



WASHOE COUNTY

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HR

Grants Mgt.

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 26, 2016

DATE: July 6, 2016

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Amber Howell Director, Department of Social Services
Ahowell@washoecounty.us 775.785.8600

THROUGH: Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Accept a Sub-grant Award from the State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of \$1,765,819 (\$441,445 in-kind match required) for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program retroactively to July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; authorize the creation of 1.0 FTE Victims Advocate, 1.0 FTE Human Services Program Supervisor, 1.0 FTE Program Assistant, and 1.0 FTE CPS Intake Screener funded 100% by the VOCA award in the approximate annual amount of \$440,686, direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments and initiate the recruitment process, authorize the Department to execute the Sub-Grant Award and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Department is requesting the Board accept a Sub-grant Award from the State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of \$1,765,819 (\$441,445 County match required) for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program for fiscal year 2017 and authorize the creation of 1.0 FTE Victims Advocate, 1.0 FTE Human Services Program Supervisor, 1.0 FTE Program Assistant, and 1.0 FTE CPS Intake Screener funded 100% by the VOCA award. The award is being accepted retroactively as the Department received the Notice in late June.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On July 28, 2015 the Board accepted a VOCA grant in the amount of \$115,000 (\$28,750 County match required) effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 and authorized an agreement with the Committee to Aid Abused Women to perform services outlined in the VOCA grant in the amount of \$68,750 annually.

AGENDA ITEM # 10

On June 26, 2012, the Board accepted a VOCA grant in the amount of \$272,400 (\$68,100 County match required) effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 and authorized an agreement with the Committee to Aid Abused Women to perform services outlined in the VOCA grant in the amount of \$68,750 annually.

The Board has routinely accepted VOCA funds since October, 2005.

BACKGROUND

A Federal Child and Family Services Review in 2004 found a lack of understanding of the impact of violence on children and families. In response to this critical area of need, the Department received permission from Finance in 2005 to apply for VOCA grant funds to provide direct services to children, adolescents, and their non-offending parents and siblings.

The primary purpose of VOCA is to support the provision of services to victims of crime throughout the nation. According to the VOCA Program Guidelines, services are defined as those efforts that (1) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; (2) assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization; (3) help victims understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and (4) provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security. For the purpose of the VOCA crime victim assistance grant program, a crime victim is a person who has suffered physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm as a result of a crime.

In prior years the Department contracted with the Committee to Aid Abused Women (CAAW) to provide a full-time domestic violence advocate to work with the Department in providing services to victims of child abuse and/or domestic violence. Department staff have worked with the domestic violence advocate to develop and implement a joint response service model for child abuse and domestic violence cases to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children and their non-offending parents. Previous grant awards also supported assistance to victims with crisis intervention services, temporary housing, utilities, transportation, childcare and emergency food and personal items.

Due to the increase of funding available, the current grant award will provide services and assistance to any type of crime victim and is not limited to those victims of domestic violence as previous awards have been. Primary goals include:

- Provide a safety and security measure for victimized children who were removed from their homes and placed into the custody of WCDSS due to abuse and/or neglect. Having a safe, neutral, nurturing place for victimized children who are placed outside of the parental home with biological parents, extended family members, and foster parents is essential to maintaining stability in the child victims lives.
- Improve permanency for child victims in foster care by decreasing the amount of time it takes for child victims in foster care to achieve permanency and find permanent

caregivers or connections for child victims where reunification is not possible, by providing Safety Intervention Services.

- Provide safety, security and stability for children, adult males and females and elders, including underserved populations who are victims of: child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse, financial crimes, robbery, assault, adult victims of molestation, economic exploitation, fraud, federal crimes, survivors of homicide, hate and bias crimes and gang violence. The primary focus will be on the Federal Priority Victim Populations.
- Provide professional personalized assistance to victims of crime.
- Respond to the immediate emotional and physical needs and safety of victims.

This funding will enhance the agency's ability to provide services and assistance to residents across the continuum of care to include children, adults and seniors who are victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, economic exploitation and underserved populations such as seniors and will provide an array of support including shelter, nutrition, case management, crisis intervention, medical, legal, counseling and other supportive services.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: *Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program*

Scope of the Project: *To provide assistance, support and increased safety to victims of crime with a focus on underserved populations who are victims of: child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse, financial crimes, intoxicated drivers, survivors of homicide, hate and bias crimes and gang violence*

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: *Enhanced safety and wellbeing of victims*

On-Going Program Support: *This is a joint response service model for child abuse and domestic violence allowing for expanded crisis intervention services.*

Award Amount: *\$1,765,819*

Grant Period: *July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017*

Funding Source: *Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Act*

Pass through Entity: *State of Nevada – Division of Child and Family Services*

CFDA Number: *16.575*

Grant ID Number: *16-VOCA-17-035*

Match Amount and Type: *\$441,455 in-kind*

Sub-Awards and Contracts: *Request for Proposal for various services will be issued to select subcontractors.*

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board authorize acceptance of this grant award, the Department's FY17 adopted budget will be increased in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

		<u>Increase</u>
<i>IO# TBD – 431100</i>	<i>Federal Grant Revenue</i>	<i>\$ 1,765,819</i>
<i>IO#TBC-701110</i>	<i>Salaries & Benefits</i>	<i>\$ 440,686</i>
<i>IO# TBD -710100</i>	<i>Professional Services</i>	<i>\$ 675,697</i>
<i>IO# TBD -710712</i>	<i>Family Preservation</i>	<i>\$ 615,036</i>
<i>IO#TBD - 711504</i>	<i>Equipment – Non Capital</i>	<i>\$ 34,400</i>

The \$441,455 in-kind match will be covered by Child Protective Services assessment workers salary and benefit costs and an ongoing Temporary Protection Order (TPO) contract currently in place in Child Welfare, Fund 228.

No indirect costs are awarded under this funding. The department will charge indirect cost as allowed by the Federal grant award where applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

Accept a Sub-grant Award from the State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of \$1,765,819 (\$441,455 in-kind match required) for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program retroactively to July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; authorize the creation of 1.0 FTE Victims Advocate, 1.0 FTE Human Services Program Supervisor, 1.0 FTE Program Assistant, and 1.0 FTE CPS Intake Screener funded 100% by the VOCA award in the approximate annual amount of \$440,686, direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments and initiate the recruitment process; authorize the Department to execute the Sub-Grant Award and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "move to accept a Sub-grant Award from the State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of \$1,765,819 (\$441,455 in-kind match required) for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program retroactively to July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; authorize the creation of 1.0 FTE Victims Advocate, 1.0 FTE Human Services Program Supervisor, 1.0 FTE Program Assistant, and 1.0 FTE CPS Intake Screener funded 100% by the VOCA award in the approximate annual amount of \$440,686, direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments and initiate the recruitment process; authorize the Department to execute the Sub-Grant Award and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments".

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

RICHARD WHITLEY, MS
Director

KELLY WOOLDRIDGE
Administrator



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**4126 TECHNOLOGY WAY, SUITE 300
CARSON CITY, NV 89706
Telephone (775) 684-4400 • Fax (775) 684-4455
dcfs.nv.gov**

June 28, 2016

Amber Howell, Director
Washoe County Department of Social Services
P.O.11130
Reno, NV 89520

Subject: Victims of Crime Act

Dear Mrs. Howell:

I am pleased to inform you that you have been awarded Victims of Crime (VOCA) sub grant funding for State Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017) as indicated below.

Victims of Crime Act:	<u>Total Award</u>
	\$1,765,819

If you accept the award, please sign and return the attached Notice of Sub grant Award (NOSA) Please also take the time to read and review the attached Request for Funds Instructions and templates to help guide you.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact Mirjana at 775-684-7946.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mirjana Gavric", is written over a white background.

Mirjana Gavric
Grants and Projects Analyst II

cc: # 16-VOCA-17-035 file

*Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Helping People – It's Who We Are And What We Do*

State of Nevada - Division of Child and Family Services
4126 Technology Way, 3rd Floor
Carson City, NV 89706

Notice of Sub-Grant Award

DCFS Contact:	Dorothy Edwards	DCFS Contact Phone Number:	775-684-4456
Program:	Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	CFDA Number:	16.575
State Award Number:	16-VOCA-17-035	Budget:	3145
		Account:	20
Type of Action:	NEW 2017		
Legal Name:	Washoe County Department of Social Services	Vendor Number:	T40283400 A
Project Name:	VOCA-WCDSS	Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 11130
Contact Person:	Amber Howell		Reno, NV 89520
Email Address:	ahowell@washoecounty.us		
Phone Number:	775-337-4488	Project Address:	P.O. Box 11130
Fax Number:	775-785-5640		Reno, NV 89520

Award Period:	JULY 1, 2015 through JUNE 30, 2018	Federal Award Number
SFY 2016	JULY 1, 2015 through JUNE 30, 2016	2015-VA-GX-0024
SFY 2017	JULY 1, 2016 through JUNE 30, 2017	
	N/A	
	N/A	

Approved Categories and Budget by Year:

Category	SFY 2017				TOTAL
Personnel	\$516,383	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$516,383
Operating	\$615,036	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$615,036
Equipment	\$34,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$34,400
Contractual	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000
Other (Admin)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total State Share	\$1,765,819	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,765,819
Match	\$441,455	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$441,455
Total Program Cost	\$2,207,274	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,207,274

In accepting these grant funds, it is understood that:

1. Expenditures must comply with appropriate State and / or Federal regulations.
2. This award is subject to the availability of appropriate funds.
3. Grantee agrees to provide an independent financial and compliance audit in accordance with State and Federal requirements.
4. Recipients of these funds agree to the stipulations attached.

Washoe County Department of Social Services	Authorized Signature:	Date:
DCFS FPO Grants Management Unit	Authorized Signature:	Date:
DCFS Administration	Authorized Signature:	Date:

SCOPE OF WORK FORM

Please refer to the allowable services included in the Request for Proposals.
 Complete a Scope of Work Form for each funding source in which your agency is applying.

AGENCY NAME: Washoe County Department of Social Services

GRANT NAME: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

Target Population: Victims of Crime

Global Problem Statement	Objective and Timeframe	Documentation	Services	Estimated Number of Clients / Services
<p>Goal:</p> <p>GOAL #1 Provide a safety and security measure for victimized children who were removed from their homes and placed into the custody of WCDSS due to abuse and/or neglect. Having a safe, neutral, "happy" place for victimized children who are placed outside of the parental home with estranged biological parents, extended family members, and foster parents is essential to maintaining stability in the child victims lives.</p> <p>GOAL #2 Improve permanency for child victims in foster care by decreasing the amount of time it takes for</p>	<p>WCDSS will provide 1200 visitation services per month.</p>	<p>Visitation log.</p>	<p>Safe and secure visitation facilitation and supervision</p>	<p>450 Children per month.</p>
<p>the amount of time it takes for</p>	<p>WCDSS will provide Safety Intervention Services. Prevent Initial Removal</p>	<p>Number of SAFE assessments, developed safety plans, case files and UNITY</p>	<p>Participate and assist in the development of safety plans for each</p>	<p>Up to 830 children served.</p>

<p>child victims in foster to achieve permanency and find permanent caregivers or connections for child victims where reunification is not possible, by providing Safety Intervention Services.</p>	<p>of Children from their home</p> <p>Reduce the amount of time in foster care</p> <p>Avoid re removal of children from their homes</p>	<p>records.</p>	<p>family based upon the Nevada Initial Assessment conducted by the COUNTY that integrates all appropriate safety intervention services the family requires to maintain the child/children safely within their home environment;</p> <p>Contribute to the ongoing monitoring and support with families to assure safety management and effective safety plan implementation by participating in the collaborative case coordination meetings with the COUNTY as needed; provide or coordinate with other community sources to deliver safety services tailored to manage impending danger</p>	
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<p>GOAL #3 Provide access to education for children who are victims and who are in the foster care system.</p>	<p>WCDSS will keep children in the care and custody the agency in their school of origin</p>	<p>Report generated by Washoe County School District indicating which foster children are being transported to their school vs. transferring to the school they are zoned for</p>	<p>Monitor impact of parent interactions with child to ensure safety of the victim</p>	<p>100 Children</p>
<p>GOAL #4 Provide safety, security and stability for children, adult males and females and elders, including underserved populations who are victims of: child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse, financial crimes, robbery, assault, adult victims of molestation, economic exploitation, fraud, federal crimes, survivors of homicide, hate and bias crimes and gang violence. The primary focus will be on the Federal Priority Victim Populations.</p>	<p>WCDSS will provide emergency assistance and emergency shelter/housing supports to 500 victims. Includes prior year award</p>	<p>Case files, work orders, purchase orders and service agreements.</p>	<p>Emergent Rent/housing supports, utilities, daycare/respite, emergency home repairs (crime related damage, alarms and locks)to ensure victim safety, transportation, vehicle repair, food, clothing, household supplies/furniture and emergency assessment services.</p>	<p>Reports with the victimization component will be referred to the Victims Support program for follow up. Total reports received 1000 per year = 500 individuals served.</p>
<p>GOAL #5 Provide professional personalized assistance to victims of crime. Victim</p>	<p>Provide professional personalized assistance to victims of</p>	<p>Report receipts and referral documentation, case files and AVATAR</p>	<p>Face to face contact, phone contact, referrals to</p>	<p>Reports with the victimization component will</p>

<p>Support staff will meet with or attempt to make contact with victims and give them resources, referrals and create safety plans for: children, adult males and females and elders, including underserved populations who are victims of: child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse, financial crimes, robbery, assault, adult victims of molestation, economic exploitation, fraud, federal crimes, intoxicated drivers, survivors of homicide, hate and bias crimes and gang violence. The primary focus will be on the Federal Priority Victim Populations.</p>	<p>crime. Victim Support staff will meet with or attempt to make contact with victims and give them resources, referrals and create safety plans.</p> <p>3-Child, Adult, Senior Victim Advocates(one from prior year award) 1- Human Services Program Supervisor(Senior service program)</p>	<p>records.</p>	<p>community resources and other community advocates, home visits, relocation assistance, complex system navigation and accompany victims to attain housing and/or benefits.</p>	<p>be referred to the Victims Support program for follow up. Total reports received 1000 per year = 700 Individuals served per year.</p>
<p>GOAL #6 Respond to the immediate emotional and physical needs and safety of children who are victims of child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence and other crimes by expanding the WCDSS hotline which will allow victims of all ages to call and receive immediate assistance.</p>	<p>WCDSS will enhance resources to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline for child, adult and senior victims.</p> <p>Add staff- one Intake Screener staff</p> <p>Enhance the after hours call coverage to</p>	<p>Number of calls.</p>	<p>The hotline/intake process is a standardized application of procedures for collecting consistent information to respond to reports of child abuse and/or neglect in a timely manner. The call center will also take</p>	<p>400 calls per month= 400 individuals served.</p>

	<p>include adult and senior victim reporting and additional data collection</p>		<p>reports of other types of abuse or crimes against adult and senior citizens. The intake gathering process lays the foundation for assessing safety and risk. It allows the agency to determine the circumstances surrounding the child maltreatment of the child victim, the caregivers' response to child welfare involvement, the caregivers' explanation of what happened, the injuries and related conditions including the child's condition, history and duration of the situation, co-existing factors and conditions; such as, substance abuse, domestic violence or mental health, contextual issues such as use of instruments, acts of</p>
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<p>GOAL #7 This Foster care matching initiative will provide child victims with a measure of safety and security and assist the victims to stabilize their lives after victimization.</p>	<p>Obtain software that assists in determining the most appropriate foster placement for children who have been removed from their homes.</p> <p>WCDSS will purchase Foster Care Matching software and licenses.</p>	<p>Number of placements and placement disruptions</p>	<p>discipline, threats, caretaker intentions. Adult and senior reports will be handled similarly to those of involving children based on the specifics of the situation</p>	
<p>GOAL #8 Increase access to forensic clinical and interviewing services for sexual assault, child abuse, and domestic violence victims.</p> <p>Obtain the Forensic Nursing Certificate for our Advanced Practice Nurse currently</p>	<p>WCDSS will increase staff at the Children's Advocacy Center by One Registered Nurse</p> <p>14 unit/credits at UC Riverside.</p> <p>Add RN to increase</p>	<p>Admission records and case files.</p>	<p>Software database will contain information specific to foster care beds available in our community. Information specific to the child's need is entered and best matches are identified. Foster care placements are made based on the matching result for higher success.</p>	<p>830 Children removed per year + 950 current out of home placements = 1000 children served.</p>
			<p>To provide timely compassionate, professional services an additional service provider and medical support staff are needed.</p> <p>Identify and properly</p>	<p>500 Clients served.</p>

<p>located at the CAC.</p>	<p>access to services Increase data reporting and number of clients served.</p>	<p>Software use</p>	<p>collect forensic evidence within the health care setting to withstand legal scrutiny. Communicate with the various members of the multi-disciplinary forensic team. Determine treatment for triage and emergency intervention for patients who exhibit potential forensic issues. Identify policies and procedures required for conducting sexual assault examinations. Analyze the social and political implications of escalating violence. To properly and adequately track cases that are managed out of the CAC and prosecuted, one of the accreditation</p>	
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Senior Services: The 60+ senior population is the fastest growing age group in Washoe County. In 2010 there were 76,000 people over the age of 60, in 2020 there will be 100,000 and by 2030 130,000. According to the U.S. 2014 Census Bureau, however, they reported that between 2012 and 2013, our 60+ population increased by 5% to almost 89,000 seniors. AARP and the Census Bureau project that Nevada will be the 3rd fastest aging state through 2050, behind only Alaska and Arizona. Many of our seniors live in the unincorporated areas of Washoe County, making socialization, access to services and engagement in programs challenging. Our aging community is affecting everyone. All of us have relatives, friends and neighbors who are facing the challenge of aging. The Senior Services Department's mission is to assist older adults in the community to maintain independence, dignity, and quality in their lives and that of their caregivers, through the provision of an array of direct and indirect social and health services and opportunities they may utilize to achieve their goals. With this in mind Washoe County Senior Services seeks to support the building of a healthy, stable community, and be seen as a desirable place to live for people in all stages of life. As the number of seniors rises in our community, the County must make improvements in its ability to meet the unique needs of the senior population. The impact of this significant demographic shift will affect many County departments and must be addressed holistically if it is to be addressed effectively.

- Senior Services provides the following programs:
- Senior Centers providing social activities
- Congregate Nutrition & Meals on Wheels
- Case Management
- Representative Payee & Homemaker Services
- Adult Day Health/Daybreak – respite services
- Senior Volunteer Ambassador
- On-site community partnerships providing:
- Consumer related legal services to seniors (Senior Law)
- Aging and Disability Resource Center
- Transportation services to seniors

Senior Services in support of its mission statement. Seniors, who have access to wrap around services, like home and community based services, are able to age in place and have access to cost effective alternatives to other long term options.

Service Goal #1 Victim of Child Abuse and Neglect visitation services

The Washoe County Social Services Child Welfare Visitation Center, located on 350 S. Center Street Reno, NV is a critical component of the Child Protective Services program. The Visitation Center is a location that brings together children removed from their homes, into the custody of the Department due to abuse and/or neglect. Estranged parents, biological parents, extended family members, and foster parents utilize the Visitation Center during the period the children are placed outside of the parental home. Children's Services works together to support supervised visitation and safe exchange of children in situations involving domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. Studies have shown that the risk of violence is often greater for victims of domestic violence and their children after separation from an abusive situation.¹ Even after separation, batterers often use visitation and exchange of

children as an opportunity to inflict additional emotional, physical, and/or psychological abuse on their victims and their children.

The overarching purposes and goals of the Visitation Center and Children's Services Staff are to:

- Provide supervised visitation and safe exchange of children by and between parents in situations involving domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, child abuse, or stalking;
- Protect children from the trauma of witnessing domestic or dating violence or experiencing abduction, injury, or death during parent and child visitation exchanges;
- Protect parents or caretakers who are victims of domestic or dating violence from experiencing further violence, abuse, and threats during child visitation exchanges; and
- Protect children from the trauma of experiencing sexual assault or other forms of physical assault or abuse during parent and child visitation and exchanges.

The Child Welfare Visitation Center currently has 10 rooms for parents, foster parents and children to meet for supervised and unsupervised visits in order to support the reunification of children to foster parents and/or birth parents. Visitation is critical to reducing stress in the child and parent(s) during the reunification process, as often times when a child is removed from the home the only interaction the child has to their parent(s) is during scheduled visitations; frequent contact with parents has been shown to dramatically reduce anxiety and depression in children and to expedite reunification. This collaborative "model" of child welfare visitation exists in several venues, and has proven a successful model to support visitation in a safe, encouraging, and supportive environment.

The Visitation Center is currently limited by its capacity to provide needed services in a manner that is safe and effective in its overarching goal of reducing emotional detachment, conflict and stress in the child. For example, with only 7 available parking spaces for the quantity of birth parents, foster parents and runners that can park to drop off and pick up children for visits, the Visitation Center is severely limited in space. At an average of 350 foster parents that transport children to and from visits to the 350 S. Center St. location, the limited spaces are almost always full, causing foster parents and runners to be redirected to park on side streets and walk the children (often times multiple and young) across the busy streets of downtown. The lack of parking spaces for the volume of use has posed a significant hazard to commuting families seeking access to the Visitation Center, where congested city streets and traffic pose a significant danger and impediment to accessibility.

Additionally, with only 10 rooms for interviews and visitations, adequate and appropriately designed visitation space is another severe limitation to the Visitation Center complex. One of the key foundational components to the reunification process is the provision of natural spacious environments where children can feel safe and stimulated during the reunification process with parents. With the addition of appropriately designed indoor visitation space, including an outdoor playground, birth parents and foster parents would be able to interact in an open, natural environment with age-appropriate activities throughout the building. Families will not be confined to a small room, but will instead have an open area to explore and have positive experiences with their children. In summary, a more expansive Visitation Center, both indoors and outdoors, would allow visits to be family centered and individualized, where parents will have positive experiences with visitation and be more engaged in their case plan activities for reunification.

Service Goal #2 Provide safety intervention to children victim of child abuse and neglect

WCDSS was awarded the federal Permanency Innovations Initiative (PII) grant. This was a 5-year, \$100 million, multi-site demonstration project designed to improve permanency outcomes among child victims in foster care who have the most serious barriers to permanency. PII includes six grantees, each with a unique intervention to help a specific subgroup of child victims that leave foster care in fewer than three years. WCDSS collaborated with ACTION For Child Protection, Inc., the Ruth Young Center at the University of Maryland, and the Children's Cabinet to develop new approaches to permanency. The Nevada Initiative to Reduce Long-Term Foster Care was focused on: (1) preventing child victims from entering long-term foster care; (2) improving permanency for child victims in foster care; (3) decreasing the amount of time it takes for child victims in foster to achieve permanency; and (4) finding permanent caregivers or connections for child victims where reunification is not possible. Target Population included three populations, which included families with child victims who were: 1) unsafe due to impending danger following a new report of child abuse or neglect, 2) child victims that were in care for 12 months or longer who, at the time of placement, presented with one or more of four risk characteristics: single parent household; parent substance abuse; homelessness or inadequate housing; or parent incarceration with an available parent or caregiver to participate in the intervention. 3) Parents who were unable or unwilling to successfully work towards reunification. Barriers to Permanency: Permanency for child victims in foster care means a legally permanent, nurturing family, occurring through reunification with a child's family, adoption, or guardianship. In Washoe County, barriers to permanency include caregivers with inadequate protective capacities, complex family problems, lack of resources, domestic violence, parental incarceration and deficits in meaningful visitation when children are in care. To perform these functions in the most efficient cost effective manner WCDSS hired a highly experienced contractor to partner with WCDSS staff to ensure all elements of the model can be implemented. WCDSS is in the process of cross training staff on safety services however at this time there is not a sufficient level of expertise or cost effectiveness to bring the full gamut of services in-house to be performed by employees.

Safety Management and Safety Service – The Children's Cabinet: Safety Case Management refers to safety actions, safety services, management of others, related case activities, schedules, collaboration and communication performed by Children's Cabinet Case (CC) Managers (CM) in conjunction with in-home and out-of-home safety plans. Safety Case Management begins when a child victim is determined to be unsafe due to impending danger and the caregivers are unable or unwilling to protect them. That determination occurs as a result of the Safety Determination conducted by WCDSS Assessment Workers. Their involvement and performance is guided by the values and belief systems which support effective safety intervention and contribute to maintaining the safety of child victims within Safety Plans.

Role of the Children's Cabinet Case Manager: The CC CM primarily provides case management services in the context of safety (e.g. safety services provider, safety management) with constant collaboration with the family's WCDSS permanency worker. Utilization of this collaborative approach has been essential in allowing the WCDSS worker to focus on engaging with the family on the identification, delivery, and monitoring of the families case plan and the timely achievement of the identified permanency goal. Referral of a family to Safety Case Management is required when the Assessment worker and/or Permanency worker concludes that (a) the family is eligible for an In-Home Safety Plan or (b) that the caregiver can immediately benefit from support in meeting Conditions for Return (meaning child victims can reunify at some point). Primary responsibilities of the CC CM include:

- providing information and referrals for families to include the delivery of concrete and emergency basic needs;
- facilitating the develop and management of safety plans;
- delivering safety services directly or arranging for other community “formal” safety services;
- assuring safety services are suitable and relevant to managing impending danger; and
- consulting with WDSS staff on cases until it can be safely closed.

Service Goal #3 Ensure victims of child abuse remain in their school of origin

WCDSS is striving to ensure when appropriate, child victims in out of home care remain in their school of origin. With the enactment of The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351) federal requirements were put in place to improve educational stability for child victims in foster care and promote their educational success. In the event there is not a foster home available in the same area as the school the child attends, transportation to and from school has to be provided by the school district, foster parents or staff. Lack of transportation options or support to the school of origin can result in a delay of transferring child victims out of Kids Kottage to a foster home or diminishes the ability for children to be placed in foster homes that best suit their needs. There is no current staff designated or available to provide ongoing daily school transportation. There are currently over 900 child victims in Washoe County in foster care who may attend one of over 90 schools. WCDSS needs to be in a position to address school transportation needs. By allocating funding through a contract with the Washoe County School District, we will have the infrastructure to be proactive and responsive when school transportation needs arise. This allows the agency to place child victims in homes that best meet their needs and transportation to school no longer is a barrier to placement. Allowing children to stay in their school of origin helps them stay connected to their friends and neighborhood while they are placed out of home. Even though children are removed from their parents care, it is important that they experience as minimal changes as possible. The negative impact of school mobility has been well documented. Studies indicate that each time students change schools, they lose four to six months of academic progress. Mobile students are at greater risk of lower achievement levels due to discontinuity of curriculum between schools, behavioral problems, difficulty developing peer relationships, absenteeism, grade retention, lower citizenship evaluations and leaving school without graduating. Removing child victims from their school of origin where they may have established connections with peers, teachers and other supportive adults can significantly affect their ability to thrive. Schools and peer groups often are the most stable part of a child’s life and provide important forms of support to their social capital. The rate of school mobility for child victims in foster care is greater than their non-foster care peers. Positive school experiences can enhance children’s well-being, help them make more successful transitions to adulthood, and increase the likelihood that they can achieve personal fulfillment and economic self-sufficiency and contribute positively to society.

Service Goal #4 Provide emergency assistance supports for victims

WCDSS is requesting funding to implement an emergency assistance program for victims of nearly every type of violent crime including rape, robbery, assault, sexual abuse, drunk driving, and domestic violence. This program is intended to restore victims with their sense of safety and security will pay for emergency expenses such as utilities, housing supports, food, clothing,

household supplies, and immediate safety repairs. Additionally the funds will be used to provide direct services such as assessment/mental health counseling services and emergency shelter with a focus on the Senior victim population.

Service Goal #5 Provide personalized, professional assistance to victim of crime

Being a victim of a crime can be a very difficult and stressful experience. While most people are naturally resilient and over time will find ways to cope and adjust, there can be a wide range of after effects to a trauma. One person may experience many of the effects, a few, or none at all. Not everyone has the same reaction. In some people the reaction may be delayed days, weeks, or even months. Some victims may think they are "going crazy," when they are having a normal reaction to an abnormal event. Getting back to normal can be a difficult process after a personal experience of this kind, especially for victims of violent crime and families of murder victims. WCDSS is requesting funding to support two Victims Advocates(one from prior award) to support children, adult males and females and elders, including underserved populations who are victims of: child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse, financial crimes, intoxicated drivers, survivors of homicide, hate and bias crimes and gang violence. The Victim Advocates will offer victims information regarding legal rights and crime prevention, emotional support, help with safety planning, connect them to resources (including the emergency assistance program), referral and linkage to services and help with filling out paperwork for compensation benefits and public assistance.

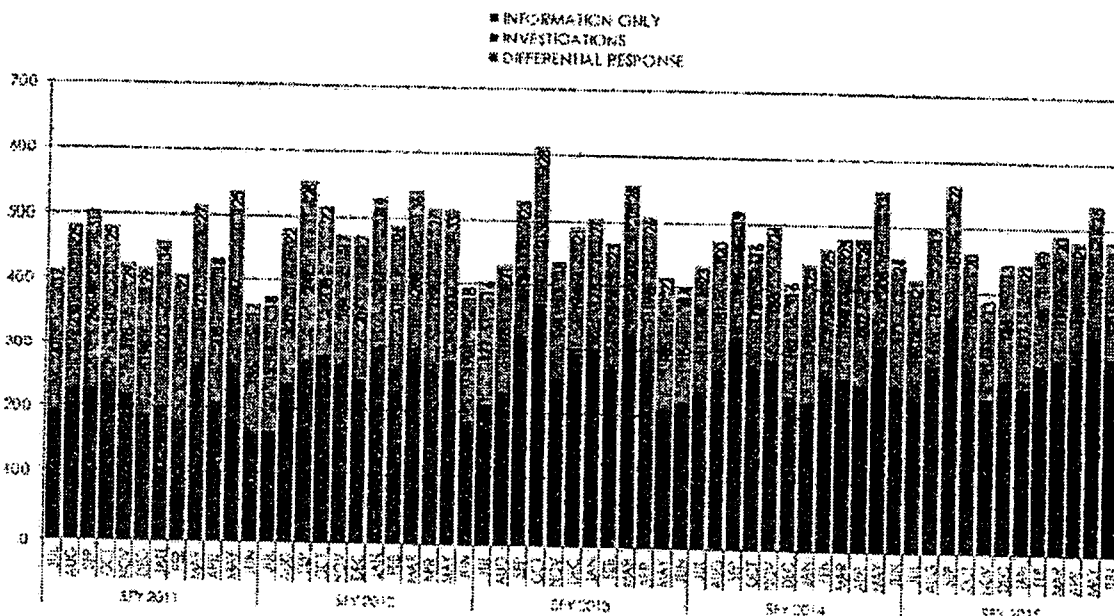
Service Goal #6 Increase victims of child abuse access to assistance by enhancing resources to and expanding the Child Abuse and Neglect hotline for victims to include the Adult and Senior population

Child abuse and neglect Hotlines/Intake are the first step in a proactive and responsive approach to ensuring the health and safety of child victims. The Intake process is a standardized application of procedures for collecting consistent information to respond to reports of child abuse and/or neglect obtained from a reporting party in a timely manner and lays the foundation for assessing safety and risk. A significant amount of allegation reports that encompass Washoe County are related to parental incarceration for crimes committed, domestic violence and sexual abuse. Structuring this information contributes to more efficient practice and results better quality of information to reach screening and urgency response. Consideration of family functioning related child maltreatment, child functioning, adults (primary caregivers) function (violence, dangerous environment, failure to protect), severity of child maltreatment, the caregivers' response to child welfare involvement, the caregivers' explanation of what happened, the injuries and related conditions are all considered during the Intake interview. It is acknowledged that certain reporting parties may not have knowledge or in-depth substantive information about a family (such as routine parenting practices or adult functioning), but the expectation and pursuit of such information provides the opportunity to collect thorough, comprehensive and child safety-oriented information for use in decision-making.

The first component of the request is the addition of one Intake Screener to enhance the comprehensive Hotline/Intake Unit. WCDSS current operates an 8:00 am-5:00 pm Hotline, which transfers to the Crisis Call Center during nights and weekends. WCDSS currently has a five person (Intake Screener) unit, plus a supervisor. When all lines are busy and screeners are taking other calls, an agency-wide page announces a need for an available social worker to take the overflow calls to minimize caller wait times. Having a Centralized Hotline, without an

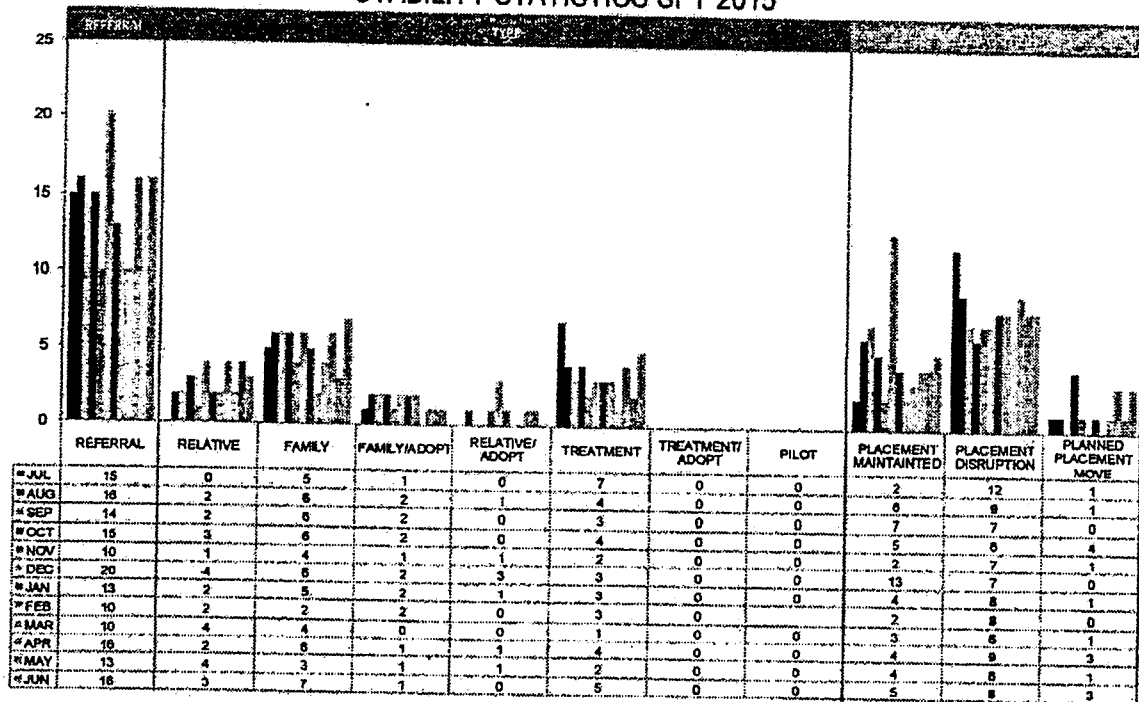
overflow component would bring consistency to the way abuse and neglect calls are managed throughout the agency by eliminating the additional, non-traditional screeners that are not a component of the Hotline Unit. The designated Hotline will further enhance the agency's approach to taking reports, allow for expansion of the population utilizing the hotline to include adults and seniors, improve the Intake screeners' ability to gather information from callers, and expedites the process of preparing comprehensive reports, by disseminating those reports to local offices for assessment, investigation and in person contact with the family, child, adult and senior victims. The Centralized Hotline would also allow for less disruption by the social workers in the office that will in turn increase more time partnering with children and families. It would also allow WCDSS Intake Screeners to ask more probing questions to obtain comprehensive information about factors that may impact child and other victim's safety. The second component is to convert the current phone system into a computerized call system similar to the one Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS) currently operates for its Hotline/Intake calls. This state of the art system would allow staff the opportunity to listen to individual calls and if specific concerns regarding a particular call are raised, staff can utilize these features to review the call and address any concerns. It can also serve as great training tool and guide to continue improving competency and thoroughness in this area. This would also allow WCDSS an opportunity for quicker data entry; as well as, the ability to track the number of calls received, and the timeliness and quality of responses to callers. Intake, is the first and most critical part in responding to child victims; therefore, must be built with adequate staff and include a quality control component.

REFERRALS AND INVESTIGATIONS



Service Goal #7 Provide child victims with a measure of safety and security and assist the victims to stabilize their lives after victimization
 WCDSS if requesting funding to.

STABILITY STATISTICS SFY 2015



Children and young people who are removed from their family suffer separation and feelings of loss, even if they have been maltreated. These feelings are compounded when they experience multiple placements. Placement instability reduces a child's opportunities to develop secure attachments. It may also exacerbate any existing behavioral and emotional difficulties making it more difficult for children to establish relationships with care givers and contributing to further placement breakdown. Placement stability is important for children to develop healthy secure relationships and serves to reduce the potential stressors that arise from being displaced multiple times. Frequent placement moves not only compounds the issue of being separated from one's parents, but can also result in separation from siblings, relocating to a new geographical area, and experiencing a sense of not belonging. Children who are removed from their homes and then who experience placement disruption can lead to them experiencing extreme distress and a sense of loss and not belonging, all of which can lead to distrust and a fear of forming secure healthy relationships. Youth who experience minimized placement changes are more likely to experience fewer school changes, less trauma and distress, less mental health and behavioral problems and increased probabilities for academic achievement and experiencing a lasting positive relationship with an adult.

Often the most difficult placements to for child victims who are in custody of child welfare, are for those who have significantly more complex needs having been victims of a variety of circumstances. This is due to the compounded trauma of failed placements, mental health needs that surface due to treatment while in care addressing the reasons for placement, prolonged stays in foster care, under reported or treated substance abuse issues and attachment and bonding issues. These placement issues, coupled with limited resources of skilled caregivers make appropriate placement matching and stability a complicated and on-going challenge for some of our most vulnerable child victims. In that domestic violence and substance abuse is a strong

indicator for initial removal and many of the child victims in this particular unique population are older, they have specific placement needs.

In evaluating the reasons for these placement disruptions, caregivers, staff and youth often identify communication and additional support as barriers. WCDSS is requesting a contracted position of an Intensive Placement Support Liaison to put support directly where it is needed most; to communicate with and respond timely and accurately to caregivers when a complicated and fragile placement of child victim has been made so that all information is given to those who need it when they need it. One of the constant characteristics found when a placement is decided upon for a child with extraordinary needs is that the team around this decision is made up of many people. Lots of decisions about service delivery (school attendance, transportation, respite, medication, therapy, in-home services, legal issues, appointments, visitation, etc.) are made. Often, information can be miscommunicated about these things either initially or on-going which creates pressure on an already difficult situation. This is in addition to the personal and emotional needs of the child and family. This position would provide someone to be assigned and break down barriers of placement options.

The Intensive Placement Support Liaison would be responsible to contact the placement resource daily to make sure that the situation is running smoothly and that it is "as presented" and they have the information they need to provide excellent care to the child victim placed in their care. The key to success and stability for transitions of children into a new fostering environment is consistency and that the caregiver has all possible information needed to care for the children. This is especially important with a disruption. The Intensive Placement Support Liaison would be able to identify any possible problems before they become stressful to the family and then know who to talk to in order to fix them. The many people involved with a case often do not have this perspective or single task. This unique perspective and assignment is focused solely on stability through excellent communication and meeting with the caregivers on a daily basis. Stability and preventing child victims from moving from one home to another allows them to focus on creating significant and meaningful attachments which, in turn, allows them to grow in a trusting environment and heal. This model of intensive support for caregivers and child victims has been used successfully in Fresno and Sonoma Counties, California, who as part of the Quality Parenting Initiative, like Washoe County, shared their results with encouragement.

Service Goal #8 to Increase access to services for sexual assault victims

The Children's Advocacy Center is a collaborative effort that is supported by the: Washoe County District Attorney, Reno Police Department, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Sparks Police Department, the Washoe County Department of Social Services and the CARES/SART program (Child Abuse Response & Evaluations/ Sexual Assault Response Team). The CAC center is a child-friendly interview center where children of all ages come to talk to a trained interview specialist about allegations of child abuse, specifically sexual abuse. When children are brought into the center, the child will wait in a room equipped with toys, games, books and child sized furniture in order to reduce trauma to the child. The CAC process also utilizes a video-taped interview process in order to reduce the number of people who will speak with the child in order to keep trauma to the child to a minimum. The CAC opened in 2014 and is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team of prosecutors, law enforcement, medical professionals, counselors, advocates and social workers. Each member of the team is dedicated to the investigation and successful prosecution of criminals who victimize children in our community. To date, over 500 victim interviews have been conducted and successful prosecutions of these difficult cases have

increased. WCDSS would like to expand this team to allow for a greater number of children to receive these services. Ongoing program needs:

- Hire Practice Registered Nurse and public health Nurse
- Obtain the Forensic Nursing Certificate for our Advanced Practice Nurse currently located at the CAC in order to: Identify and properly collect forensic evidence within the health care setting to withstand legal scrutiny; Communicate with the various members of the multi-disciplinary forensic team; Determine treatment for triage and emergency intervention for patients who exhibit potential forensic issues; Identify basic policies and procedures required for conducting sexual assault examinations; Analyze the social and political implications of escalating violence(14- unit/credits at UC Riverside.)

Additionally, one of the current goals of the CAC program is to increase the data collection and reporting abilities of the program overall. This includes improvement of data integrity, statistical data analysis and a more precise method of tracking the number of clients served. In order to achieve these improvements and to properly and adequately track cases that are managed out of the CAC, updated software systems are required. To this end, the computerized NCA track system is a web-based case tracking system that is specifically developed to help Children's Advocacy Centers track case specific information in a user-friendly, reliable manner.

Program Evaluation

Service Goal #1: Provide children victims with an opportunity to have a safe and structured supervised visitation with their often estranged biological parent and extended family members.

Objective: Provide 1200 supervised visitation services per month.

Performance Measure: Number of supervised visitations services provided per month.

Evaluation Method: Our Program Coordinator will track of the number of unique children receiving supervised visits as well as the total number of supervised visits in a computerized data base.

Service Goal #2: Prevent child victims from entering long-term foster care, improve permanency for child victims, and increase permanency outcomes.

Objective: Provide safety intervention services utilizing the SAFE assessment.

Performance Measure: Number of victims receiving SAFE assessment and have safety plans developed.

Evaluation Method: Our Program Coordinator will track the number of unique children receiving a SAFE assessment who have a safety plan developed utilizing data extracted from the State's UNITY System.