

# Children's Advocacy Alliance

Interim Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

January 24, 2018



Children's  
Advocacy  
ALLIANCE

Agenda Item XI (CHILD WELFARE)  
Meeting Date: 01-24-18

# Our Priorities



**School Readiness**



**Children's Health**



**Children's Safety**



# Nevada Children's Report Card

# The Status of Children in Nevada

## 2016 Summary of Grades

### Health D

Access to Health Care	F-
Prenatal/Infant Health	C-
Immunizations	D
Childhood Obesity	B-
Dental Health	F
Mental Health	D-
Sexual Health	D+

D

### SAFETY: D+

Child Maltreatment	C-
Youth Homelessness	D
Juvenile Violence	D+
Child Deaths & Injuries	C-
Substance Abuse	C-

D+

### EDUCATION: F

School Readiness	F
Student Achievement	F
High School Completion	D+
Funding	F

F

### ECONOMIC WELL-BEING: D-

Employment	D-
Housing	D
Poverty	C-
Income	F+

D-

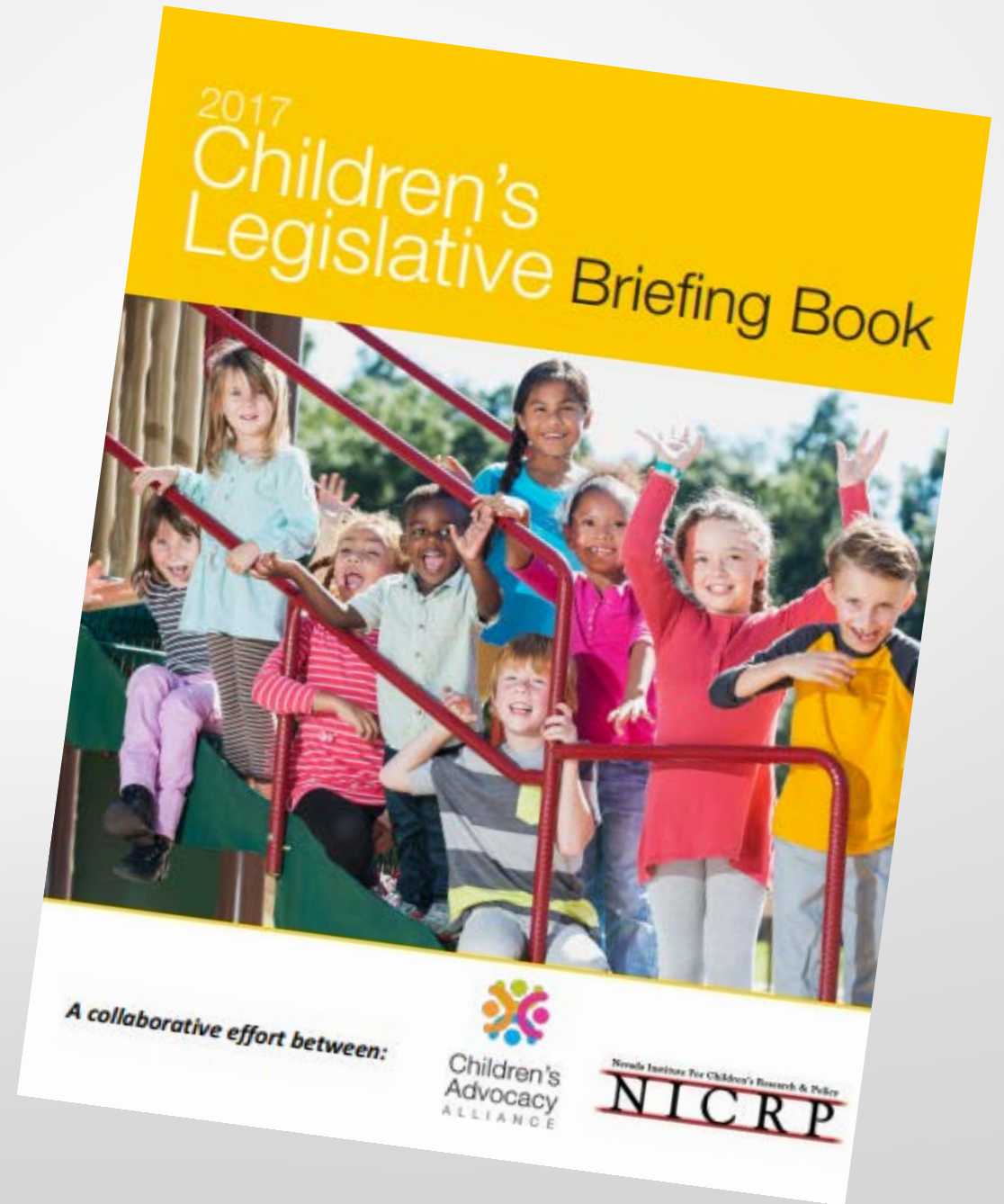
### How Grades are Determined: By State Ranking (Where Available)

1-3 = A+	11-13 = B+	21-23 = C+	31-33 = D+	41-43 = F+
4-7 = A	14-17 = B	24-27 = C	34-37 = D	44-47 = F
8-10 = A-	18-20 = B-	28-30 = C-	38-40 = D-	48-51 = F-



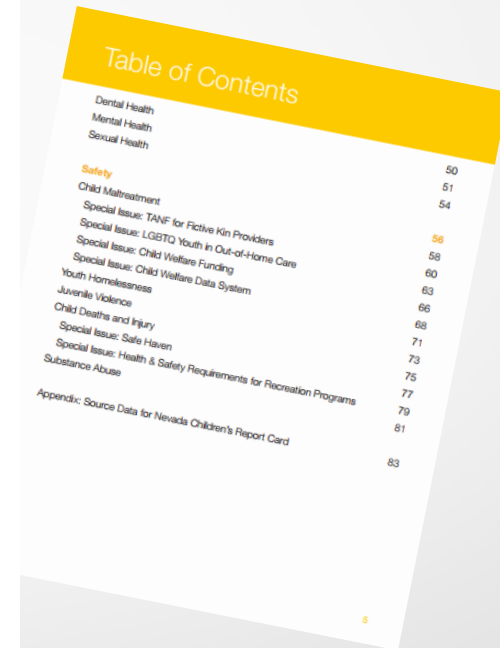
The following symbols indicate Nevada's progress on the indicators, not necessarily where the state ranked compared to other states. There are instances where Nevada's indicator has improved, but our rank has gone down (due to other state's improving more than Nevada). Because the grades are based on Nevada's rank, this may result in a lower grade, despite improvements on the indicator.

# Legislative Briefing Book



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# 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Recap

## Children's Safety

- **AB 99** – Provided additional Protections for LGBTQ Youth in Out of Home Care
- **AB 176** – Revised Safety Provisions for Seasonal/Temporary Recreation Programs
- **AB 180** – Established the Juvenile Justice Bill of Rights
- **AB 305** – Required All Schools to Hang Posters with the Child Abuse Hotline information
- **AB 346** – Revised Provisions Related to Unlicensed Child Care Providers



# 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Recap

## Children's Safety

- **SB 2** – Revisions to Nevada's Safe Haven Law
- **SB 46** – Updated Provisions Regarding Background Checks for Child Care Providers
- **SB 257** – Established Prudent Parenting Liability Protections for Foster Parents. Created the Normalcy for Foster Youth Account to help pay for foster youth to participate in extracurricular activities
- **SB 274** – Outlined a System for Foster Youth to Remain Connected with their Siblings



# 80th Nevada Legislative Session Priorities

## Children's Safety

- Child Care Subsidies/Tax Credit
- Child Welfare Funding Study
- Replace Nevada's Data System UNITY with an Integrated Data System
- Expand Access to Resources for Fictive Kin Providers
- Expand Reciprocity for Mental Health Professionals
- Allow for Juvenile Justice Costs to be Waived for Those Unable to Repay
- Preschool Expulsion Policies

# Child Care Subsidies & Business Tax Credit

- The average annual cost of care in licensed centers in Nevada ranges from \$10,324 for an infant to \$8,702 for preschoolers (age 3-5).
- A single parent making minimum wage (\$8.25 an hour) would have to spend 60% of their total pre-tax annual income on infant child care.
- Nevada's child care subsidy program currently serves 3.21% of its eligible population.

# Child Welfare Funding

- In 2011, Nevada revised the child welfare funding structure for the two urban county child welfare agencies, Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS) and Washoe County Department of Social Services (WCDSS)
- To ensure that Nevada is funding CCDFS and WCDSS at appropriate levels to provide effective and efficient child welfare services, a study should be conducted to provide analysis of:
  - The current block grant structure
  - Potential funding sources to support child welfare
  - All funding sources that support the broad child welfare system

# Replace Nevada's Data System UNITY with an Integrated Data System

- Nevada's Current UNITY Data System, currently:
  - Lacks features of modern web applications
  - Functionality lags behind business processes
  - Foundational technology is antiquated
  - System performance in some areas is poor
  - Difficult to implement some new features
  - Steep learning curve for users
- Blue Ribbon Commission Report
- NICRP Performance Audit of Nevada's Child Welfare System

# Expand Access to Resources for Fictive Kin Providers

- Fictive Kin caregivers are individuals who care for a child with whom they have a family-like tie, although not a direct familial blood relative.
- Kinship caregivers differ from foster parents because they are “unlicensed” when they are first accepted into their home, which means they are not entitled to the financial support that non-kin foster parents receive.
- Review inclusion of Fictive Kin in NRS/State Policies to ensure access to necessary resources, including TANF, KinGap & other related assistance programs.



# Review Policies Related to Licensure of Mental Health Professionals

- Nevada's child welfare & juvenile justice systems are reliant upon access to licensed mental health professionals to support prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reunification.
- Mental health providers include: Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Counselors; Clinical Professional Counselors; Licensed Clinical Social Workers; Marriage & Family Therapists; Psychiatrists; and Psychologists.
- "Currently, the entire population in 16 of the 17 counties in Nevada resides in a mental [health professional shortage area] HPSA, including all rural and frontier regions of the state and both urban counties of northern Nevada."



# Juvenile Justice Repayment Costs

- Nevada's Juvenile Justice System currently imposes three mandatory fees. These include the following:
  - **Cost of Care**, which is defined as "costs to cover the care, treatment, supervision, or placement of the child."
  - **Fines**, which can be "monetary sanctions, which may include those established as an alternative to incarceration, imposed for specified offenses such as truancy, or available as a dispositional option for all offenses."
  - **Restitution**, which is "payment to reimburse the victim, or the victim's insurance company, for damages or to compensate for any loss, damage, or injury."
- The inability to pay these fees can have serious consequences for the juvenile offenders and disproportionately affect minority and low-income youth.

Guinn Center for Policy Priorities Report, *The Costs of the Nevada Juvenile Court System on Youths and their Families* <https://guinncenter.org/juvenilecourt/>

# Preschool Expulsion Policies

- Pre-kindergartners are three times more likely to be expelled from school than children in K-12 schools.
- Young children who are identified as “hard to manage” are more likely to:
  - experience discipline at school,
  - have negative interactions with family and peers,
  - have lower academic achievement or drop-out of school,
  - experiment earlier with drug and alcohol, and
  - engage in delinquency
- Caregivers who are nurturing and responsive stimulate children’s healthy brain development reducing the likelihood of long-term behavior concerns

# Children's Advocacy Alliance

Denise Tanata

Executive Director

[Denise.Tanata@caanv.org](mailto:Denise.Tanata@caanv.org)

Jared Busker

Government Affairs Manager

[Jared.Busker@caanv.org](mailto:Jared.Busker@caanv.org)

702-228-1869



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ALLIANCE