

Curriculum Vitae

Laura Alison Caliendo

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Education

Ph.D. in Public Affairs, May, 2019

University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Dissertation Topic: State Law and Child Welfare Policy Role in Nonparental Family Composition

M.A. in Organizational Systems Renewal, June 2009

Seattle University, Seattle, Washington

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Thesis: A Biopsychosocial Perspective of Early Childhood Trauma and Implications for Systemic Healing

B.A. in Psychology, June 2004

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Cumulative GPA: 3.8

Deans List 2002-2004

Academic Experience

August 2014-April 2016

Graduate Assistant, Department of Public Affairs, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- Designed and managed an annual statewide survey of registered voters.
- Collected data for the State of the State Survey: Nevada via phone, mail, and Internet surveys.
- Conducted literature reviews and prepared data for publication.
- Performed data analysis using SPSS, STATA.
- Website design and data presentation www.sossnv.org.

August 2007-June 2009

Curriculum Design and Delivery, Seattle University

- Designed curriculum for Organizations: At Work in the World, delivered to Masters Level student cohort.
- Designed curriculum for Personal Mastery, delivered to Masters Level student cohort.

June 2004-June 2005

Research Coordinator, Center for Cognitive Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago

- Primary coordinator of NIMH funded study on first episode schizophrenia and key personnel on NIMH funded studies of autism and electrical injury.

- Performed neuro-physiological and cognitive testing and fMRI scans on over 100 patients and healthy subjects and scored research data for analysis and eventual publication.
- Through targeted recruitment strategies, dramatically increased enrollment of healthy control subjects from 2003.

Professional Experience

January 2009-Present

Founder and Executive Director, Foster Kinship

Las Vegas, Nevada

- Researched, founded, funded and designed critical programs for kinship families in Clark County, NV.
- Oversee all aspects of non-profit organization and management, including program management, people management, fundraising and grant writing, community engagement, and government relations.
- With a growing team and strategic partnerships, provide end-to-end services including case management, support groups, family events, helpline, emergency support, and a kinship center for over 3,000 families and 6,000 children.
- Provide regular informational sessions and kinship licensing training classes for all new kinship placements with the Clark County Department of Family Services.
- Expanded program statewide and implemented an outside evaluation process in 2019 through a partnership with DCFS and the federal government.

June 2006-September 2009

Human Resources Business Partner, Microsoft

Redmond, Washington

- Managed and integrated HR business policies and programs for a team of 350 in a \$74B high tech organization.
- Designed employee curriculum for Difficult Conversations and Giving Effective Feedback.
- Through manager coaching and employee counseling, led HR team with 90% positive attrition rate for underperforming employees and very low risk terminations.
- Planning team member for largest reduction-in-force in company history.
- Quickly promoted 5 times in 3 years, receiving the highest possible performance ratings.

Professional Affiliations

- Alliance for Nevada Nonprofits (ANN)
- Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)
- National Foster Parents Association (NFPA)
- National Kinship Alliance for Children (NKAC)

Invited Presentations and Lectures:

- Presenter, “Supporting Kinship Care”, NACAC 2019
- Presenter, “Kinship Navigators 2.0: Enhancing Navigator Programs to Meet the Requirements of the Families First Prevention Services Act”, CWLA 2019
- Presenter, “Now is the Time: Developing a Comprehensive Kinship System of Care”, CWLA 2018
- Presenter, “Advocate on the Front Lines: Creating or Enhancing a Kinship Navigator Program”, NFPA 2018
- Presenter, “Child Welfare and Kinship Care”, Clark County Department of Family Services New Hire Academies, 2015-Present
- Speaker, “Kinship Care Policy and Practice”, UNLV Masters Level Social Work Class, Summer 2017-2018
- Presenter, “Tennessee Kinship Learning Journey”, Clark County Department of Family Services, September 2017
- Presenter, National Foster Parent Association National Conference, Houston, TX June 2017
- Presenter, “Not Alone: Traditional and Innovative Ways to Support and Engage Kinship Families” Generations United National Conference, June 2017
- Presenter, “Taking Care of Kin,” Generations United National Conference, June 2017
- Presenter, “Strategies Supporting Kinship Families”, CWLA Conference, March 2017
- Panelist, National QPI Conference, Cleveland September 25-26, 2016
- Speaker “Building Sustainable Nonprofits”, UNLV Masters Level Social Work Class, Fall 2016
- Speaker, “The Intersection of Kinship Care and Child Welfare”, UNLV Masters Level Social Work Class, Summer 2016
- Presenter, “How Nonprofits can Fill the Gap in Child Welfare”, National Foster Parent Association National Conference, June 2016
- Panelist, “Kinship Care”- National Foster Parent Association National Conference, June 2016
- Panelist, “Quality Parenting Initiative”- National Foster Parent Association National Conference, June 2016
- Panelist, Nevada Foster and Adoptive Coalition, November 2015
- Speaker “An Introduction to Kinship Care”, UNLV Masters Level Social Work Class, Summer 2015
- Presenter, “Succeeding at the Big Give”, Nevada Association of Fundraising Professionals, 2015
- Panelist, Child Welfare Academy, Department of Family Services, 2013-2017
- Panelist, “Grandparents Raising Kids: Kinship Care in Nevada”, *KNPR State of Nevada*, September 9, 2013

Professional Publications

- Caliendo, A (2018). Supporting kinship caregivers. *KinCare Today*, May 2018.
- Caliendo, A (2017) Building a network for kinship families. *KinCare Today*, April/May 2017.

- Caliendo, A (2016) Child-only TANF for formal fictive kin caregivers: Policy brief, 2016 *Children's Legislative Briefing Book*. Children's Advocacy Alliance and Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy.
- Caliendo, A (2016). Advocating for kinship caregivers. *Fostering Families Today*, September/October, 2016.
- Caliendo, A (2015). Six things new kinship caregivers need to know. *The Kinship Parenting Toolbox*. New Jersey: EMK Press.
- Caliendo, A (2014). Placement versus licensure: The dilemma for formal kinship care. *Fostering Families Today*, January/February, 2014.

Professional Service

- Committee Member, Oversight, State of Nevada CFSR PIP, 2019
- Committee Member, Family Engagement, State of Nevada CFSR PIP, 2019
- National Birth and Foster Parent Partnership Member, Casey Family Programs, 2017-Present
- Grants Management Advisory Committee [GMAC] Member, State of Nevada Grants Management Unit [GMU], 2017-Present
- Consultant on *Raising Your Relative's Kids: How to Find Help* (2nd Ed.) University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, 2013-2014; 2019
- Contributing author and editor for *New Directions for Kinship Care*, CWLA, 2017.
- National Kinship Summit for CWLA White Paper on Kinship Care, Albany NY, September 22-24, 2016
- National Super Advocate from Nevada, Advocate for Families First, April 2016- Present
- Committee Member, QPI Disruption workgroup, Clark County Department of Family Services, 2015-Present
- Committee Member, Nevada Child Welfare Workgroup, Children's Advocacy Alliance, 2015-Present
- Committee Member, QPI Support and Retention, Clark County Department of Family Services, 2015-Present
- Committee Member, National Foster Parent Association Kinship Group, 2014-Present
- Committee Member, National Kinship Alliance for Children Conference, 2015- 2016
- Kinship Consultant, Yakama Nation, 2014
- Foster and Kinship Parent Pre-service Trainer, Clark County Department of Family Services, 2014
- Co-lead, QPI Child Welfare, Clark County Department of Family Services, 2013-2014
- Performance Management Manager Trainer, Microsoft, Redmond, WA, 2007 -2009
- Organizational Change and Development Consultant, Hanford Challenge, Seattle, WA, January-June 2009

Certifications

- Certificate in Grandfamilies Leadership, University of Maine, 2018
- NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Technician, 2017-Present
- TIPPS-MAPP, 2014- Present
- Masters in HR Certificate, Villanova University, 2010
- MBTI personality assessment facilitator, 2006-Present

Awards

- Champion for Change Award, NACAC, 2019
- Community Service Award, Greenspun College of Urban Affairs, UNLV, 2019
- Excellence in Execution Award, Microsoft, 2008

Activities/Community Service

- CASA volunteer, 2019
- Committee Member, Young Professionals, CWLA, 2019
- Board of Directors, National Kinship Alliance for Children 2015-Present
- Founding Board Member, Foster Change, Las Vegas, NV, January 2016-Present
- Licensed Foster Parent, Nevada, 2013-2015
- Educational Surrogate, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, 2013-2015
- Peggy's Attic Volunteer, Clark County Department of Family Services, 2012-2014