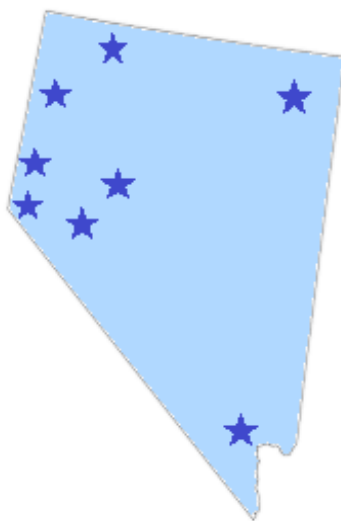




5th Annual Statewide Conference

Sponsored by

Nevada CASA Association



CASA Strong: We Are Stronger Together

December 2, 2023

Culinary Academy of Las Vegas, NV

Innovation Center Reno, NV



December 2, 2023

Hello CASAs and Friends,

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to welcome you to the 5th Annual Nevada CASA Conference. So much has happened since the last state conference. We have added county programs and auxiliaries, welcomed new directors and staff -- and most importantly -- added hundreds of volunteers advocating for Nevada's most vulnerable children. Each of you is here because you have committed your time and heart to the CASA mission.

Nevada CASA is excited to continue to support CASA programs and volunteers, promoting the CASA mission throughout our great state. This year is going to be particularly exciting! Nevada CASA Association is the recipient of a \$2.5 million grant under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund by the State of Nevada. Most CASA programs throughout the state have already benefited from the ARPA grant through pass-through funds for staffing, marketing, equipment and supplies to help highlight what we do to provide foster children with trained, compassionate, and consistent advocates. You will see Superbowl ads, billboards, paid social media posts, and so much more. Our friends and families have always known why we volunteer and how important our role is; now, that powerful story will be shared throughout Nevada.

CASA volunteers and the children we serve are the heroes of that story. We have the privilege to positively change their narratives. By just about every measure, children with CASAs do better. They remain in the foster care system less time. They get placed in guardianships and get adopted more quickly. They are more likely to stay in school and to graduate. Most importantly, they do not have to navigate an overwhelming and inundated child welfare system alone. As a CASA volunteer in Las Vegas for more than 20 years, I know the difference it makes in a foster child's life to have someone who cares and who stays. Thank you for being that person.

Enjoy the conference. Share your perspective with those around you. Know that you have a village of new CASA friends who share your commitment. Together we are truly **CASA Strong**. It is my hope that you will leave the conference feeling informed, appreciated, and renewed.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Curriden
Board President

Nevada CASA Association champions the needs of abused and neglected children by supporting and expanding the capacity of local CASA programs across the state.

Nevada CASA Board of Directors

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Melanie McCormick, First Judicial District Court- Carson City & Storey County CASA Program

Kendra Materasso, Second Judicial District Court - Washoe County CASA Program

Mary Smith, Third Judicial District Court- Lyon County CASA Program

Michele Black and Haley Brown- Fourth Judicial District Court- Northeastern Nevada CASA Program

Shana Plount, Sixth and Tenth Judicial District Court - Humboldt County & Churchill County
CASA Programs

Shelia Parks, Eighth Judicial District Court-Clark County CASA Program

Leanne Wagoner, Ninth Judicial District Court- Douglas County CASA Program

Nevada CASA Auxiliaries

Jo Ann Gonzalez - Board President, Washoe CASA Foundation, Reno NV

Jenifer Page - Board President, Champions for CASA, Las Vegas NV

Conference Schedule

Saturday, December 2, 2023

8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration & Breakfast
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Welcome & Acknowledgements Lorrie Curriden Verise Campbell
9:15 am – 10:45 am	Kathleen Wild, LCSW Vicarious Trauma, Part 1
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Break
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Garnette McCracken, LCSW Vicarious Trauma, Part 2
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Dr. Anne Weisman, MPH, LMT Self-Care
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Closing Remarks Debi Gallo

Mistress of Ceremonies



Verise V. Campbell

Verise V. Campbell is the Chief Operating Officer/Chief Executive Officer for Nevada Affordable Housing Assistance Corporation (NAHAC). NAHAC is the administrator of the \$120 million Nevada Homeowner Assistance Fund which is federally funded by the United States Department of the Treasury (Treasury), through the State of Nevada.

NAHAC was also the State of Nevada's designated administrative entity for distribution of the Nevada's Hardest Hit Fund, which was also federally funded by Treasury and included successful distribution of approximately \$200 million on behalf of Nevada homeowners under Ms. Campbell's leadership.

Ms. Campbell previously served as the Deputy Director of the State of Nevada Foreclosure Mediation Program for approximately seven years. Ms. Campbell was responsible for implementing, organizing, managing, and operating the FMP from its inception.

She has been a CASA Volunteer for almost 20 years and has served in the following additional capacities: CASA Foundation Board Member, CASA for CASA Network Group Member, Board of Directors - Nevada CASA Association, and Volunteer Education Advocate. Currently she is working with the Nevada CASA Association to facilitate administration of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant.

Speaker



Kathleen Wild, LCSW

Kathy has 28 years of experience in the field of mental health and has been practicing as a therapist for the past 13 years. She has treated children, adolescents and adults with a variety of mental health concerns, including extensive work with youth in the foster care system. Her background includes treating individuals who have experienced trauma as well as supporting caregivers of children exposed to trauma.

In addition to providing therapy services, Kathy has served in clinic coordination and management positions for the last four years. She has received specialized training in numerous therapeutic approaches, including

Trauma Informed Care, Psychological First Aid, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing. She is also a certified trainer in Together Facing the Challenge.

Kathy holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the State University of New York, Buffalo and a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Since 2016, Kathy has provided specialized behavioral health education to family physicians in their residency programs. This has included residents from the University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine, and currently includes the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Medicine.

In 2017, Kathy assisted in coordinating therapeutic services after the Route 91 shooting. She continues to offer support in this capacity.

When not working to support the mental health community, Kathy enjoys reading, yoga, watching the Golden Knights, and spending time with family. She is very excited to be on the wait list to receive a Golden Retriever that will be trained as a therapy dog.

Speaker



Garnette McCracken, LCSW

Garnette has provided individual and family therapy services for the last 21 years. She specializes in trauma, grief, mood and anxiety disorders. She treats children, adolescents and adults with a variety of mental health and medical concerns. Garnette specialized in grief working in the hospice field for 16 years prior to transitioning into trauma and foster/adoption care for the past 15 years. Garnette has experience treating individuals who have experienced trauma, reactive attachment, fetal alcohol syndrome and severe anxiety as well as supporting their caregivers.

Garnette holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Social Work from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has a graduate certification diploma in Play Therapy from Capella University and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Capella University's Ph.D. General Psychology Program. She has been a LCSW Internship Supervisor for the NV Social Work Board since 2010. She has served as an agency field instructor since 2007 for multiple community agencies for social work and humanity students from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USC Social Work Program, New England University Social Work Program as well as students in the Marriage and Family Therapy program from University of Phoenix and Capella University.

Garnette has received specialized training in numerous therapeutic approaches, including Play Therapy, Expressive Art Therapy, Sand Tray Therapy, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Trauma Informed Care, Compassion Fatigue Care for Mental Health/Medical Professionals, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Brief-Solution Focused Therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR).

Garnette has 30 years of experience in the field of hospice and mental health and has been practicing as a therapist for the past 20 years.

Garnette enjoys reading, going to the beach, collecting mermaid decor and spending time with her children, fur-babies and family.

Speaker



Dr. Anne Weisman, MPH, LMT

Dr. Anne Weisman is the Director of Well-Being & Integrative Medicine with the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV. She is working to develop well-being and integrative medicine curriculum and workshops for the medical students, faculty and residents. Previously Dr. Weisman worked in the field for thirteen years as a massage therapist in HIV/AIDS clinics and hospices. She was awarded the Jefferson Award for Public Service for this work in 2007 and has presented her research numerous times at the Nevada Public Health Association and American Public Health Association conventions and was chosen to attend the Clinton Global Initiative University in Miami, FL.

Academic: Dr. Weisman earned her B.A., M.P.H. and Ph.D. degrees from UNLV

(Human Touch: Perceptions of Self-Efficacy From a Non-Pharmacology Treatment for Individuals Living With HIV/AIDS). Additionally, she studied at the University of Cape Town with New York University in a 4- week immersion course where she worked with the families and patients in a community setting. She specializes in integrating massage therapy and other integrative practices into the care and treatment of patients. Dr. Weisman has taught therapists about her integrative techniques and works to teach patients', care providers and families' techniques that they can use at home. She has been working with the Center for Mind Body Medicine and is teaching their techniques and conducting research with the Clark County Office of the Coroner & Medical Examiner.

Professional: Dr. Weisman spent 13 years caring for people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as volunteering and working for hospice patients. During this time, she developed continuing education classes for nurses and other health care providers to help teach some techniques that are soothing for patients and non-pharmacological. Her role at UNLV School of Medicine medical school is to introduce these and many other techniques to the medical students, faculty and residents to help them manage their own stress as well as to help provide a broader understanding of integrative treatments for their patients. She teaches mind/body medicine in the community at the Clark County Office of the Coroner & Medical Examiner, first responders, and elementary school children.

Nevada CASA Association

5th Annual Conference Planning Committee

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Tya Mathis-Coleman
Debi Gallo
Kendra A. Materasso
Shelia S. Parks

Nevada CASA Association, Staff
Nevada CASA Association, Staff
Board Member, Nevada CASA Association
Champions for CASA, Vice President
Family Services Manager, Second Judicial District Court
CASA Program Administrator, Eighth Judicial District Court

SPECIAL THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Culinary Academy of Las Vegas

Innovation Center Reno, NV

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