



Washoe County's Partnership Plan for Children in Out-of-Home Care Teamwork, Respect, Nurturing, Strong Families

We Believe:

We are all responsible for the well-being of the children in custody of Washoe County Social Services. Children need normal childhoods as well as loving and skillful parenting which honors their loyalty to their biological family. The children's caregivers along with the agency undertake this responsibility in partnership, aware that none of us can succeed by ourselves.

We Share:

All members of this partnership will behave professionally, will share all relevant information promptly, and will respect the confidentiality of the child and family.

The family, caregivers, and agency staff will participate as a team in developing the plan for the child and family, and all members of the team will work together to implement this plan. This includes caregiver and staff participation in all meetings and court hearings related to the child's care and future plans. Agency staff will support and facilitate caregiver participation through timely notification and providing alternative methods for caregivers who cannot be physically present.

We Commit:

Best interest of the child will always be at the forefront of everything we do.

Children in care will be afforded a "normal" childhood based on their individual needs and we will work to remove any barriers preventing activities enjoyed by youth today.

Children deserve excellent parenting which requires a loving commitment to the child, appropriate supervision and positive methods of discipline, encouragement of the child's strengths, respect for their individuality, providing opportunities to develop the child's interests and skills, awareness of the impact of trauma on behavior, and equal participation in family life. Caregivers and agency staff must be willing and able to learn about and be respectful of the child's religion, culture and ethnicity, and any special circumstances affecting the child's care.

