



# News Release

---

Public Communications ■ 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, 6th Fl., Las Vegas, NV 89155-1111 ■ Fax: (702) 455-3558

---

Contact: **Christine M. Skorupski**  
**Public Information Officer**

Phone: **(702) 455-4019**  
Cell: **(702) 591-0102**  
E-mail: **SKORC@co.clark.nv.us**

For Immediate Release

Friday, June 13, 2008

## **Clark County's 'Safe Futures' Plan Receives National Recognition** Family Services Plan Overhauled Child Welfare System

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has honored Clark County with a 2008 Achievement Award for its innovative "Safe Futures" plan for overhauling a previously troubled child welfare system and creating a safer community.

"NACo is proud to confer this award and recognize your county's hard work to promote quality and efficiency and responsible and responsive county government management and administration," NACo Executive Director Larry Drake wrote in a letter received Thursday.

Leading up to 2005, a series of child fatalities, overcrowding in the county's children's emergency shelter, a severe need for foster and adoptive families, and the rapidly growing number of children needing emergency placement and ongoing assistance prompted drastic systemic and administrative changes and improvements in the Clark County child welfare system.

Since then, county commissioners, county management, state legislators, child advocates, community partners and concerned citizens have been working together on child welfare reform in Clark County under the auspices of "Safe Futures," a plan authored by Thomas Morton, a nationally respected child welfare expert and the director of the Clark County Department of Family Services.

"This innovative plan created a stronger safety net for the area's abused and neglected children," Commissioner Rory Reid said, "and now that work is being recognized nationally. Tom Morton, county staff and our partners in the community and at the state are to be congratulated on a team effort."

More changes and improvements have been made in the past year to ensure the safety and care of children under the custody and protection of Clark County than at any other time in the history of the department. Officials added that they are not done and that they will continue to make further improvements.

NACo will recognize Clark County in July at the organization's 2008 Annual Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

###

*News release also available on the Internet at [www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com)*

[Clark County Board of Commissioners](#)

Rory Reid, Chairman ■ Chip Maxfield, Vice-Chair ■ Susan Brager ■ Tom Collins ■ Chris Giunchigliani ■ Lawrence Weekly ■ Bruce L. Woodbury / Virginia Valentine, County Manager