

Social Workers in Schools (SWxS)
State Block Grant
Nevada Department of Education

Amber Reid, MSW
NV Department of Education
Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment
Phone: (775) 687-9161
Email: areid@doe.nv.gov

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.....

- ▶ **2014-2015 School year**

- ▶ **28** school social workers in Clark County School District (for ~320,000 students)
- ▶ **1** school social worker in Washoe County School District (for ~63,000 students)
- ▶ plus a handful that were grant funded with roles that were specific to each grant...

A new hope...

- ▶ **January 2015** - State of the State address
 - ▶ Governor Sandoval announces **\$32 Million** to put social workers or other licensed mental health workers in schools (final = \$17 Million)
 - ▶ Accompanied the Governor's initiatives to revise the state's anti-bullying laws (*Hailee's Law*)
 - ▶ Included the requirement that those positions go to schools with identified needs
 - ▶ initially through the Nevada School Climate/Social Emotional Learning (NV-SCSEL) survey



Learning how to walk...

▶ **October 2015**

- ▶ the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment opens its doors!

▶ **Fall 2015**

- ▶ the NV-SCSEL is administered for the first time

▶ **December 2015**

- ▶ first round of applications for the SWxS grant are due

▶ **Spring 2016**

- ▶ the inaugural class of school social workers are hired!

Growing pains...

▶ 2015-2016 School Year

- ▶ **118 ½** school social workers hired
- ▶ returned funding to the state ☹️

▶ 2016-2017 School Year

- ▶ staggered award process allowed us to award all of the funding AND give all schools that applied a chance to accept the positions
- ▶ **225** social workers hired
- ▶ still some challenges with hiring (and keeping) them

Growing stronger...

▶ 2017 Legislative Session

- ▶ gained ability to contract and hire
- ▶ all **161** schools re-apply to keep their social workers
- ▶ 191 NEW principals apply
- ▶ flat funding... ☹️

▶ 2017-2018 School year

- ▶ Clark County School District re-organizes awards to support zoning patterns and increase workforce development
- ▶ **266** school social workers hired
- ▶ **201** schools

Looking ahead...

▶ Governor's School Safety Task Force

- ▶ recommendations include increased access to mental health services, social emotional learning, inclusion of school climate, restorative disciplinary practices, a focus on equity and disproportionality

▶ 2018-2019 School Year

- ▶ added school social workers from other grants (**currently ~350**)
- ▶ working on a statewide school-based mental health services plan which includes Medicaid
- ▶ standardized application for all school districts and charter schools to become approved clinical social work internship sites

Big ticket items...

- ▶ comprehensive services for the **WHOLE CHILD**
 - ▶ academic + behavior + climate/safety + mental health
- ▶ increasing understanding of role of mental health on academic success → quality of life
 - ▶ decreasing stigma associated with mental health
- ▶ utilization of a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) framework
- ▶ early identification and early intervention
- ▶ partnerships with community based providers
- ▶ braiding funding to grow the program → increased access to services

The model...

- ▶ “The mission and purpose of school social work is to directly impact and increase academic outcomes for all students by addressing barriers to education that exist within the **child,**
school,
home,
or community.”
- ▶ “The main driving force behind what a school social worker does on a daily basis are the needs and contextual characteristics of the school in which they are employed.”

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER (SSW) Program Carson City School District

Dave Caloiaro, MSW, LISW
Carson City School District
School Social Worker Program Manager
Phone: (775) 450-3618
Email: nvcivilwar@aol.com

Carson City School District Demographics

- ▶ Approximately 7,500 students
- ▶ 50 percent minority (primarily Latino/Hispanic)
- ▶ 10 schools - two high schools (one is an alternative high school), two middle schools and six elementary schools.



Carson City School Social Workers (SSWs)

- ▶ 15 SSWs (13 full-time and 2 part-time student social worker interns).
- ▶ This school year is the 3rd year we have had School Social Workers.
- ▶ Carson City School District is the only school district in Nevada that has at least one SSW in every school.
- ▶ With respect to SSWs, Carson High has 4, Pioneer High has 1, one middle school has 2, the other middle school 1, and each elementary school has 1.



Carson City School Social Workers (SSWs)

ULTIMATE GOAL/OBJECTIVE: The School Social Worker (SSW), called Safe School Professionals (SSPs) at their school sites, promotes and enhances the overall academic mission by providing services that strengthen home, school and community partnerships and address barriers to learning and achievement. The SSW will contribute to the development of a healthy, safe and supportive environment which is achieved by advancing the understanding of the emotional and social development of children and influences of family, community and cultural differences on student success.

WHAT SSWs ARE DOING IN OUR SCHOOLS

- ▶ We continue to implement the three tiers of Prevention in assisting our students to succeed academically and social/emotional wellbeing.
 - ▶ Tier 1 - Whole School (prevention-focused)
 - ▶ Tier 2 - Small Group Work
 - ▶ Tier 3 - Individual One-on-One work
- ▶ SSWs provide intervention, support and advocacy for our students.
- ▶ SSWs conduct home visits and work with families regularly.
- ▶ SSWs work with community resources to assist students and their families

WHAT THE CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT DID AND CONTINUES TO DO IN BUILDING OUR SSW PROGRAM

- ✓ We hold monthly School Social Worker Team meetings.
- ✓ We bring community partners in to speak to our SSWs, on topics including but not limited to:
 - ✓ Food for Thought - provides weekend food backpacks
 - ✓ Juvenile Probation Services
 - ✓ Public Health Programs
 - ✓ Student Foster Care programs
 - ✓ Community Mental Health providers and programs
 - ✓ Programs to assist Homeless Youth and Families
 - ✓ Domestic Violence Prevention and Resources

WHAT THE CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT DID AND CONTINUES TO DO IN BUILDING OUR SSW PROGRAM (continued)

- ✓ We continue to bring and offer Professional Development Programs for our SSWs, including but not limited to Statuary Rape Awareness, Interviewing Techniques, Parents and Teachers as Mental Health Allies, PFLAG (Parents and Families of Lesbian, Gay and Transgendered Families), and Child Abuse/Neglect interviewing Techniques (through and by DCFS)

Carson City School District PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Developed a CCSD Student Suicide Screening and Assessment protocol for consistent use throughout the district's schools.
- Developed an MOU with our community's own Carson Tahoe Behavioral Health Services for completion of Suicide Assessments.
- Developed a Parental/Guardian Consent form for Suicide Assessments.
- Installed VSEE cameras and application for completion of off-site suicide assessments.

Carson City School District PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS(continued)

- ▶ Provided Signs and Symptoms of Suicide (SOS) training in all four of our upper levels (middle and high schools);
- ▶ Developed a formal protocol document, including parental/guardian notification, regarding non-suicidal self-harm/self injury behaviors, and interventions;
- ▶ Implementing and Participating in Safe Voice to help prevent or immediately address bullying, suicide, violence in schools, etc.



Carson City School District PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS(continued)

- ▶ Developed Policies/Regulations outlining our SSW program, and Suicide Prevention/Intervention/Postvention.
- ▶ Brought Help for Billy books and guidebooks to our schools for teachers to learn about child trauma in the classroom and how it affects learning.
- ▶ Developed interviewing techniques for SSPs for suspected child abuse and/or neglect (before contacting DCFS).
- ▶ Effective December 1, 2018, our SSWs will be Carson City School District employees with benefits (no longer contractors).



Carson City School District PLANS FOR FURTHERING SSW PROGRAM

- Introduced more Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) programs, specifically at each of the appropriate levels- elementary, middle and high school;
- Introduce Professional Learning Communities (PLC) opportunities for SSPs;
- Introduce Psychological First Aid (PFA) training into our schools;



Carson City School District PLANS FOR FURTHERING SSW PROGRAM (continued)

- Develop a clinical internship site for MSWs wishing to become Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW)
- Develop a pilot project with Medicaid to have one or two of our schools to become Medicaid school-based certified providers to enable Medicaid reimbursement for services our SSPs provide in our schools.



