As a new decade approaches with 2020, a popular activity on social media these days seems to be posting pictures of yourself from ten years ago and comparing it to today. Some of us see positive improvements over the past decade and others of us see changes and just maybe some room for improvements. The same can be said for Children’s Mental Health in the State of Nevada.

In 2010, NRS 433B required all of the Children’s Mental Health Consortia to develop ten year strategic plans indicated what the vision, goals, and strategies are to overcome service delivery and system challenges. The Rural, Washoe and Clark plans from 2010 are now being reviewed and revised to reflect the changes and challenges that exist currently and what goals each region have from 2020 – 2030. Ten years seems like a very long time – an 8 year old child receiving services in 2010 will now be an 18 year old adult, transitioning from one system to the other. Ten years can be a very long time in the life of a youth and family experiencing mental health challenges.

Clark County’s 2010 plan had the following priorities: Re-structuring children’s behavioral health system (Minimal Progress as of 2019 Status Report); Providing Mobile Crises Stabilization (Some Progress); Expanding Family Peer Support Services (No Progress); and Developing Partnerships between Schools and Behavioral Health Providers (Minimal Progress). Based on the progress made and changes to the system as a whole 2020 goals include: Addressing Youth with the Highest Needs; Comprehensive Service Array for All; No Wrong Door Access to Services; Prevention & Early Intervention; Raising Awareness & Support for Mental Health; & Locally Managed System of Care. The Clark County Consortium is working diligently with partners, providers, and families to ensure a comprehensive plan to guide system improvement for the next ten years.

The Washoe Children’s Mental Health Consortium (WCMHC) 2010 Plan included goals for Serving Youth In Their Home & Communities; Helping Families to Help Themselves; Helping Youth to Succeed in School; & Secondary Agencies. The WCMHC is working on their 2020 ten year plan with a focus on expansion of services and supports in their diverse community.

Rural Children’s Mental Health Consortium (RCMHC) 2010 ten year plan looked at the unique needs of children & youth in rural and frontier communities. They looked toward promotion of awareness of the unique needs of their community, sharing regional resources, promoting the use of technology, and focusing on the needs of the 0-3, Juvenile Justice, and School Based populations. The RCMHC held Town Halls in their community that included providers, administrators, family & youth to determine the unique needs of their community, sharing regional resources, promoting the use of technology, and focusing on the needs of the 0-3, Juvenile Justice, and School Based populations. The RCMHC held Town Halls in their community that included providers, administrators, family & youth to determine the strengths and challenges of their communities. This gathering allows for the unique voice of our Rural partners to be heard in the 2020 plan.

As we close out this decade, it is our sincere hope that all of the families of Nevada receive the services and supports that they need to raise the children and youth that will lead us into the future! Happy New Year & Happy New Decade!!!

Expanding the System of Care

The Nevada Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) was awarded a $12 million System of Care grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The $12 million amount is spread over four years, with $3 million per year to expand and sustain children’s mental health services across the state. Nevada was one of 28 awardees across the country.

This is not the first System of Care grant that SAMHSA has awarded Nevada. Nevada has received System of Care grants since 2002 and has used each one to promote family and youth voice in decision-making and to improve access to mental health services, including the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT). The most recent grant, from 2015-2019, gave Nevada the opportunity to expand access to mental health services and supports for families of children and youth in both Southern and Northern Nevada.

This new grant will sustain the progress of the previous grant and continue the expansion of children’s mental health services and supports to Rural Nevada.

As the official parent partner of the Nevada System of Care for this and all of the previous grants, Nevada PEP will work with DCFS to improve access to services that are family-driven and youth-guided statewide, with an emphasis on Rural Nevada. System of Care follows a set of values and principles for families to access services and supports that they need within their communities and in a way that respects the cultural and language preferences of families. SAMHSA and the national organization FREDLA have published many resources about System of Care and what to expect when getting services in a System of Care. With this new grant, Nevada will continue its work to move towards a comprehensive System of Care for the entire state.
Youth Mental Health Resources  

The Nevada Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) offers multiple youth mental health services and supports across the state. First, the Early Childhood Mental Health Services offers consultation for children starting at age 0. They also offer day treatment services for youth ages 3-6. Early Childhood Mental Health Services offers services by licensed professionals including: psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health counselors, and clinical social workers.

For older youth, DCFS offer Wraparound in Nevada (WIN), which provides intensive interventions to help families of youth experiencing mental health challenges. The goal of these programs is to offer ongoing supports and services to families and youth. WIN uses the strengths of each family member to move the family forward towards self-advocacy and knowledge of mental health systems and supports. They also work to understand and remove barriers that families are facing when they are trying to access the services and supports that they need, and WIN asks community members and professionals to work together to help families reach their goals.

For youth and families in crisis, DCFS also has the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) for youth under 18 statewide. In Southern Nevada, MCRT is open 24/7 and has extended hours 7 days a week in Northern and Rural Nevada. MCRT offers an alternative to families taking their youth to the emergency room with telephone triage, crisis response, crisis stabilization, and after care. They also can facilitate short-term in-patient psychiatric hospitalization when necessary. While many families may fear reaching out for support in the middle of a crisis, MCRT makes keeping families together while they are working through a crisis a priority. The MCRT website, knowcrisis.com, gives more information on how to reach MCRT and how they can help.

Additionally, DCFS collaborates with the Harbor, a service designed to help families of high school youth facing a possible Juvenile Justice citation. The Harbor is also open 24/7 and houses several community partners under one roof, providing individualized reviews to find out about families’ immediate and ongoing needs. Then, the Harbor connects youth and families with appropriate services such as counseling, tutoring, job development, drug education, anger management, and mentorship instead of giving them Juvenile Justice citations. Currently, the Harbor has two locations in Las Vegas, on W. Charleston Blvd. and N. Mojave Rd., and they will be expanding to add more locations in the future.

Federal

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK [8255]) is a suicide prevention network of 161 crisis centers that provide 24/7 toll-free hotline availability to anyone in suicidal crises or emotional distress. The caller is routed to the nearest crisis center to receive immediate counseling a local mental health referrals. The Lifeline supports people who call for themselves or someone they care about. All major internet search engines (Google Bing, Yahoo, Ask) place the phone number and website details (www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org) of the Lifeline as the first result when someone enters keywords related to suicide.

According to cnn.com website (December, 2019) the Federal Communications Commission is moving ahead with plans to designate a three-digit number (988) as the number to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The five member commission voted unanimously to approve the proposal, which is now open for public comment and to start the rulemaking process. 988 is similar to the emergency 911 number that we all know. The belief is that the three digit number will ease access to crisis services and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health conditions. The proposal requires all phone carriers to implement 988 as the national suicide prevention hotline within 18 month timeframe. The estimated total costs of implementing a 3 digit code for the first year would be $570 million the first year and $175 million the second year. The commission feels that the “benefits of this action outweigh the costs.” This move is a fantastic upcoming resource for all those in need and focuses on the public health crises of suicide that all communities are facing.

BY: MAGDALENA RUIZ, CPSP

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE UPDATE
Students, parents & faculty have a new, anonymous system to report any concerns about the safety or well-being of students. SafeVoice was established in 2018 by Senate Bill 212. SafeVoice is under the Nevada Department of Education with the goals of protecting student wellness, preventing violence and saving lives. The Nevada Department of Education is partnering with the Nevada Department of Public Safety to have fully trained professionals respond to concerns 24/7/365. You can remain anonymous when you contact them.

Examples of concerns that can be submitting to SafeVoice include the following: Bullying, Cyber Bullying, Violence, Weapons, Depression, Self-Harm, Suicidal Thoughts, Neglect, or Substance Abuse. Tips are confidential and SafeVoice follows up on every report to make sure that every child in the State of Nevada is SAFE. Having a tool like SafeVoice empowers students to report any situation that may put their friends, themselves or their school at risk.

According to the SafeVoice website a team of professionals, including counselors, administrators, and law enforcement follow up on every tip they receive. The SafeVoice system has a messaging capability in the event that there is an immediate danger.

SafeVoice is asking for parents to talk with their children about the program, how they can use it and install the app on their mobile device. You can go to www.safevoicenv.org, Call 833-216-SAFE or download the SafeVoice app in Google Play or Apple store. SafeVoice is a great tool to keep Nevada’s children and youth safe in their school environment. For more information go to www.safevoicenv.org

The Las Vegas community came out to celebrate unity, and bullying prevention with Nevada PEP at the 9th Annual Run Walk Roll Against Bullying event. Findlay Automotive Group, was the presenting Corporate Sponsor of the Run Walk Roll against Bullying 2019.

The event kicked off with Board Chairperson Bryce Loveland welcoming everyone with his opening comments. Amber Dixon, anchor at Channel 3 did an awesome job emceeing the event. This event is in partnership with the National Bullying Prevention Center. Governor, Sisolak proclaimed October as Nevada’s National Bullying Prevention Month.

Chance from the Vegas Golden Knight’s was this year’s Grand Marshal. Tyler Corder, CFO of Findlay Automotive Group was this year’s Front Runner recipient. Tyler has been the voice of Findlay Automotive Group and a positive influence in the community. Findlay Automotive Group has supported this event since its inception.

With the continued support of Findlay dealerships and outstanding Community Partners we were able to invite 34 schools. Students and Families were in high spirits as they began to line up for the walk. Everyone was excited wearing their anti-bullying t-shirts, it was a sea of blue t-shirts. The mascots were outstanding high fiving and taking pictures with participants was the highlight of the morning.

Nevada PEP Governing Board Member Trish Leavitt, the Event Chairperson, worked diligently from start to finish to ensure the event was a magnificent success, the ongoing support of Board Member Regent Sam Lieberman, and Rita Varney, for being on the planning committee sharing their ideas made the event a huge hit! Staff and Volunteers from Grand Canyon University, Young Men’s Service League and Nellis AFB worked hard to manage the many volunteer stations. A big shout out to our outstanding community partners who continue to support us each year and help to raise awareness in our community.

Thank you, to each and everyone who contributed and supported this remarkable event, without YOU this would not have been possibly.

See you next year!!
Recreation Supervisor 702.267.4065
Contact Sheri Cordray, Therapeutic Adult recreation activities scheduled facilitate inclusion. Afternoon Youth and support staff, and other services to of adaptive equipment, program Services provides support in the form Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion Recreation and Experience Club (R.E.C.) Give Me a Break, Inc. (GAB) FEAT of Southern Nevada (Families for Early Autism Treatment) Nevada PEP Family Support Group Nevada PEP Grupo de Apoyo Familiar Recreation and Experience Club (R.E.C.) Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion Services provides support in the form of adaptive equipment, program modification, additional staff training, support staff, and other services to facilitate inclusion. Afternoon Youth and Adult recreation activities scheduled on the 9 month CCSD school calendar. 280 Water Street Henderson, NV 89015 Contact Sheri Cordray, Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor 702.267.4065 Nevada Hands and Voices A statewide non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as the professionals who serve them. Contact Southern Nevada Region Contact: Beth Jones 702.3213291 (voice/text) Email: beth@nvhandsandvoice.org or visit www.nvhandsandvoices.org Special Olympics Nevada Sports training and competition opportunities provide athletes of all ability levels the chance to play and be part of a team. Through sports, we are bringing special education and general education students on the same playing field, promoting acceptance and respect for all. 5670 Wynn Road, Suite H Las Vegas, NV 89118 702.474.0690 Email: info@sonv.org RENO/SPARKS Applied Behavior Technologies (ABT) ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) In-home services provide your child or young adult with one on one ABA therapy to target social skills, independence and problem behaviors in a convenient setting for your family. We specialize in providing parents and other caregivers with the tools they need to be successful with their child in all settings. Free consultation 775.354.1380 5945 S. Los Altos Pkwy Suite 101, Sparks NV 89436 Email: tina@appliedbehaviorotechnologies.com Asperger’s Support Group Support group meeting the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Barnes & Noble in Reno from 6:30-7:45pm 5555 S Virginia St, Reno, NV 89052 Contact: John Maes 775.787.2904 City of Reno Parks & Recreation Adaptive and Inclusion Programs include; Paralympic Sport Reno, Dance for All, and Special Olympics. Contact Evelyn Mount at 775.334.2262 Cerebral Palsy Parent Network Group of proud parents of kids with cerebral palsy and other developmental challenges who get together to share our life experiences 775.342.3205 cpparentnetwork@hotmail.com Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada Family Support Group Monthly meetings the first Tuesday of every month 5:45pm-7:30pm. At Nevada Early Intervention Services 1301 Cordone Ave. Suite 190. For more information call 775.501.0056 or email dsnninfo@gmail.com Nos reunimos el primer martes de cada mes 5:45pm-7:30pm. Downe Nevada Early Intervention Services 1301 Cordone Ave. Suite 190. 775.753-1214 email dsnninfo@gmail.com Nevada Hands and Voices A statewide non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as the professionals who serve them. Contact Northern Nevada Region Contact: Erin Wilcox 775.351.1959 (voice/text) Email: erin@nvhandsandvoice.org or visit www.nvhandsandvoices.org Nevada PEP Family Support Group We meet the 4th Thursday of every month from 5:30-7:00pm, 4600 Kietzke Ln. Ste.1-202, Reno. For more information call 775.448.9950 or 800.216.5188 Special Olympics in Northern Nevada Sports training and competition opportunities provide athletes of all ability levels the chance to play and be part of a team. Through sports, we are bringing special education and general education students on the same playing field, promoting acceptance and respect for all. Contact Jordan Clements Fitts 775-657-8208 JUSTin Hope Foundation (Families for Autism Spectrum Disorder and other neurodevelopment disorders) For more information call 775-453-9262 or visit Justinhope.org The Solace Tree Works with children, teens and adults who are grieving a loss or struggling emotionally and mentally. Provides a safe and healthy outlet for their feelings and thoughts support group available. 775.324.7723 email info@solacetree.org or visit www.solacetree.org. RURALS Ron Woods Family Resource Center We create lasting community-wide cooperative effort between the private sector and governmental agencies to promote healthy family relationships through education and support services. We currently offer a vast array of services that range from basic needs assistance to parenting classes and after school programs. 2621 Northgate Ln. Ste. 62 Carson City, 89706. info@carson-family.org 775.884.2269
The Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium meeting on the first Friday of the month from 10 am – noon at the West Charleston DCFS office (6171 W. Charleston Blvd. Building 8). At a recent meeting, a representative from DHCFP (Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy – Medicaid) reported that they will be conducting public workshops on Managed Care Organizations Request for Proposals. The workshops will be a way for the public to weigh in on what they would like to see in the future RFP for Managed Care Services. A discussion took place in regards to funding that is available through SAPTA (Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency) for adolescent services that can be used to fill in gaps in community needs. The funding is for $300,000 per fiscal year. Some of the needs that were identified by the consortium members include the following: detoxification and intensive beginning supports; assisting the Harbor with their substance abuse needs CCSD Mission High School; increase capacity at current programs; dual-diagnosis (mental health & substance abuse) programming; and increased services to the Latino (Spanish speaking community).

The Division of Child and Family Services System of Care (SOC) presented information on the upcoming grant that will expand SOC to rural areas of Nevada. Standing Consortium Workgroups were presented including Public Awareness, Infrastructure and Crisis Services & Early Intervention. Public Awareness has been working on finalizing the Youth Mental Health Awareness Day “Youth Photo Contest” event and planning for the Mental Health Awareness Day Summit. The Infrastructure Workgroup has been working very diligently on the 10-year plan for Children’s Mental Health. Crises and Early Intervention Workgroup has been focused on mobile crises response and “No Wrong Door” as well as establishing consistency between MCO Mobile Crises Responders.

Consortium agendas, calendar dates, and meeting information can be found at the DCFS website: http://dcfs.nv.gov/Meetings/MeetingInfo/

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**Youth M.O.V.E. Nevada Update**

By: RYLEY HARRIS & LEXIE BECK

This year, Youth M.O.V.E. Nevada has been working as a diverse collective unit to engage, communicate, and create change. Members have participated in Youth M.O.V.E. National projects and continue to bring necessary youth voice to decision-makers. In the upcoming year, we hope to expand our outreach efforts in Rural Nevada while continuing to support Southern and Northern Nevada through monthly meetings, community activities, systems changes, and social media messaging.

In 2020, Youth M.O.V.E. Nevada participants have decided to focus on two primary themes, 1) Decreasing the stigma associated with mental illness overall so that youth are not as hesitant to admit that they are experiencing difficulties or living with a fear of being institutionalized and 2) Educating the public about the physiological basis of mental illness so that people understand that youth are not “weak” or “can’t cope” or can simply take medication as an “easy fix”, but that there’s a chemical imbalance that requires intervention similar to other conditions.

As we work to incorporate these themes into our activities, Youth M.O.V.E. Nevada is already brainstorming ideas for next year’s Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day in May of 2020. If you’re interested in learning more about Youth MOVE Nevada or how to get involved be sure to check out our website at www.nvpep.org/youth-move and don’t forget to follow us on social media! Facebook: facebook.com/youthmovenv Twitter: @YouthMOVEnv Instagram: @YouthMOVEnv

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**Family Story**

By: BERNARDO LUNA

When I came to Nevada PEP, I had concerns about my daughter not being able to self-advocate and constantly being bullied. As her dad, I want the best for her, hearing her telling me she was getting bullied worried me, and I felt frustrated just like any other parent. The specialist at Nevada PEP informed me about the options I had, to make reports in writing, make reports on the Safe Voice website, and that the school should conduct an investigation and make a safety plan.

Unfortunately, the school did make a safety plan and did do an investigation, but the bullying kept occurring. After reviewing the IEP and speaking to the family specialist about my concerns, we discussed the options, and she noticed that my daughter didn’t self-advocate in other things and delays in social skills. From the options she gave me, I also decided to review the IEP, and she guided me through the proper steps to reconvene a formal IEP meeting.

In that meeting, the family specialist was there, and I felt so empowered to advocate for my daughter. She helped me voice my concerns, and we added goals to help her in self-advocacy and social skills. She also guided me with the steps on how to request a parent-teacher conference with the school staff where a safety plan was made, and that has improved her attitude towards school. As a father, I feel that parents should know the options and rights they have. With Nevada PEP, I feel I know more about what steps I could take, and when I don’t know, I still call them because I feel like my concerns are heard. More important, I feel like my voice matters.
Washoe County Children’s Mental Health Consortium

The Washoe Children’s Mental Health Consortium has been continuing to meet on a monthly basis. All of the consortia, including Washoe, are focused on their 10 year plan updates. The Washoe Children’s Mental Health Consortium is conducting Community Feedback Workgroups to get community members’ feedback on resources and needs in the community. They held their first meeting on November 22, 2019 and their second meeting on December 12, 2019. Topics that the Consortium will focus on for the 2020 plan will include the following: children affected by substance abuse; older youth, co-occurring, workforce, system access, availability of services, suicide, early childhood, school, family support & safety/connections. The Washoe Consortium also discussed the 18,000 youth that have IEP’s and the services that they need.

The Washoe Consortium was given a presentation on Quest Counseling that was awarded a CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic). A CCBHC is designed to give a comprehensive range of mental health and substance abuse services to the populations most in need. There are 9 core services that a CCBHC has to provide including mobile crises, which are evidenced-based and can be reimbursed by Medicaid. This is a positive resource for Washoe County. To get involved and find more information on the Washoe Consortium go to http://dcfs.nv.gov/Meetings/MeetingInfo/

The Regional (Northern, Washoe, Rural & Clark) Behavioral Health Policy Boards continue to meet to focus on the behavioral needs of children, youth & adults. The Clark Regional Board recently elected member Charlene Frost as board chair. Members have been discussing priorities for 2019/2020. Workforce development has been a priority for the board, including challenges with licensing boards. A workgroup was developed to focus on this issue to develop an increased communication plan to enhance the workforce and availability of providers. Future presentations to the Board will include information in regards to Medicaid, NAMI and mental health providers.

The Rural Behavior Health Policy Board has been focusing on legislative changes impacting behavior health, including bills establishing a pilot program for behavioral health crises (AB47), changes to the Behavioral Health Policy Board organization and membership (AB76) and ABB5 provisions governing mental health. The Rural Board will also be focusing on their 2019 Strategic Plan, including a retreat held in October. Cherylyn Rahr-Wood presented information to the Board on Statewide Zero Suicide.

Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards

This program has shown effectiveness in various states. There will be Zero Suicide Academy at the Governor’s Mansion in Carson City tentatively planned for February 2020.

The Washoe Behavioral Health Policy Board received a presentation on the “Washoe Behavioral Health Profile.” The information included demographics on populations such as veterans, college students, pre-natal, and adults. Categories of issues included rates of depression, suicide, drinking, substance abuse (mortality), drug intoxication deaths, opioid specifics, and ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences). The data compared Washoe County to the United States.

The Northern Behavioral Health Policy Board have been focused on the 2019 Annual Report. The Report is required by all boards for submission to the Nevada Commission on Behavioral Health.

Information on all of the Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards can be found at the Department of Health & Human Services Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) website: http://dpbh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/Meetings/

Collaboration Highlight

Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day 2020 – Photo Contest

By: Allison Stephens

SAMHSA created National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day (Awareness Day) more than a decade ago to shine a national spotlight on the importance of caring for every child’s mental health and to reinforce the message that positive mental health is essential to a child’s healthy development.

The Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium (www.cccmhc.org) is supporting a Photo Contest with the theme of “My connection, My Support, My Coping.” In collaboration with Youth Move Nevada, the CCCMHC developed the photo contest for children & youth 24 years of age and younger living in Clark County Nevada. The photos submitted should represent the people, places and things that help children and youth feel connected. With a brief statement that explains how the image relates to feelings of connectedness, being supported, and/or positive mental health. The consortia will be compiling winning photographs into a book that will be available to referral sources, local & state leaders, stakeholders, decision makers, and winners to help celebrate positive mental health and reduce stigma surrounding children’s mental health. The deadline for submission is Sunday, March 1, 2020. For questions please contact M. Amaris Knight at cccmhc.nv@gmail.com. For further information, please check out the CCCMHC website at www.cccmhc.org.
At a recent meeting of the Rural Children’s Mental Health Consortium the topic of discussion was School Health Services. Discussion took place in regards to the need for school based services to be billed to Medicaid. This is due to the initial school based services being covered under the Social Workers In Schools Program and the need for sustainable funding. The goals of the School Health Services are in alignment with the need to increase early detection of mental health needs in schools, which was identified at the community meeting that was held by the consortium.

The Rural Children’s Mental Health Consortium is focused on development of their 10 year plan, similar to the other two regions. The need to collect and consolidate data on existing needs was presented. Information from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and the school climate survey would be helpful to the consortium plan. The group also discussed the Community Discussion that was held in Tonopah September, 2019. The 10 year plan will focus on the Rural Consortium’s Statement of Need, Data to Support Need, Community and Family Narratives, Priorities, Goals and Strategies. They will also be focusing on benchmarks for every 2-5 years to determine progress and ongoing need.

The Rural Children’s Mental Health Consortium has the following positions available: Division of Welfare & Supportive Services; Private Industry Related to Children’s Mental Health Care; & Tribal Provider of Mental Health Services. Please go to the DCFS website at http://dcfs.nv.gov/Meetings/MeetingInfo/ for further information on the Rural Consortium.

Book Review Normal Sucks

In his thought-provoking new book, Normal Sucks, Jonathan Mooney dives into the word “normal” in newfound and creative ways. As a child, he was diagnosed with ADHD, Dyslexia, and learned to read at age twelve. Although now a diversity advocate, his experiences with ‘normal’ in his early years have had a lasting impact. The reader is provided new insight, given background and history, and told childhood stories about what it means to be normal or the opposite thereof. He asks questions like, “Where did normal come from, and why does it have the power it does in our lives?” Mooney asks questions like, “Where did normal come from, and why does it have the power it does in our lives?” Mooney shares his experience of normal in a society that makes “differences into abnormalities.” This society of people, Mooney offers, is the very one that continues to define what is considered normal, Mooney states, “I’ve learned that hands can speak, listening is reading, talking is writing, and that human intelligence and ability are not one thing, but many. Intelligence is not singular but multiple, and it is bigger, stranger, and more wonderful than we’ve all been led to believe.” We are all different in our abilities and what we offer. Think differently. Think outside of normal.

Question: What is a Manifestation Determination?

Answer:
Many families are familiar with IEP meetings, 504 meetings, and parent-teacher conferences, but there are other types of meetings that your child’s school schedules. One such meeting is called a manifestation meeting. A manifestation is called for a student in special education after a discipline issue. The purpose of the manifestation meeting is to determine if the child’s behavior at school was caused by his or her disability. Here is what to expect if your child’s school schedules a manifestation meeting in response to a discipline issue.

Participants in the meeting include the school, the parent, and other members of the IEP team. The IEP team must answer 2 questions. 1) Was the behavior in question caused by, or does it have a direct relationship to, the child’s disability? 2) Was the behavior in question the direct result of the school not fully implementing the IEP? If the answer to either question is “yes,” then, the school is required to provide a Functional Behavior Assessment and to update or create a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).

Remember that you as a parent are an important part of all meetings and communications with your child’s school – including manifestation meetings. Your participation is supported by federal law, which provides procedural safeguards that are intended to ensure parents have the opportunity to be a partner in all educational decisions. If your child’s school has requested a manifestation meeting, contact Nevada PEP directly so that we can provide individualized support to help you advocate for your child.
Annual Membership Information
Annual membership dues are $25.00 per family, organization or professional.

Please provide the following information

NAME

PROFESSION

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE

Email

CHILD’S NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

☐ I am a parent/caregiver.
☐ I am a professional working with children.
☐ I am a concerned member of the community.
☐ Enclosed is a tax deductible donation in the amount of $___________ to help support the efforts of Nevada PEP.
☐ I would like to be a member of Nevada PEP, please waive the annual dues.
☐ I would like to volunteer.
☐ I would like to receive the monthly E-POST.

Your donation to Nevada P.E.P., Inc. may be tax deductible, please consult your tax advisor. #88-0301113

Please make checks payable to: Nevada PEP

7211 W. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89117

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering is amazing, but volunteering at Nevada PEP is awesome! Our volunteers are dedicated, passionate, and caring. We have projects for everyone. You can learn new skills. We will develop a schedule that fits yours. The giving of your time is priceless, and it will make a positive difference in so many lives. If you would like to join our team, simply reach out to one of our offices statewide to get started on a rewarding future, or sign up on our website www.nvpep.org click the Volunteer tab.

“The hands that make a difference are the hands of a volunteer.”