Collaborating for Children

WRAPAROUND: A Key Component of School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports
BY: RON KOPICKO

Wraparound is a process based on a team concept that uses the strengths of the family and the child together to gather the most useful information to make plans to help the family and child succeed. Schools are now increasingly leading wraparound efforts. School systems are now incorporating the principles and practices of wraparound into their continuum of supports and services for all students including those students who are at risk of emotional and behavioral disabilities. This allows a greater number of youth to benefit from the wraparound process and avoids schools imposing greater restrictive educational settings and out-of-home placements.

Recently the wraparound process is being integrated into the school-wide system of positive behavior supports. This allows children with emotional disabilities and challenges to experience increased success at home and in the community. Positive Behavioral Supports can support and strengthen the wraparound process and its ability to improve the quality of life for youth with unique emotional and behavioral needs as well as their families and teachers.

Positive Behavioral Supports in the wraparound process has at its core, the belief that all children can learn and succeed and schools, families and communities are responsible to identify and arrange for progress in the educational process for all students. The essential component of positive behavioral supports is to ensure success for students. The experience of implementing the wraparound process into the system of care has shown that families need to be placed in the key position of decision makers in securing desired outcomes and strength based strategies. The wraparound process provides a structure for schools to establish working partnerships between families.

Positive Behavioral Supports allow schools to create an environment in which the wraparound process is more successful. Positive Behavioral Supports become more effective and help implement wraparound programs. Schools need to increase efforts to support students with complex emotional and behavioral needs. The wraparound process with the focus on families, schools and communities on behalf of the individual students should be an important part of the System of Care. It appears that the critical features of Positive Behavioral Supports are an important part of the Wraparound process in family and school-based success.

The above information was provided through an article in the “Resource Guide to Wraparound”, a report provided by the National Wraparound Initiative. The article concerning school-wide systems of Positive Behavior Supports was written by Lucille Eber, Ed.D, State Director of the Illinois Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Network which provides implementation supports to over 800 schools in Illinois. The network provides training, technical assistance and evaluation for the wraparound process.

*For more information about Wraparound visit the National Wraparound Initiative website at www.nwi.pdx.edu

CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS IN INFANTS AND TODDLERS
BY ROBIN KINCAID

What a day: Your 2-year-old starts the morning by screaming, “No, me do it!” when you pour the milk on her cereal. Then she flat-out refuses to put away any of the toys she’s taken out. Later, when you’ve had about all you can take, your child has a full-fledged tantrum because she happens to be playing with her friends when you arrive to pick her up at daycare. She is really testing your patience!

Families can feel unprepared when their infant or toddler displays a different or challenging pattern of behavior. To help Nevada families a collaborative has been developed along with 4 other states to adopt an initiative called TACSEI (Technical Assistance Center for Social Emotional Intervention) that helps teachers and families address challenging behaviors. TACSEI Pyramid Model demonstrates the research that shows which practices improve the social-emotional outcomes for young children with, or at risk for, delays or disabilities. The Pyramid Model is an outline that provides preschools with guidance on how to promote social emotional competence in all children and design effective interventions that support young children who might have persistent challenging behaviors. It also provides practices to ensure that children with social emotional delays receive intentional teaching. Preschools that implement the Pyramid Model are eager to work together with families to meet every child’s individualized learning and support needs. Families learn new ways to help their infant and toddler show appropriate behaviors, emotions and make transitions at home.

TACSEI has made available some very helpful handouts that support families as they are teaching their children strategies to cope with frustrations, disappointments and difficult transitions. Parents can begin addressing their child’s behaviors by using some of the following tips:

Tip #1: Keep Your Expectations Realistic
Tip #2: Plan Ahead to anticipate your child’s needs
Tip #3: Clearly State Your Expectations in Advance
Tip #4: Offer Limited, Reasonable Choices
Tip #5: Use contingency statements.

-Example: When you put on your shoes, then you may go outside.

Tip #6: Catch your child being good
Tip #7: Stay Calm
Tip #8: Talk with your child about previous difficult situations and positive ways to handle them in the future

Nevada PEP has more information and classes at our Parent Centers to help families that could use some additional strategies or support when their child is testing their patience. Visit our website nvpep.org and the Nevada TACSEI website nvtacsei.com to learn more about challenging behaviors.

*Tips adapted from Positive Solutions for Families

Communiqué

Spring 2013
Volume 8 • Issue 2

NEVADA PEP
Strengthening Families with
Education • Empowerment • Encouragement

Collaborating for Children

TIPS & INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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*Tips adapted from Positive Solutions for Families
By Char Frost

The Wraparound Process brings together the child, family and a team of professionals and informal supports to identify strengths and needs to better help support the family and child with Serious Emotional Disturbance. The people that the family chooses to be on their team may include friends, family members, church members, associates from work, and/or a peer support person.

In April, Nevada PEP was privileged to host and participate in training with the Division of Child and Family Services Wraparound in Nevada (WIN) and other mental health service providers. Eric Bruns, Ph.D. from the University of Washington School of Medicine, came to speak about the importance of peer support in the wraparound model. Dr. Bruns is a leader in the Wraparound Model having participated in the design, implementation and development of the tools used to measure the effectiveness of the process.

Dr. Bruns shared new research findings on the effectiveness of peer to peer family support in the Wraparound Model. Some of the benefits include reduced emotional stress for the family, reduced stigma, and more consistent participation in the recovery process of the child.

For more information about community based services available through the Neighborhood Care Centers you can access the DCFS website at http://www.dcfs.state.nv.us/DCFS_CommunityBasedOPSvcs.htm or contact your Nevada PEP Family Specialist at (702) 388-8899.

Inspirational THOUGHT

“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”

– Walt Disney

By Retta Dermody

Federal Highlight

Why Family Partners?

The Wraparound process is individualized community-based planning and coordination of services that focuses on the strengths and needs of the child and their family. Wraparound planning can take place at a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting where family members, service providers, teachers and others who are connected to the family in supportive roles work collaboratively to develop and implement an individualized plan of care, known as a wraparound plan.

Family Partners are a very important part of the Wraparound Process across the nation. Family Partners, sometimes called peer to peer family support providers, are family members who have lived the experience of raising a child with mental health needs and have gone through training activities to become experts on the principles of wraparound. The principles and values of wraparound and system of care have become an important part of their daily lives.

The Family Partner is a formal member of the CFT whose role is to support and empower the family to be an active participant of the CFT. The Family Partner helps the family feel comfortable expressing their voice and choice in the team decision-making.

Family Partners have gone through many of the same experiences as the families they are supporting. Because of these experiences they have a strong connection with the community and are knowledgeable about resources, services, and supports for the family. Knowing that the Family Partner has had similar experiences helps establish trust and respect that is valued by the family.

For more information about Nevada’s Statewide Family Network please call: Nevada PEP at (800) 216-5188, or Las Vegas Central Office at (702) 388-8899, Reno Satellite Office at (775) 448-9950.
would combine mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders (persons having both substance abuse and mental health interventions. Each agency will collect performance and outcome data on the effectiveness of behavioral health services which application for the block grant. Together these three agencies are focusing on Mental Health promotion, awareness, and preventive interventions. Each agency will collect performance and outcome data on the effectiveness of behavioral health services which would combine mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders (persons having both substance abuse and mental health disorders).

Deborah McBride shared with council members SAPTA’s 14 federal goals related to alcohol and substance use:

1. Improving access to prevention and treatment services;
2. Providing primary prevention services;
3. Providing specialized services for pregnant women and women with dependent children;
4. Services to intravenous drug user groups;
5. An agreement with other public or non-profit private entities to routinely make available tuberculosis services to individuals receiving treatment for substance abuse and to monitor such service delivery;
6. An agreement to provide treatment for persons with substance abuse problems with an emphasis on making available within existing programs early intervention services for HIV in areas of the state that have the greatest need for such services and to monitor the service delivery;
7. An agreement to continue to have in effect a state law that makes it unlawful for the manufacturer, retailer, or distributor of tobacco products to sell or distribute to any individual under the age of 18;
8. Agreement to ensure a pregnant woman is given preference in admission to treatment facilities; An agreement to improve the process in the state for referring individuals to a treatment modality that is most appropriate for the individual;
9. An agreement to provide continuing education for the employees of the treatment facilities which provide prevention activities and treatment services;
10. An agreement to submit an assessment of the need for both treatment and prevention;
11. An agreement to ensure that no program funded through the Block Grant will use funds to provide individuals with hypodermic needles or syringes so that such individuals may use illegal drugs;
12. An agreement to assess and improve, through independent peer review, the quality and appropriateness of treatment services delivered by providers that receive funds from the Block Grant;
13. An agreement to ensure that the state has in effect a system to protect patient records from inappropriate disclosure;
14. An agreement to ensure that the state has in effect a system to comply with services provided by non-governmental organizations.

*If you are interested in attending or joining the MHPAC please feel free to contact the Administrative Assistant for the Council at 775.684.4294.

**Nevada Family-to-Family Health Information Center and Family-Centered Care**

By Melanie Kauffman, on behalf of Family Ties of Nevada, a Family Voices State Affiliate Organization

Over 80,000 or about 12% of Nevada’s children have special health care needs which are defined as: “children who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally” (American Academy of Pediatrics, 1998). Imagine the mix of emotions that parents and families experience when learning that their child has been diagnosed with a serious health condition, developmental delay, or cognitive disability. They may not know where to go for help or how to access resources and support. As the Family Voices State Affiliate and Family-to-Family Health Information Center, Family TIES strives to achieve family-centered care for all children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities.

Family Centered care ensures the health and well-being of children and their families through a respectful family-professional partnership that includes shared decision making. It honors the strengths, cultures, traditions, and expertise that everyone brings to this relationship.

At the heart of our services is an experienced parent or family staff member whose role is to provide caring and knowledgeable assistance to families from that very first contact often at the time of diagnosis. Parents are supported to identify and locate appropriate resources required for the care of their children for their own education, and the needs of their family. In connecting parents with resources and services, children with special needs are more likely to receive the vital medical care, therapy, school programs, and personal assistance they need to grow and to become successful in leading happy and meaningful lives. As the Nevada Family-to-Family Health Information Center we assist families as they navigate public and private systems, health systems and insurance plans including Medicaid and Nevada Check Up, and help families in accessing services and resources. We work with families, health care providers, public and private agencies, and advocacy or support groups to promote family-centered care and medical homes for children with special health care needs. We promote discussion and linkages among families, providers, managed care programs, and government to better serve the health care and related needs of children and families in Nevada. Family TIES has offices in Reno and Las Vegas, and operates the statewide toll-free parent support, information and referral line: 866.326.8437.

*Please visit www.familytiesnv.org to learn more.
Upcoming Events

LAS VEGAS/HENDERSON

City of Las Vegas, Adaptive Recreation Division 250 N.E. Avenue
Recreational activities for youth of all ages with/without developmental disabilities. Contact: Cindy Moyes 702.229.4902

Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada
Call Lindsey or David 702.648.1990 for information on activities and supports or visit the website at www.dsosn.org

FEAT of Southern Nevada
(Families for Early Autism Treatment)
Provide support, encouragement, and guidance to parents and create an opportunity for them to benefit from contact with other parents with similar needs and concerns. 408 S. Jones, Las Vegas, 89107 or call Jennifer Strobel at 702.368.3328 Tuesday – Thursday from 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM.

Give Me A Break, Inc. (GAB)
Respite days are the 3rd Saturday of each month in the Vegas Valley. Contact Scherrie Adams at 702.898.2216 or Toll Free 866.486.2275, Fax: 702.248.4739. You must RSVP to reserve a spot.

Heart & Soul Discussion Group
For families with children diagnosed with a heart condition. Meetings are the 2nd Friday of each month at, The Children’s Heart Center, 3006 S. Maryland Parkway, from 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM. Contact Jennifer Kelley at 702.967.3522 or visit the Heart & Soul website for events and activities calendar at www.chfn.org.

Positive Supports for Children
Specific intervention to promote social, emotional behavioral functioning. Contact Christy Buckingham-Martin at 702.367.0306 or email: ps4children@lvcoxmail.com

Reno Autism Information Network (RAIN)
Information, support and social nights with activities for children. Contact Toni Richards at 775.324.5085 or email: Toni’s-sign3550@sbcglobal.net or Robin-robin@accutek.com (put “Autism” in the subject line).

Special Olympics Golf
Wild Creek Golf Course, 3500 Sullivan Lane, Sparks, NV 89431. Contact Dennis Oliver at 775.657.8406.

The Solace Tree
Support for families grieving from a personal loss. Call 775.324.7723 or email: info@solacetree.org Visit their website at www.solacetree.org

RENO/SPARKS

Asperger’s Support Group
Monthly meetings on Tuesdays from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Contact John Maes at 775.787.2904 for dates, times and more information.

City of Reno Parks & Recreation
Recreation programs for children with disabilities. Contact April Wolfe at 775.334.2260 or email: Wolfea@reno.gov or contact: “Inclusion” at 775.333.7765.

Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada Family Support Group
Monthly meetings the first Tuesday of every month from 5:45 PM - 7:30 PM. At Nevada Early Intervention Services 2667 Enterprise Rd., Reno, NV 89512. For more information call 775.682.9071 or e-mail dsnnninfo@gmail.com.

Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada Family Support Group
Nos reunimos el primer martes de cada mes 5:45 PM – 7:30 PM Donde Nevada Early Intervention Services 2667 Enterprise Rd., Reno, NV 89512. For more information call 775.682.9071 or e-mail dsnnninfo@gmail.com

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Nevada PEP Family Support Group
We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at the Family Alliance Building, 186 E. Main St. - Ste 4, Fernley. For more information please call 775.448.9950 or 1.800.216.5188.

The Solace Tree
Support for families grieving from a personal loss. Call 775.324.7723 or email: info@solacetree.org Visit their website at www.solacetree.org

RURALs

FEAT of the Carson Valley
Minden, Nevada 89423
Mindy 775.782.4138

Nevada PEP Family Support Group
We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM at, 2101 S. Jones Blvd, Ste 120. Contact a Family Specialist at 702.388.8899

Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada Family Support Group
Nos reunimos el primer martes de cada mes 5:45 PM – 7:30 PM Donde Nevada Early Intervention Services 2667 Enterprise Rd., Reno, NV 89512. For more information call 775.682.9071 or e-mail dsnnninfo@gmail.com

Ron Woods Family Resource Center
Has many different programs for the family and youth focusing on positive action and helping youth identify and understand their thoughts and feelings. Ron Woods Family Support Center, 2621 Northgate Lane Ste 62, Carson City, 89703. Please contact Tracy or Lisa at 775.884.2269.
Over the last few months the Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium (CCCMHC) members have been very busy in preparation for Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day and finalizing their 10-year Strategic Plan.

The Consortium has partnered with Clark County School District to provide lessons on bullying prevention to 6th grade students at O’Callaghan Middle School using research-based curriculum and a poster contest to help kids express feelings about bullying and its effects. On May 9th, CCCMHC members have organized and will participate with O’Callaghan Middle School for Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day. The day will focus on bullying because of the negative side effects associated with bullying, such as anxiety and depression. An all-school assembly will include a drama performance by the students to show how students can protect themselves against bullying and the winning posters will be recognized.

The Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium recognizes that Clark County children and youth are among the most vulnerable in the nation. It is estimated that at least 1 in 5 children in Clark County are experiencing mental health problems and two-thirds of these children are not getting the help that they need. In response, the Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium has developed a 10-year Strategic Plan to guide the community and stakeholders in providing needed mental health services to children and their families. This Strategic Plan is an example of the Consortium’s commitment to the children and families in Clark County who deserve the supports necessary to ensure early intervention and treatment.

The Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. For more information, please contact Jackie Harris, Chairperson, at 702.474.6450.

Resource Review

School-wide Positive Behavior Support in North Carolina

This DVD “School-Wide Positive Behavior Support In North Carolina” on Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) guides one through how behavioral interventions can be used at school, home and or in the community. PBS can be used regardless of the community size, location, age or diversity of student body. Using PBS can bring the entire community together and is evidence based practice.

It walks you through the eight step process showing examples and the benefits for the students as well as the school. It is interesting to hear how the students feel about the use of PBS and how it makes them feel. The students, their parents and community are all benefiting from the use of positive behavior support. It was very informative, easy to follow and another tool for parents and professionals.

This DVD as well as other informative books, audios, video’s, DVD’s and resources can be found in the Nevada PEP Resource Libraries in Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada.

I am grateful to Nevada PEP and the support it has provided. Before I met PEP I tried many times to speak with school personnel looking for support regarding my son’s behavior and academic performance. I would hear complaints, sad reports of bad behavior, annoying letters, but never advice or solutions even after they looked at his medical records. I felt sad, worried, depressed and desperate to find a solution and be heard.

One day a woman told me about Nevada PEP and said that they orientate and guide parents of children with special needs. I went to find them and they listened to the problems I was having with my son and the teachers in the school. Nevada PEP paid attention and provided support through education and encouragement. They attended several meetings with me in which I felt I was taken seriously and they listened to my pleas to help my son by modifying his program.

Finally, after much hard work and many meetings later, my son is now receiving the support he so desperately needed, and he will continue to be successful!
Washoe County Children’s Mental Health Consortium

By Retta Dermody

Washoe County Children’s Mental Health Consortium (WCCMHC) members have been focusing on planning the 1st Lady’s Children’s Mental Health Summit which was held April 24th. WCCMHC provided each attendee a memory stick which had all the presenters’ presentations to share with those who were unable to attend. Consortium members attended the daylong event sharing the positive efforts that state, county, and private service providers are doing for families of children with behavioral health disorders.

WCCMHC Goal 2 and Goal 4 workgroup members have been busy working on the 10 year plan:

Goal 2: Helping Families to Help Themselves workgroup is addressing early identification and preventative interventions for children with risk factors for emerging mental health conditions and potential for suicide risk. They will also assess opportunities and support implementation of screening in primary care and school-based settings as early as possible. WCCMHC has helped this workgroup to move forward by providing 2 Washoe County School District schools with Signs of Suicide (SOS) kits to help prevention efforts. The Consortium will be sponsoring a workgroup member to attend Youth Mental Health First Aid Training which is a train the trainer program promoted by President Obama.

Goal 4: Support Youth to Succeed as Adults workgroup has partnered with Mojave Mental Health Services in developing a series of workshops addressing topics of relevance to youth transitioning from child to adult services. WCCMHC has provided incentives and scholarships for youth participating in the workshops.

WCCMHC would like to invite families and youth to join us at our monthly meetings and workshops. The Consortium meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month from 3-5pm at the Washoe County Complex, Central Conference Room on 9th Street.

For more information, you can call Retta Dermody or Ron Kopicko at 775-448-9950.

Collaboration Highlight

By Char Frost

On April 24, 2013 The First Lady of Nevada, Kathleen Sandoval, along with the Clark, Washoe, and Rural Consortia sponsored a summit at the Governor’s Mansion on Children’s Mental Health. About 130 participants from across the state gathered to learn about the positive developments in children’s mental health in Nevada including family members from Nevada PEP. The First Lady kicked off the summit by sharing her lifelong passion and commitment to children and families, followed by Nevada’s Public Health Officer, Dr. Tracey Green, who presented the State’s vision for improving systems in Nevada. Our own Retta Dermody teamed up with Kelly Wooldridge, Deputy Administrator of Children’s Mental Health to promote Nevada’s System of Care values and attributes. After their presentation all participants were encouraged to sign a commitment to Nevada’s System of Care Attributes. Nevada PEP’s Executive Director, Karen Taycher, shared the importance of family support and ways that Nevada PEP supports and educates families of children with disabilities. Many service providers and stakeholders provided information on health and behavioral health strategies, programs, therapies and interventions.

Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services

By Karen Taycher

In 1985, The Nevada Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services was created to provide accountability to the taxpayers and the Nevada Legislature, evaluate state needs and develop a mental health plan for the state. The Commission is also responsible to upgrade the quality of care to patients and to establish programs to prevent mental illness. The Commission is to provide a public forum for mental health, increase knowledge in treatment of mental illness, be representative of mental health and improve the system in coordination of all mental health programs and overall better the system. The Commission is charged with promoting and assuring the protection of the rights of all clients in this system.

Commission members are appointed by the Governor. There are 10 positions on the commission. The chairperson is currently Kevin Quint. You can learn about more about who is on the Commission by reading http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-232A.html.

The Commission is designed to provide policy guidance and oversight of Nevada’s public system of integrated care and treatment of adults and children with mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities/related conditions. Nevadans who have questions or concerns about Nevada’s mental health and developmental disabilities system can make public comment at a Commission meeting. To find out more about the commission or their upcoming meetings, contact the HMDS Administrative staff at 775-684-5943 or visit http://mhds.nv.gov.

By working together to recognize needs and develop solutions, we can improve the quality of life for Nevadans.
The Rural Children’s Mental Health Consortium (RCMHC) has been busy working on their goals in the consortium 10 year plan. Members have been advocating for families during the legislative session on the challenges rural Nevada’s families of children with behavior health disorders face everyday getting services for their children. Together consortium members support one another in educating the rural communities in System of Care values such as community, strength based, and family driven services.

The Infant Mental Health Workgroup has been examining possibilities for integration into the existing Nevada services. Two workgroup members recently visited University of Southern California Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) and University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. They were able to meet with faculty that developed infant mental health guidelines for the State of California and observe promotion to prevention/intervention to treatment.

A consortium workgroup focusing on rural mental health services to families of youth in the juvenile justice system is working with juvenile probation on identifying the gaps within the system. With this partnership services will be wrapped around the youth as they are released from detention. Rural Mental Health plans to do this by providing case management services to ensure a seamless referral process. These services may be provided through telemedicine support as well as teletherapy sessions which will include family therapy as the youths transition back to their homes and communities. These therapies will be provided by a therapist from rural clinics in the city where the family and youth live and will allow for a seamless transition to their home community.

The RCMHC meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in more information or attending the meetings, please call Retta Dermody or Jennifer Cunningham at (775) 448-9950 or (800) 216-5188.

The Family Support 360 Center Project Demonstrates Success

Nevada recently completed its 360 Center Project, funded largely through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. The three-year project was also supported by funding from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and the University of Nevada Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, as well as in-kind support from the Nevada Division of Aging and Disability Services, Desert Regional Center, Division of Child and Family Services, R.A.G.E., Clark County School District, the Nevada Disability and Law Advocacy Center, Mojave Mental Health Center, and the Lovaas Center.

The project expanded support services for families who have children with co-occurring intellectual disabilities and mental health needs, using a nationally recognized, evidence-based model. A specially trained parent support provider delivered services to each child and family through individual meetings, telephone calls, emails, home visits, and school visits. The program helped reduce family stress and improve family functioning for those families served. Children at risk for institutionalization remained at home in about 90% of families served, and most of the children having difficulties with school placement or attendance realized improvements. Over 90% of the families surveyed also reported high satisfaction with the services provided.

By working as a team with other service providers, the 360 Center strengthened community partnerships in an effort to improve service delivery to this specialized target population.

It takes time to feel completely supported. Natural supports help if they are on your team from the beginning. Once you create your own network of natural supports you may feel you have the confidence to be successful even without the formal supports.

At my son’s CFT (Child and Family Team) meeting I was asked, who were my natural supports. What are natural supports?

The formal supports are the social workers, the WIN (Wraparound In Nevada) facilitator, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) worker, sometimes and an attorney, family and/or child therapist and in rare cases a probation officer. These members may be invited by the WIN facilitator.

The natural (or informal) support is a person from the community such as a family member, coach, church member or a friend. They are invited by the family. These are the people who are actively involved with the family. The team helps with identifying the natural supports and encourages their full participation as team members.

Mission Statement
To increase the opportunities for home, community, and school success for children with disabilities, including those who are at risk or who have serious emotional disturbances, their families and their service providers, through education, encouragement and empowerment activities.

Nevada PEP is a participating agency for:
- United Way of So. Nevada
- United Way of No. Nevada & the Sierra
- MGM Mirage Voice Foundation
- Combined Federal Campaign #29441

IN THIS Issue
- A Key Component of School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports
- Challenging Behaviors in Infants and Toddlers
- Why Family Partners
- Mental Health Planning Advisory Council
- Resource Review
- Upcoming Events
- Mental Health Consortiums
- Collaboration - Nevada’s First Lady’s Summit on Children’s Mental Health
- Family Support 360 Center
- Ask The Advocate

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.NVPEP.ORG

By Kelli Walker

Have you been wondering what Nevada PEP is all about? Come and be a volunteer! Being a volunteer is a great opportunity to learn all about what we do here at Nevada PEP as well as a chance to give back to your community. If you have a few hours in your week to give of your time, give us a call and we’ll put you to work. Volunteering is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of families who have a loved one with a disability. In turn you have a great feeling yourself knowing you gave in some small way that can really impact the lives of others.

*If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering at Nevada PEP, contact Samantha King in Reno at (800) 216-5188 or (775) 448-9950. In our Las Vegas office, contact Diane Lombardo at (702) 388-8899.