



October 2018

A Year of Growth and a Bright Future Ahead

Dear Friends,

We have had an incredibly busy year at the Washoe County Child Advocacy Center (CAC)! We experienced growth across all program services. As the only child advocacy center within the area, the Washoe County CAC is reminded of how fortunate we are to help protect the children involved in sexual or physical abuse allegations, as well as those who have witnessed a violent crime.

We are only able to help these children and families thanks to the Friends of the Washoe County CAC Board, generous donors, committed volunteers, as well as our community's unwavering dedication and commitment from the courageous and caring members of our multidisciplinary team (MDT).

Nicole Hicks, Executive Director
Chief Deputy District Attorney, WCDA



In This Issue...

Pinwheels for Prevention®

Pinwheel Planting &
Open House Event

•

Washoe County

CAC Spotlight

•

Mission Moments -

Case Summary

•

New Faces at

Washoe County CAC

•

Child Safety

•

Inspiring Achievement

•

Medical Unit and SART

•

Paws for Love

•

Amazon Smile

•

Washoe County CAC

Convictions

•

Community Outreach

•

Donor Spotlight

•

Donation



MDT Spotlight

Alexis Auckenthaler
Forensic Interviewer

The Washoe County CAC would like to congratulate our forensic interviewer, Alexis, for being presented with the 2018 "Distinguished Member of Criminal Justice System" award at the Washoe County Candlelight Vigil & Award Ceremony on April 11th.

Alexis has been with the Washoe County CAC since May of 2016. She completed a total of 387 forensic interviews in 2017, averaging about 32 interviews per month. Alexis' incredible ability to serve the children and families of the Washoe County CAC has earned her this distinguished honor and we could not be more proud!

Washoe County CAC National Accreditation

The Washoe County CAC is accredited with the National Children's Alliance, the national association and accrediting body for CAC's across the country.

CAC's are child-friendly facilities in which law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical and victim advocacy professionals work together to investigate abuse, help children heal from abuse, and hold offenders accountable for these crimes.

CAC's that have met national accreditation standards are recognized as having achieved a level of multidisciplinary collaboration and coordinated service delivery that significantly improves the experience and well being of children who have experienced abuse.

For more information about our accreditation visit: www.nationalchildrensalliance.org



Pinwheels for Prevention[®] Annual Pinwheel Planting & Open House



Commander Mark Katre RPD, Commander Oliver Miller RPD,
& Police Chief Brian Allen SPD.

April marked an important month for the Washoe County CAC.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has recognized April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. During this time, the Washoe County CAC creates awareness to the important issues that affect our most vulnerable population, our children. This past April, the Washoe County CAC hosted it's annual Pinwheel Planting & Open House, and opened it's doors to the public to showcase artwork collected from the children in our community, offered tours of the Washoe County CAC, and explained and answered questions about the services offered onsite.

During Child Abuse Prevention Month, pinwheels are prominently displayed throughout the community to increase awareness of child abuse prevention efforts and remind us of the carefree, fun childhoods all children desire and deserve. The Washoe County CAC made over 150 pinwheel bouquets which were delivered and displayed at over 100 organizations, businesses, and schools throughout the community.

We would like to give a special thanks to the community sponsors who helped make this day possible: Picture Perfect, Fast Frame in Carson City, The Frame Shop, Western Nevada Supply, and Spicy Pickle.



Washoe County CAC Staff: Kylee Spring, Lisa Todd, Kristen Bryant, Crystal Jaquette, Tammi Williamson, Debbie Robison, Rochelle Rose



Michelle Bays Investigator Supervisor with the District Attorney's Office, Lori Fralick Law Office Manager with the District Attorney's Office.



Reno Police Department Advocates and Office Personnel



Washoe County CAC APRN Becky Gebhardt and Friends of CAC Board Member Ryan Dolan



Washoe County CAC Social Workers Kassi Morris, Terra Luck, and Kylee Spring

Washoe County CAC Spotlight

Lori Fralick

District Attorney's Office Law Office Manager



We would like to welcome Lori Fralick as the District Attorney's Office new Law Office Manager. Lori comes to us from the Reno Police Department where for the last 13 years she has been the manager of the Reno Police Department Victim Services Unit and Service Centers.

Lori has called Northern Nevada her home since 1983. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's in Justice Management from the University of Nevada. Lori has provided training to law enforcement academies, judges, prosecutors, students, volunteer programs, and other educational presentations to the general public and specific disciplines on a local, statewide and national level. Throughout Lori's career, she has served on numerous boards, commissions, and coalitions in an effort to improve the lives of victims everywhere. Lori has been honored with countless recognitions, awards and certificates including but not limited to the 2018 and 2014 Reno Police Department Chief's Commendation Medal, 2008 Reno Police Department Civilian of the Bid—Team Denison for Outstanding Performance on the Brianna Denison case, and 2006 Reno Police Department Commander's Certificate of Accommodation awarded for exemplary service for the coordination and provision of victim advocacy in the Darren Mack case.

"I am so grateful the Child Advocacy Center exists as a resource for families in this community. The safety and caring shown here made a traumatic experience less so. Thank you!"

Washoe County CAC Parent

Mission Moments — Case Summary

Peg Samples

Washoe County Deputy District Attorney

In October, 2016, a 16 year old girl reported that Thomas Goepner had been sexually abusing her since she was 8 years old. The disclosure was in part motivated by the fact that Goepner recently became sexually aggressive towards the victim's best friend. Goepner also wanted to have one last sexual experience with the victim. The case was investigated by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with a team from the Washoe County CAC. Goepner was arrested and charged with several counts of sexual assault on a child and open and gross lewdness. A search warrant was served and several items of evidence described by the victim were located in Goepner's home.

The case developed a bizarre twist when Detective Arick Dickson, the lead investigator, realized that Goepner had been the suspect in a sexual assault case against another young girl in the 1980's. Unfortunately in that case, the statute of limitations had already run when the victim reported the crimes, and was unable to be prosecuted. Detective Dickson was able to find the victim, now in her 50's and living out of state and interviewed her concerning the past sexual abuse by Goepner. She disclosed the identity of another woman who Goepner had also victimized; she was also now in her 50's and had never disclosed the abuse to anyone. The similarities in the abuse of these women and the victim in the current case were striking: the abuse started at the same age, all the victims had had traumatic events in their lives just prior to the abuse, and Goepner abused friends of the primary victims. Both women showed an immense amount of courage when meeting with the prosecution team and agreeing to help in any way they could.

The case proceeded to trial in December, 2017. The State admitted testimony of the 16 year old victim and her best friend. As the result of a successful pre-trial motion filed by Ms. Samples, both previous victims were allowed to testify about the abuse to which Goepner subjected them in the late 1970's.

After a lengthy trial and half day of deliberations, the jury returned a verdict finding Goepner guilty of multiple counts of sexual assault on a child and open and gross lewdness. In February, 2018, at sentencing attended by the teenage victim as well as one of the previous victims, Judge Polaha sentenced Goepner to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 175 years. Immediately after the sentencing, the teenage victim called the other victim and informed her of the sentence. Two months later, the teenage victim graduated from high school and is now looking forward to starting college in the fall, where she hopes to major in veterinary sciences.

Thanks to Peg Samples and Arick Dickson, and congratulations to the entire Washoe County CAC team who stopped another sexual perpetrator and helped a victim on the road to healing.

New Faces at the Washoe County CAC

The Washoe County CAC continues to grow as we welcome new members to our team!

Nick Graham, Deputy District Attorney Prosecution



Nick grew up in a small rural town called Glide, Oregon. He attended the University of Oregon for both undergraduate and law school, where he graduated with an emphasis on criminal law, specifically prosecution. After law school, Nick moved to Las Vegas to clerk for the Honorable Ken Cory. When the clerkship ended, Nick was hired as a Deputy District Attorney for the Clark County District Attorney's Office in 2008. In 2013, Nick accepted a position at the Washoe County District Attorney's Office, escaped the heat of Las Vegas, and moved with his wife and three daughters to Reno. Nick's spare time is occupied almost entirely by his daughter's after school activities. But, on a free weekend, he likes to go cycling, ride dirt bikes, or go camping.

Nick Graham is a Deputy District Attorney, who brings with him 10 years of prosecutorial experience. Nick knows the work he does is extremely important to the community, and to the victims he represents. Nick has prosecuted several high profile cases, and for the last year, Nick was in charge of the prosecution of all Elder Abuse/Exploitation cases in Washoe County. He brings with him his ability to connect with his victims, young and old, and make sure their story is told. Nick is excited to be a part of the Washoe County CAC team.

Jennifer McCann, Forensic Interviewer Forensic Interviewer

Jennifer is thrilled to be working at the Washoe County CAC and support the overall improvement of Washoe County and the families in our community.

Jennifer and her husband and have been married for 4 years. They have 1 child together and 1 from a previous marriage. They enjoy camping, going to county concerts, and she loves to cook!

Jennifer has worked with families and children for over 15 years. For the last 10 years, Jennifer worked for the Children's Cabinet, which provided her many experiences with families and children that need it the most. Jennifer earned her M.S. in Human Development and Family studies at the University of Nevada Reno in 2008. Jennifer is a trauma-informed trainer and has held a certification in Family Life Education.



Darcy Chappel, Social Worker Human Services Unit

Darcy's motivation to work with the Washoe County CAC is her strong desire to help families and children.

Darcy has been married to Brit Chappel for 27 years and has three children: Haley, 23; Charley, 20; and Tanner, 18. She loves spending time with family, hiking, boating, and camping.

Darcy received her Associate's in journalism from Peninsula College; Bachelor's of General Studies with Social Work/Human Development and Family Studies focus from UNR. Darcy worked as a newspaper reporter and editor prior to going into public service. She has worked in various roles for the State of Nevada and Washoe County over the past 12 years, including Family Services Specialist, Disability Adjudicator, and Eligibility Certification Specialist. She was also a member of 2017/2018 Washoe County Training, Learning, Leadership Committee.



Christina Sheppard, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
Medical Unit



Christina is excited to be serving our community and back working with kids, babies, and families at the Washoe County CAC.

Christina is married and has 2 kids, ages 12 and 14. In her spare time Christina and her family enjoy spending time at their family cabin, boating, and attending her kids sports activities.

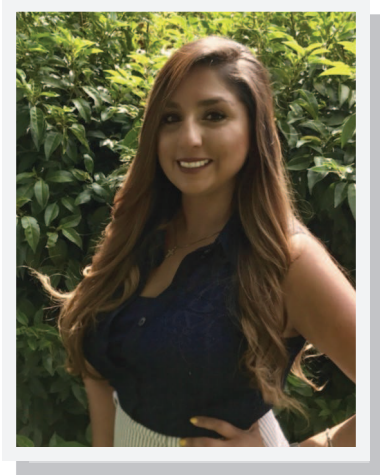
Christina was born and raised in Reno. She attended the University of Nevada Reno for her bachelor's and master's degrees. Christina has been a nurse for 18 years and an APRN for almost 2 years. Christina started with the County in November 2016 in the Family Planning Clinic at the Health District. The majority of her background is in the Neonatal ICU and Pediatric ER.

Gloria Jiménez, Program Assistant
Administration

Gloria takes pride in working with the Washoe County CAC and being part of the amazing work that is accomplished to help the children in our community.

In her spare time, Gloria enjoys spending time with her extended family and friends, her two goldendoodles Koko and Metzli, traveling, outdoor sports and recreation, and painting on canvas and on larger scales.

Gloria is from Northern Nevada and attended the University of Nevada Reno. She has worked with families and children for over 13 years. She is fluent in Spanish, and is motivated to helping the most vulnerable populations. She has worked with at-risk youth including demographics of juvenile delinquency and mental health, immigrant families, and victims of crime and exploitation. She has a passion for giving back to the community and has volunteered for PLAN Progressive Leadership Alliance Nevada for immigration advocacy, Reno Police Department's Victim Services Unit, and Awaken.



Did You Know?

In 2017, The Washoe County CAC served a total of 1,527 families and held 366 MDT Meetings

A big "thank you"....

It is with much sadness that we say farewell to Washoe County CAC's Medical Unit Doctor

Dr. Kristi MacLeod

We would like to thank Dr. MacLeod for her multiple years of service and commitment to the well-being of the children in our community.



Child Safety

Denise Linaman

Washoe County CAC Therapist



Here are a few tips to keep your children safe as they return to school:

- Maintain open communication with your child. Make sure they know they can talk to you about anything. Always be curious!
- Remind your child that it is never okay to keep a secret; and that if someone makes them feel uncomfortable or touches them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable, they need to tell you or another trusted adult.
- Make it clear that no matter what another child or adult may tell them, they will never get in trouble for reporting.
- If traveling to see family or friends, observe any changes in behavior. Do not be hesitant to ask what may be causing the change. Be open to hearing their stories.
- Don't ignore your child if they act different when a certain individual comes around

For more tips on keeping your child safe, follow us on Facebook:



<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofWCCAC/>



Inspiring Achievement

Nicole Hicks

Washoe County CAC Executive Director, Chief Deputy District Attorney

The Washoe County CAC would like to congratulate our Executive Director and Chief Deputy District Attorney Nicole Hicks on her Nevada Women's Fund 2018 Salute to Women of Achievement recognition!

Nicole Hicks has served the citizens of Washoe County for over a decade. She specializes in the prosecution of crimes against children, and was the driving force behind the creation of the Washoe County CAC. Through its multi-disciplinary approach, the Washoe County CAC is revolutionizing the way child physical and sexual abuse cases are being investigated and prosecuted locally while providing unprecedented services to the child victims and their family members. Her staff look up to her as a woman of integrity, respect and compassion, serving as an inspiration to all.



Medical Unit & Sexual Assault Response Team



Did You Know?

In 2017, The Washoe County CAC Medical Unit performed

777 Medical Exams

237 SART Exams

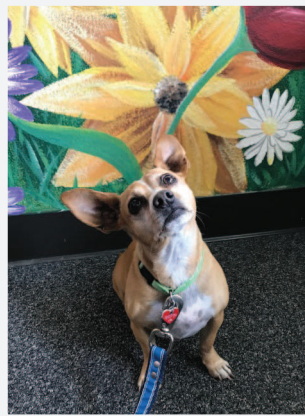
65 Child Abuse Response & Evaluations (CARES) Exams

Thanks to our partner, the Reno Police Department Victim Services Unit, for the grant funding utilized in our in-house Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) that helped us obtain an Secure Digital Forensic Imaging (SDFI) camera designed around the Federal Rules of Evidence.

Our nurses trained in forensic exams can now easily shoot, store and send high resolution images suitable for use as forensic evidence. Forensic images that need to be moved, or sent, are first secured inside a SDFI secure file, then sent through a secured File Portal ensuring absolute Chain of Custody. This in turn will make a huge difference in the prosecution of cases. In addition to the system, the Washoe County CAC has been able to train 5 nurses and one investigator in the use of this camera. Our RN Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner A/P, Debra Robison, says she “has been able to see bruises not observed prior to the exam, using the alternative light source provided by the SDFI system. The photos are very good, and the quality remains high with magnification of injury.”

The SDFI camera will be utilized for both child and adult photography. It will also be available for use by the Washoe County District Attorney’s Office on their domestic violence cases.

PAWS 4 LOVE Therapy Dog Spotlight



Meet Our Friend Kimbo

10 year old Chiweenie

Lives with his family Linda and Bob

Some volunteers at the Washoe County CAC have four legs, soft fur, and wagging tails. When children and their families arrive at our center, they have the opportunity to be greeted by one or two dogs.

Studies have shown that these gentle therapy dogs ease and comfort children, and in turn reduce their level of anxiety. Therapy dogs help empower the children of our CAC and provide emotional support. “Personally, I have seen children that come through our doors, and see a therapy dog here, and their faces light up. One of our counseling clients had never pet or interacted with a dog before coming to our office. She was very afraid on her first day when we had a therapy dog here. By her third session, if there was not a dog here to hug and interact with she would inquire, “Where is my ‘Love Hug’ for today?” said Rochelle Rose, Washoe County CAC Office Support Specialist.

Thank you Paws 4 Love Reno for your time every week!

Don't Forget! Support the Washoe County CAC

Donating to the Washoe County CAC is as easy as shopping! .5% will go to the Washoe County CAC when you designate us as your charity of choice.

Go to www.smile.amazon.com and access your Amazon account and designate us as your charity!



Washoe County CAC Conviction Rate



The Washoe County District Attorney's Office is one of the key agencies working collaboratively with the Washoe County CAC. Our Chief and Deputy District Attorneys are responsible for prosecuting the most heinous of crimes against children in our community. Having an office in the Washoe County CAC allows them to stay close to the cases and people involved. Monthly meetings are held at the Washoe County CAC to bring the MDT together as a case progresses. Having an office onsite allows our attorneys the ability to walk down the hall to speak with the assigned forensic interviewer, therapist, or nurse practitioner, etc. to get questions answered, and/or clarification on a case as they move forward with prosecution.

CAC's are designed to help alleviate many of the conflicts within the current child protection system. The Washoe County CAC uses the MDT model approach, in which the MDT makes decisions together in order to investigate the abuse, help children heal from abuse, and hold offenders accountable for the abuse. Professionals involved in child abuse cases with CAC's find the MDT model beneficial and preferable compared to child abuse cases before there were CAC's for the following reasons:

- victims being required to travel to multiple agencies for interviews and examinations
- lack of coordinated investigative effort and inconclusive evidence
- cases less likely to be prosecuted due to lack of interagency communication (Smith, Witte, & Fricker-Elhai, 2006).

The Washoe County CAC examined the Washoe County convictions against child abuse cases to compare pre-CAC and post-CAC years. When comparing data from January 2004 through December 2013 (pre-CAC), it was concluded that out of 571 total cases, 57% of the prison sentences were life sentences. Comparatively, from January 2014 through May 2017 (post-CAC), it was found that out of 89 cases, 82% of the prison sentences were life sentences. The MDT model provides the ability to conduct stronger investigations with better outcomes and in turn have higher substantiation, prosecution, and conviction rates. In 2018 alone, the Washoe County CAC has obtained over 32 life sentences.

A big thanks goes to the Washoe County CAC prosecution team!

Community Outreach



District Attorney Christopher Hicks & radio host John Sanchez

The Washoe County CAC would like to thank the Jon Sanchez Show on KOH Newstalk 780AM for granting us the opportunity to educate the community on the services we provide for children who have experienced abuse.

With the help and support of our Friends of Washoe County CAC board members, Reno Dolan Toyota, and community listeners — the Washoe County CAC was able to raise over \$6,000 in one hour! We are so grateful for the community's support.

If you would like to help the Washoe County CAC fulfill its mission, please visit:

<https://www.friendsofwccac.org/>



Executive Director and Chief Deputy District Attorney Nicole Hicks

Donor Spotlight

Since our opening in 2014, the Washoe County CAC has been fortunate in receiving consistent and generous donations from family foundations, board members, individuals in the communities, service groups and professional partners.

Thank you all for your continued support that allows us to fulfill our mission of serving the children in our community.

Alvin and Suzette Hicks
Amy Hicks
Barracuda
BJ North
Boy Scouts of America
Bretzlaff Foundation
Bruce & Karen Hahn
Bryan Hail
Bud Hicks
Builder's Association of Northern Nevada
Builder's Charity
Cindy Carano
City of Sparks
Clasen Quality Chocolate
Community Foundation of Western Nevada
David & Denise Callen
David Clifton
David Riccio
Denise Callen
Dermod Properties
Dolan Auto Group
Elaine Frankovich
Erica Jones
Erin Bergin
Fast Frame - Carson City
Girl Scout Troop 165
Glenn and Lamise Carano
Gloria Salem
Greg and Keni McKenzie
Gretchen & Forrest Bietz
Hart Foundation
HAWCO Development Company
Hot August Nights Foundation
Jade Bogan
Jaime Biggs
James Lahey
Jensen Precast
Jesse & Amber Haw
Joey Kreutzian
Judy & Allen Ashby
Kari Cordisco
Kathleen Fralick
Keyser Foundation
Kim and Duane Meyer

In this issue, we would like to give a special thanks to



for their generous contribution that helped fund the addition of a forensic interviewer to our team. We couldn't do it without your support!



Transforming Youth Recovery



Kristin & Andrew Beraci
Larry & Marianne Hicks
Lauren Belaustegui Ohlin
Lauren Carano Wrentmore
Lloyd & Patricia Shuman
Lori Bradshaw
M Barulich
Maison T. Ortiz Foundation
Maupin, Cox & Legoy
Melissa Ogg-Farnsworth
Montane Building Group
Natalie Dees
Nature's Bakery
Pamela Goldstein
Paul Olivias
Picture Perfect
Pitts Orthodontics
Puliz Moving & Storage
Rachel Tatro
Randall Devore
Reno Police Department
Reno Rotary Foundation
Reno Sparks Indian Colony
Renown Health Foundation
Reyman Brothers
Robert Lamm
Sharon Flanary
Shelly & Joe Kresyhan
Sierra Mountain Behavior Consulting
Signature Landscaping
Sparks Police Department
Spicy Pickle - Longley Lane
Stephani Tyler
Suzanne Finn
Tammy Riggs Law Firm
The Assistance League
The Frame Shop
Transforming Youth Recovery
Valerie Hahn
Victoria Jakubowski
Walton's Funerals & Cremations
Western Nevada Supply
William Haw

Board of Directors

Ryan Dolan

Dolan Auto Group

Cindy Carano

Eldorado Resorts

Jesse Haw

HAWCO Properties

Katy Simon Holland

Simon and Associates
Consulting

Chad Felix

Western Title

Michael Pagni

McDonald Carano Wilson

Lisa Ruggerio

LR2 Consulting Group

Mission Statement

The mission of the Washoe County CAC and the MDT is to ensure the health and safety of the child in a child-friendly environment for the purpose of minimizing trauma, providing advocacy, and supporting effective investigations and prosecutions.



"I support the Washoe County CAC because this organization directly impacts our community. What the CAC has done with very limited resources is nothing short of a miracle."

Chad Felix, Board Member

Advisory Board

Nicole Hicks

Bruce Hahn

Nicholas Graham

Lori Fralick

Jo Lee Wicks

Stephanie Shuman

Zach Thew

Curtis Lampert

Kristen Bryant

Chris Crawforth

Jace Thelin

Jennifer Olsen

Max Brokaw

Greg Nauman

Rachelle Pellissier

Sherrie Cline

Tammi Williamson

Becky Gebhardt

Debbie Robison

Lisa Todd

Gloria Jiménez

Jessica Goicoechea-Parise

Donation Card



YES, I will help victims of child abuse begin the healing process and increase the prosecution rate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Subscribe to email list? (Please circle) Yes No

I have enclosed a payment in the amount of \$ _____

Your donation to Friends of Washoe County CAC, an IRS-approved 501 (C)(3) tax-exempt charity (EIN 81-2733506), is tax deductible.

Please make all checks payable to:

Friends of Washoe County CAC

3983 S. McCarran Blvd, Box 455

Reno, NV 89502

cacinfo@washoecounty.us

Or make your donation online at: <https://www.friendsofwccac.org/>