

2026 Nevada CASA Statewide Conference



STRONGER TOGETHER: *Connected for Advocacy*

August 28-29, 2026 • TUSCANY HOTEL & CASINO • LAS VEGAS, NV

FRIDAY August 28th	
TIME	AGENDA
1 – 2 pm	Registration
2 – 3 pm	Opening General Session
Florentine D	<i>Stronger Connections, Brighter Futures</i> Rebecca Dirks Garcia, Executive Director Nevada CASA
3 – 3:10 pm	Transition/Break
3:10 – 4:00 pm	Session Block 1
Florentine E	Resources to Support Grieving Children <i>Trish Bauman</i>
Florentine F	More Than Red Flags: Recognizing and Responding to Teen Dating Violence <i>Tania de Ulloa and Chanteal Garcia, Safe Nest</i>
4:00 – 4:10 pm	Transition/Break
4:10 – 5 pm	Session Block 2
Florentine E	I See You <i>Nicole Willis-Grimes, Communities In Schools</i>
Florentine F	Supporting Children in Foster Care with Special Education Needs <i>Leslie Strasser Congrove, PhD, JD</i>
5 – 5:30 pm	Networking Break – Registration Table Open
5:30 - 7:30 pm	Dinner Buffet - General Session 2
Florentine D	<i>Child Welfare in Nevada: Policy, Partnership and Progress</i> Administrator Kimberly Abbott, Dr. Ali Caliendo and Assemblymember Erica Mosca moderated by Punam Mather

SATURDAY | August 29th

TIME	AGENDA
8 – 9 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9 – 10 am	General Session 3
Florentine D	<i>Power of Five: Helping Youth in Care Develop Positive Role Models Judge Margaret Pickard, 8th Judicial District and Michael David Achondo, LSAA, AAC, CIT</i>
10 – 10:10 am	Transition/Break
10:10 – 11 am	Session Block 3
Florentine E	Supporting Struggling Students: Tools & Resources Leslie Strasser Congrove, PhD, JD
Florentine F	“We’re the Experts”: Stop, Listen, and Meet Teens and Transition Age Youth Where They Are Dominique Mikell Montgomery, PhD, MSW
Florentine G	Working Together: A Conversation with Child Welfare Caseworkers Caseworker Panel
11 – 11:15 am	Transition/Break
11:15 – 12 pm	General Session 4
	<i>The Connection Advantage: Building Trust Across Every Relationship That Shapes a Child's Life Mishon Montgomery, MPA, LSSBB</i>
12 – 1 pm	Buffet Lunch
1 – 1:50 pm	Session Block 4
Florentine E	I See You Nicole Willis-Grimes, Communities In Schools
Florentine F	Looking Beyond the Case File: Seeing the Whole Child A TBRI® Informed Approach to Trauma, Connection, and Advocacy Sasha Ritchie, LMSW, TBRI® Practitioner
Florentine G	Many Voices, One Child: Legal Perspectives in Child Welfare Child Welfare Attorney Panel
1:50 – 2 pm	Transition/Break
2 – 2:50 pm	Session Block 5
Florentine E	What You See—and What You Don’t: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Families Kimberly Marx, LMSW
Florentine F	KIDS COUNT: The State of Our Nevada Children and A Call to Action Annette Dawson Owens, Children’s Advocacy Alliance
Florentine G	Better Together: What Foster Parents Want CASAs to Know Foster Parent Panel
2:50 – 3 pm	Transition/Break
3 – 3:45 pm	Closing General Session 5
	<i>Rooted in Hope: How CASA Advocacy Shapes Futures We May Never Witness Ash Fayal</i>