. James is and adorable toddler with significant medical needs derived from his mother's health and his very premature birth. James has resided in a hospital since birth but is presently making progress with the extensive services that he receives.

James fighting spirit continues to surprise his medical providers with his progress and will to achieve his developmental milestones. His charming smile and developing personality capture the heart of all those that meet him.

James needs a family that is willing to commit to providing him around the clock care in a loving and nurturing home, who is willing to provide him unconditional love and care to help him grow. Currently James' prognosis is that he will require additional support into adulthood. To learn more about this gorgeous little fighter please contact **Brenda** at Bsilis@washoecounty.us

Andre'

16-years-old

LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

Andre' is a sweet, well-spoken youth with a great sense of humor. She can be shy when she's first getting to know you, but it doesn't take her long to warm up and show her true "chatty", outgoing self. Andre' likes poetry, art and listen to records, or as she likes to call them, "vinyl's". She is smart and school is important to her. She 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 her friends and live a typical teen life. Still, she 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



Washoe County School District



TRANSPORTATION FOR OUR FOSTER YOUTH IS IN CRISIS

The school district is experiencing a shortage in bussing options this year, so we are getting as creative as possible. We will be reaching out to all of you with requests to help us, if there happens to be a youth whose route to and/or from school or other drop off location may fall within your daily path of travel.

REIMBURSEMENT

Please remember that 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.

LEGAL RIGHTS OF FOSTER YOUTH

Maintaining our kids in their School of Origin is CRITICAL to their educational and overall stability and well-being. For every school change a foster youth experiences, they lose an average of six months of education. That is why there is federal and state law to support our foster kids’ rights to stay put in their schools – rather than moving schools every time their foster placement changes. ****This is EXTREMELY critical to their ability to graduate from high school and live independently as healthy young adults.**

Family Engagement Center (FEC) Resource

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.



Spot to Share

James & Stephanie Hillyard, one of our Resource Family’s was acknowledged by their caseworker for this months Spot to Share!

They are so open and supportive of the parents which makes such a huge difference. They allow the parents to video chat in between visits at FEC and they text each other daily with updates. She always sends them pictures of the child to the parents as well. They are doing a great job!

Our agency just wanted to acknowledge the Hillyard’s for the care they are providing this child and being such a positive support to the birth family. They are promoting FRV (Fostering Relationships through Visitation) and Co-Parenting.



REMINDER: If you have a story to share for the next newsletter, please contact Kylee Spring (kspring@washoecounty.us)

Have a Heart Washoe



Our team is working hard to upgrade our Have a Heart website to include more resources, more ways to connect and more education. We hope to be live with the new site in October. We can hardly wait to for you all to see all the changes! In the meantime, we have moved the “Have a Heart” site to HaveaHeartWashoe.us.

Please be sure to update your “favorites” bar with our new web address.

QPI KEYWORD

School Stability

Federal and State law requires that children shall be maintained in their school of origin, unless the Agency determines it is in the best interests of the child to move to a different school. Any school change for a child in foster care must be approved by the Agency.

If a child is to remain in their school of origin the foster parent may be expected to transport the child to their school of origin until transportation services can be arranged. This can take 3-7 school days.

Parents are expected to participate in all school meetings and have decision making authority concerning their child’s educational needs and services unless their parental rights have been terminated or their whereabouts are unknown. When a parent is not available, the foster parent is expected to serve as the child’s surrogate parent concerning the educational needs of the child. In some cases, the court will appoint a surrogate parent, who is not the foster parent, to act as the child’s educational decision maker. Whenever there is a parent or court appointed surrogate available to make educational decisions the foster parent will continue to participate in team meetings to assist in the assessment of and provision of services to meet the educational needs of children in their care.

The foster parent will notify the case worker of any communications from the school, including report cards, which relate to the child’s school behavior and performance. Positive as well as negative reports should be shared. Reports should be shared during monthly child contacts made by the case worker or sooner if there are concerns that require immediate attention. Foster parents are encouraged to obtain access to Infinite Campus through the foster child’s school in order to monitor the child’s attendance, grades and behaviors in school.

The foster parent is responsible for providing routine school supplies such as pencils, papers, binders, Kleenex, gym clothes, backpacks, lunch boxes etc. Extraordinary school needs such as class rings, yearbooks, calculators, etc. may be referred to the child’s case worker.

The Washoe County Human Services Agency and the Washoe County School District have an ongoing partnership to address the needs of foster children in Washoe County schools. An Educational Liaison is employed by the Washoe County Human Services Agency to assist case workers, parents and foster parents in obtaining services needed to address the needs of children in foster care.



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



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2021 Pennington Grant (Supplies, Clothing, and Christmas)

Greeting care providers, resource families, caseworkers, and others! Once again, the Pennington Foundation is graciously gifting foster children in Washoe County with an unbelievably large grant for 2021. All children in foster care (legal custody of Washoe County HSA) who reside in Northern Nevada will receive supplies, clothing, and Christmas gifts, totaling \$450 per child. The process will be somewhat like last year, with a few changes. Children who reside outside of Northern Nevada (regardless of placement) cannot be served through this grant/process, but we are working on alternative plans for those kiddos for the 2021 Christmas season. Please understand - to be efficient and consistent in the way we serve all eligible children, the deadlines put into place will be fully enforced barring emergencies (failure to read thoroughly or 'I forgot' will not constitute an emergency). Children in care within Washoe County will be receiving access to the grant in 3 separate sections – School Supplies (ages 5+), Fall/Winter Clothing (and supplies for ages 0-4), and Christmas gifts (for all ages). *****Please read this email thoroughly and carefully to ensure you understand the processes explained*****

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- For ages 5+: **School supplies and backpacks will be available for pick up from the FEC (Family Engagement Center – address below) August 3-6 and 10-13 from 8:30 am – 5:30 pm.** Please note that the supplies we provide will not cover ALL required school supplies. These will consist of basic items such as **backpacks (better than last year 😊), crayons, markers, scissors, colored pencils, pencils, pens, erasers, folders, sharpies, highlighters, dry-erase markers, pencil boxes/pouches, watercolors, glue sticks, composition notebooks, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, and rulers.** *You do NOT need to RSVP for this event, but you must be present to pick up the supplies during the times listed above. **It is imperative that kiddos are present for this event to pick out their own supplies.***

CLOTHING/SUPPLIES:

- For ages 0-4: Diapering supplies and/or educational materials - these will be available during one of our shopping events as described below.
- For all ages: Clothing will be available during one of our **in-person shopping events** in the Reno/Sparks area during the months of September and October. A reservation form will be sent out/available by August 31st to choose your date/time for shopping. **It is imperative that older kiddos be present for this event to pick out their own clothing/shoes/etc.**

CHRISTMAS:

- For all ages: Christmas Gifts will be available during one of our **in-person shopping events** in the Reno/Sparks area during the months of November/December. A reservation form will be sent out/available by September 30th to choose your date/time for shopping. Kiddos **should NOT** be in attendance for this event as these gifts should be surprises.

As mentioned above, reservation forms for shopping days will be sent out electronically in the coming months. I appreciate everyone's patience and understanding with this process and with the volume of emails and interactions that will need to be made to coordinate for over 725 children. With that being said, please note that all communication about this project will be done electronically through email, Facebook posts (on the Northern Nevada Foster Parent Group), newsletters, etc. so please be on the lookout for the information. It is vital that all materials (supplies, clothing, gifts, etc.) that children receive while in their foster/temporary placements are ALWAYS sent with them when they move, regardless of the placement type. Specific questions or further clarification about this project/grant can be made by emailing Rhonda Walker, FEC staff member, at RWalker@washoecounty.us.

Thank you and please reach out with concerns, questions, kudos, etc. We appreciate photos of kiddos shopping/picking out/receiving items, letters, and thank you cards – all of which we will provide to the Pennington Foundation at the end of the year.



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
 ¡descargue su aplicación para jóvenes Nevada 211 hoy!

BÚSQUEDA DE RECURSOS LOCALES A TUS DEDOS 24/7

- 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!