

Engaging Child Welfare, Education, and Judicial Stakeholders at the State and Local Levels

Teleconference/Webinar
Monday, April 9, 2012
3:00-4:30 PM EST

An event to support participants in the Child Welfare, Education and the Courts: A Collaboration to Strengthen Educational Successes of Children and Youth in Foster Care meeting, November 3-4, 2011, and their invited guests.



**NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FOR PERMANENCY AND
FAMILY CONNECTIONS**
at the Hunter College
Silberman School of Social Work



a service of the Children's
Bureau – ACF/DHHS and
member of the T&TA Network

Agenda

- **Introduction**
 - Welcome – Taffy Compain
 - Youth Perspective – Sixto Cancel
- **Engaging Stakeholders**
 - Context and Strategies – Annie Blackledge
- **State Example: Nevada**
 - Nevada Team Presentation on State-Level Summit
- **Discussion/Questions and Answers**

Improving Educational Outcomes for Students in Foster Care: Engaging Stakeholders

Laying a Solid Foundation

- Federal and state law – direct and indirect
- CW and ED policies, procedures, and practice
- Data systems
- Other related efforts

Facts First- Building the Case

- The national research
- State and local data
 - Number of school age children in foster care
 - Removal and placement data by school district
 - Overall education outcomes for students in foster care, including postsecondary

Identifying Stakeholders

- Youth
- Identify champions
- Judiciary- including lawyers and CASA workers
- CW staff and foster parents
- Education- Early learning, K-12 and higher education (P-20)
- Non profits and community based organizations
- Business partners

Create a Win- Win Proposition

The moral imperative is often not enough!

- Seek first to understand, then to be understood
- Identify common goals for all systems

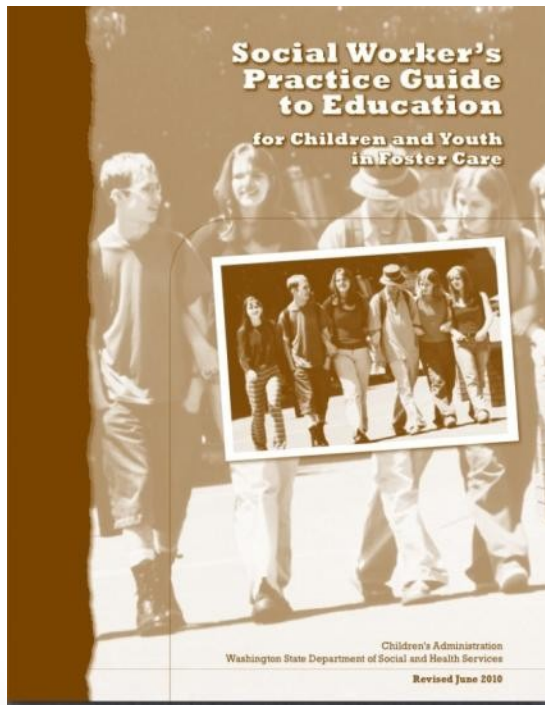
Meeting with Purpose

- Develop concrete planning and action steps
- Clearly identify roles and responsibilities
- Focus on areas with a strong return on investment
- Develop concrete ways to measure progress

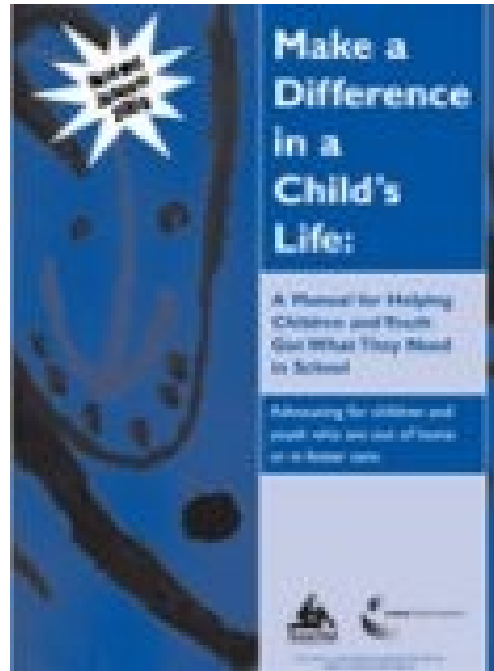
AVOID RECREATING THE WHEEL

Steal Shamelessly

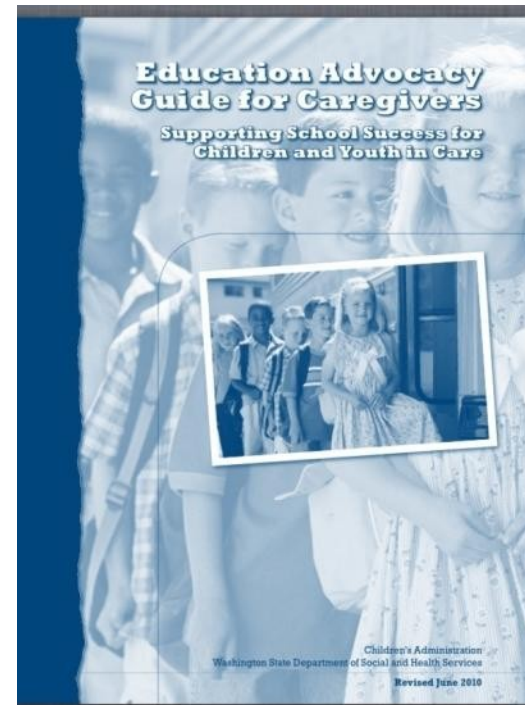
Education Advocacy Guides



Social Workers Guide:
<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/publications/22-1185.pdf>

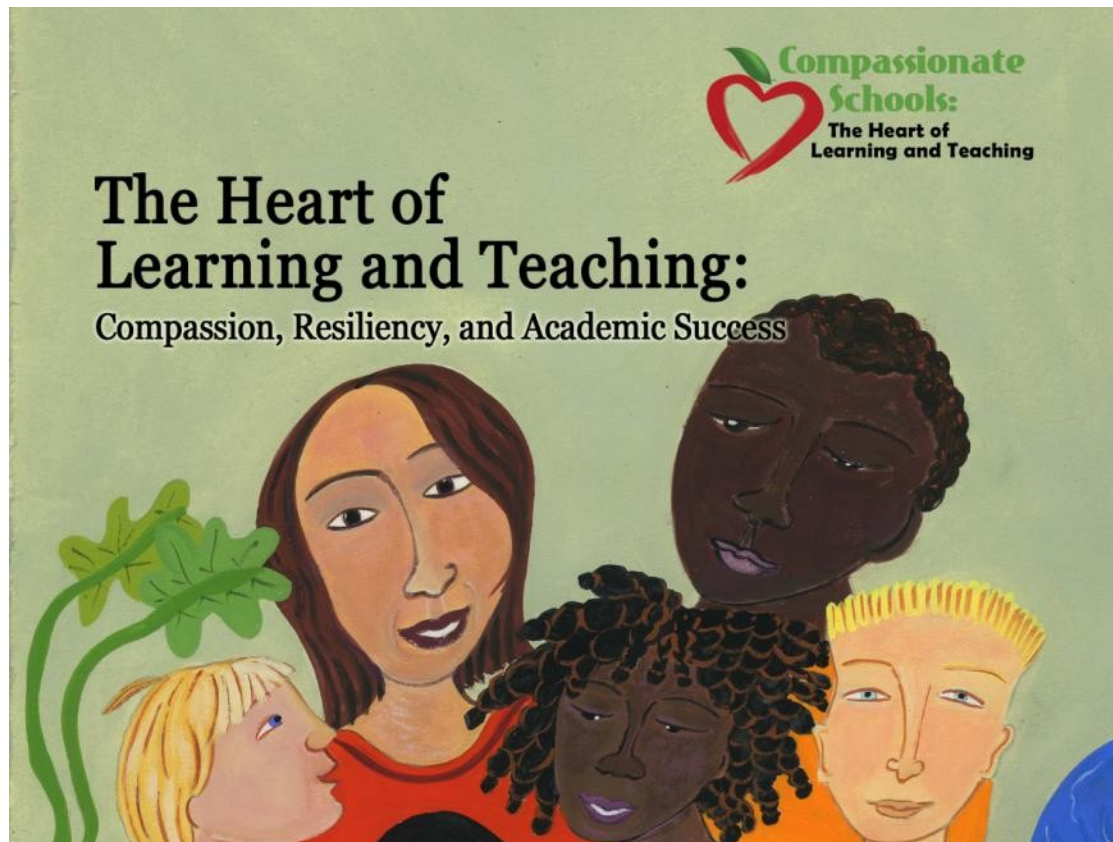


<http://teamchild.org/index.php/education/manual/>



Caregivers Guide:
<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/publications/22-1192.pdf>

Trauma: A Handbook for Teachers



Free download available at:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/CompassionateSchools/HeartofLearning.aspx>

Web Resources

The screenshot shows the Casey Family Programs website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Locations, and Careers. Below this is a search bar with a Google Custom Search button. A secondary navigation bar contains links for About Us, Our Work, Get Involved, Resource Library, Press, For Families, For Youth, and For Alumni. The main content area is titled "Resource Library" and features a sidebar with categories: Publications, Initiatives, Events, Videos, Assessment Tools, Stories, and Links. The main content includes a large image of a woman and a child, a "Resource Library" section describing the online archive, and several categorized lists: "Publications Reports and resource guides", "Initiatives Projects and collaborations", "Events Conferences and other events from Casey Family Programs", "Videos Multimedia presentations that provide insight into Casey Family Programs' work", and "Assessment Tools Sites for child welfare professionals". There is also a "Free e-mail subscription" section and a "Featured Publication" section with a book cover titled "GOING BEYOND THE VISION".

<http://www.casey.org/Resources/>

The screenshot shows the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law website. The header features the ABA logo and the text "Center on Children and the Law American Bar Association > ABA Groups". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Our Work, Policy, Projects & Initiatives, Publications, Resources, Contact Us, and About Us. The main content area is divided into several sections: "About the Center" with a photo of a diverse group of children and text describing the program; "2012 Fidelity & Surety Law Committee Mid-Winter CLE Program" with dates and location; "Center Projects - Issues" with a list of projects including ABA Permanency Barriers Project, Bar-Youth/Aging Out of Foster Care, Bullying, Child and Adolescent Health, Child Courtworks, Children's Ombudsman Information, Closed Circuit & Recording Technology, Commission on Youth at Risk, Court Improvements Child Welfare (CIP), Disaster Planning Child Welfare Law Issues, Fathers in the Child Welfare System, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Legal Issues, Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center, Haitian Adoption Issues, It's Your Life, and Juvenile Status Offense Projects; "Child Law Practice" with a list of topics and a "clp ONLINE" logo; and "Child CourtWorks" with a description of the newsletter and a "Visit Child CourtWorks" link.

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law.html

Annie Blackledge, Casey Family
Programs Fellow,
U.S. Department of Education, Office of
Vocational & Adult Education

Annie.blackledge@ed.gov

Presenters



- **Nancy M. Saitta** – Chief Justice
Nevada Supreme Court
- **Kathie Malzahn-Bass** – Court Improvement
Program Coordinator
Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts
- **Tom Murtha** – Education Liaison
Washoe County (Nevada) Department
of Social Services
- **Karen Stephens** – Education Programs
Professional
Nevada Department of Education

Nevada's Education Summit

February 2012

INTRODUCTION

- Arrived at Federal Summit without a Clue
- Gained Awareness of the Importance of Educational Stability
- Found a “DREAM”
- Developed Team Relationships & Made Commitments



Prior to the National Education Summit

- Limited Educational Collaboration
- Clark County, NV – Placed by ZIP Codes
- Washoe County, NV – 2005 Initiative
 - Integrated and/or collaborative case management and educational decision-making, information-sharing, and data collection would improve educational Outcomes
- Grant funded position (Educational Liaison) between Courts & Schools



Prior to the National Education Summit

- School Choice Program for Children in Foster Care (NRS 392B.100)
- Legal Guardian or Custodian may Submit Application
- Best Interest of Children Determination
- Transportation ???



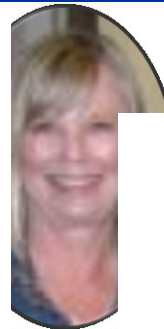
Following Federal Summit

- Maintained Momentum
- Met Every 2 Weeks
- Original Plan Too Ambitious
- No Data - Required System Changes to Implement
- Downsized Goals
- Began Planning Nevada's Education Summit



Nevada's Education Summit Goals

- Educate
- Energize
- Motivate
- Identify Core Values
- Identify Barriers & Solutions




Nevada's Statewide Education Summit

- Planning Began – meeting every other week
- Planning Participants Representing...
- Date Selected; Presenters / Facilitators Identified
- Sought Representation from:
 - Schools
 - Social Services
 - Courts
 - State Legislature
 - Child Representatives



Education Summit Flyer

- Identified Goals & Objectives
- Developed Flyer – Save The Date
- Encouraged Key Stakeholders to Attend




Summit on Education in Child Welfare:
Nevada Responding to “Fostering Connections”

SAVE THE DATE

Please join Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Nancy M. Saitta
with Child Welfare and Education Experts
at this organizational meeting of the
Summit on Education in Child Welfare:
Nevada Responding to “Fostering Connections”

February 21, 2012
9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Nevada Supreme Court, Law Library, Room 107
201 S. Carson Street, Carson City, NV



Statewide Plan to ensure
compliance with “Fostering
Connections”

- ✦ Data Collection
- ✦ Training Curriculum
- ✦ Transportation
- ✦ Immediate Transfer of Records

Nevada's Education Summit

- Created Working Agenda
- Viewed / Edited Resources
- Replicated National Speaker Format

Nevada Education Summit Strengthening Education Success for Children and Youth in Foster Care

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Nevada Supreme Court Law Library
201 S. Carson Street, Carson City
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

- 9:00 – 9:30 **Registration**
- 9:30 – 9:50 **Welcome & Introductions** Chief Justice Nancy M. Saitta
Supreme Court of Nevada
- 9:50 – 10:50 **A Roadmap to Educational Success of Foster Children**
- Arne Duncan, United States Secretary of Education (video clip)
 - Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Dept. of Education (video clip)
 - Kathleen Sebelius, U. S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (video clip)
 - Amber Howell, Acting Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services
 - "The Spirit of the Law" – youth panel discussion (video clip)
 - Judge Frank Sullivan, 8th Judicial District Court
 - Fostering Connections Educational Provisions Questions & Answers
- 10:50 – 11:00 - Break -
- 11:00 – 11:40 **Why Fostering Connections?** (questions & answers)
- Judge Deborah Schumacher, 2nd Judicial District Court
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Our Beliefs about Educational Success of Children in Foster Care**
A cross-system discussion about core values for educational success of foster children
- Melissa Bahmer, NCJFCJ, Model Court Program Manager
Member of the National Education Workgroup that planned the
Child Welfare, Education, and the Courts Summit
 - Franz Braun, NCJFCJ, Nevada Model Court Liaison
- 12:00 – 1:00 - Networking Lunch –
Bring your own or Sign-up for on-site delivery (\$10 cash)...see attached Menu/Order Form
- 1:00 – 1:30 **Cross-System Beliefs** (continued)
- 1:30 – 2:30 **How Do We Get There? Nevada's Successes and Challenges**
Melissa Bahmer and Franz Braun, facilitators
- 2:30 – 2:45 - Break -
- 2:45 – 3:00 **How Do We Get There?** (continued)
- 3:00 – 4:45 **Charting the Course: Nevada's Blueprint for Educational Success
for Children in Foster Care** (facilitated discussion)
- 4:45 – 5:00 **Closing** - Chief Justice Nancy M. Saitta



Nevada's Education Summit

- Sent Links & Video Clips to Speakers
- Working Box Lunch – keeping participants focused and in the venue



Work Groups



- Break-out Sessions
- Core Values: Barriers & Solutions

Possible Core Values to Achieve Educational Success with Children in Foster Care

- **Core Value 1:** Students remain in their school of origin whenever feasible and in the best interest of the student
- **Core Value 2:** When school moves do occur, transitions between schools and / or district are efficient and effective
- **Core Value 3:** Young children enter school ready to learn and supported to do well
- **Core Value 4:** Students have the opportunity and support to fully participate in all aspects of the school experience
- **Core Value 5:** Students are supported to prevent truancies, dropouts, and disciplinary actions
- **Core Value 6:** Students are encouraged to participate in planning and pursuing their educational goals
- **Core Value 7:** Responsible and caring adult mentors the students' education during and after county or state care
- **Core Value 8:** Students are supported and prepared to be work or college ready



Lessons Learned

- Emphasize the participants are expected to stay for the entire meeting and why
- Allow more time to plan Summit, so the key stakeholders have sufficient advance notice
- Send invitation to all State Superintendents early
- Working lunch allowed additional time for conversation and prevented early departure
- Select a knowledgeable facilitator who can help develop the strategic plan



Lessons Learned (continued)

- Possible other participants could include Juvenile Services, Former Foster Youths, Community Partners
- Hottest Ticket in Town
- Have a venue large enough to allow for unexpected participants



Next Steps

- Create NV Action Plan Goals & Measurable Objectives developed by Summit participants.
- Nevada Department of Education & Division of Child and Family Services to initiate communication between agencies' data systems
- Develop an On-going, Statewide Education Collaborative
- Identify Technical Assistance needs and make necessary request(s)





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Questions ?????????

*Press *1
on your phone to ask a question.*

After the Event

- A feedback survey will be emailed to all participants. We appreciated your feedback!
- Materials for this event are currently posted on the NRCPFC website at: <http://www.nrcpfc.org/teleconferences/2012-04-09.html>
- The event will be archived at the same link by Wednesday, 4/18/12 and will be accessible from the Summit website. State Teams will receive an email with the link.
- Follow up questions for the presenters can be emailed to Tracy Serdjenian at tserdjen@hunter.cuny.edu
- Please continue to visit the Summit website for updates: http://www.nrcpfc.org/education_summit/



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