Washoe County Human Services
Partnership Plan for Children in Out-of-Home Care

✓ **TEAMWORK**   ✓ **RESPECT**   ✓ **NURTURANCE**   ✓ **STRONG FAMILIES**

<u>**We Believe:**</u> We are all responsible for the well-being of children in foster care. Children need normalcy in their lives regardless of where they live. They need loving and skillful parenting which honors their loyalty to their biological family. Biological parents, care providers, and agency staff understand that neither of us can succeed by ourselves.

<u>**We Share:**</u> All members of this partnership will behave professionally while understanding that human emotions are acceptable and expected.   We will share all relevant information promptly, while respecting the confidentiality of the child and family. The family, care providers, and agency staff will work together as a team in developing any and all plans that involve them. This includes, without limitation, court hearings, school meetings, visitation, and treatment planning. Agency staff will support and facilitate care provider and birth family participation through timely notification.

<u>**We Commit:**</u> The best interest of children will always be at the forefront of everything we do. Children will be afforded normalcy based on individual needs and we will work to remove any barriers that prevent this.   ALL children deserve excellent parenting which requires love, commitment, appropriate supervision, positive methods of discipline, encouragement, respect and acceptance of their individuality, opportunities to develop interests and skills, equal participation in family life, and awareness of how their trauma impacts all facets of their lives. Care providers and agency staff must be respectful and learn about the child's religion, culture and ethnicity, and any special circumstances affecting the child's care.

Children deserve a family and to have stability in their lives. They will only move from a home when it is in their best interest to do so. All children deserve thoughtful and careful transitions that are respectful of his/her developmental stage, psychological needs, and that are emotionally considerate. Transitions will always be mindful of the child's belongings, allowing for gradual moves, and if possible, allowing of continued contact with the care provider after the child leaves. Care providers and agency staff will respect the child's ties to his/her biological family/kin and will assist in ensuring that visitation is encouraged, never held from a child or parent due to case status, behaviors, or participation in their case plan.

As long as the permanency plan is reunification of the child with his/her family, agency staff and care providers will work together to assist the biological parents in improving their ability to care for, and protect their children, along with being provided thoughtful, encouraging, and engaging visitation.

Placement date: _____ Caseworker: _____ Phone: _____

Child/ren: _____ DOB:_____

Mother: _____ Phone:_____

Father: _____ Phone:_____

Care Provider: _____ Phone: _____

Needs / Logistics for school, medical, psychological, etc.: _____

_____

_____

_____

First Visit: As a community, one of our priorities is that parents and children visit together as soon as possible after separation.   The first parent/child visit is scheduled for:

(date) _____ **at 10:00 am** (M - T - W - TH)

Pick one (1) only   **or**

(date) _____ **at 2:00 pm** (M or F)

At the **Family Engagement Center** (FEC) located at **905 East Prater Way, Sparks, Nevada**.

The parent, _____, is to arrive at _____ (one hour earlier than the scheduled visitation time) to meet with FEC staff about the visit and to tour the facility.

The care provider, _____, will arrive half an hour before the scheduled visit to meet with FEC staff and the parent for an '**Icebreaker**' and to discuss ongoing visitation plans, and to share information about the children. FEC staff can care for the child/ren during this time.

If the parent needs transportation assistance to the FEC or to reach someone at the FEC, please call (775) 352-3230 after 8:00 am (M-F). ***It is expected that the care provider will transport the child and participate in the first visit as able.***

_____   _____   _____
Mother's signature / Date   Father's signature / Date   Caseworker signature / Date

_____   _____   _____
Care provider Signature / Date   Other signature / Date   Other signature / Date