



# SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT STATE OF NEVADA WASHOE COUNTY

Honorable David Humke

Jackie Bryant, Esq. – Court Administrator / Clerk of Court

Mary Herzik – Family Services Department Manager

Kendra Materasso – Family Services Case Manager

# Family Peace Center

- What is the Family Peace Center?
  - The Family Peace Center is a program of the Family Services Department of the Second Judicial District Court. The Center has been in our community for more than 20 years.
- Mission
  - To provide a safe and caring environment where children and parents build healthy relationships and strong families.

Separation and divorce is seldom easy. For some families, it is necessary to be in a supervised visitation program so parents can exchange or visit their children in a neutral location when they have cases pending in the Family Division of the Second Judicial District Court.



# Why Supervised Visitation?

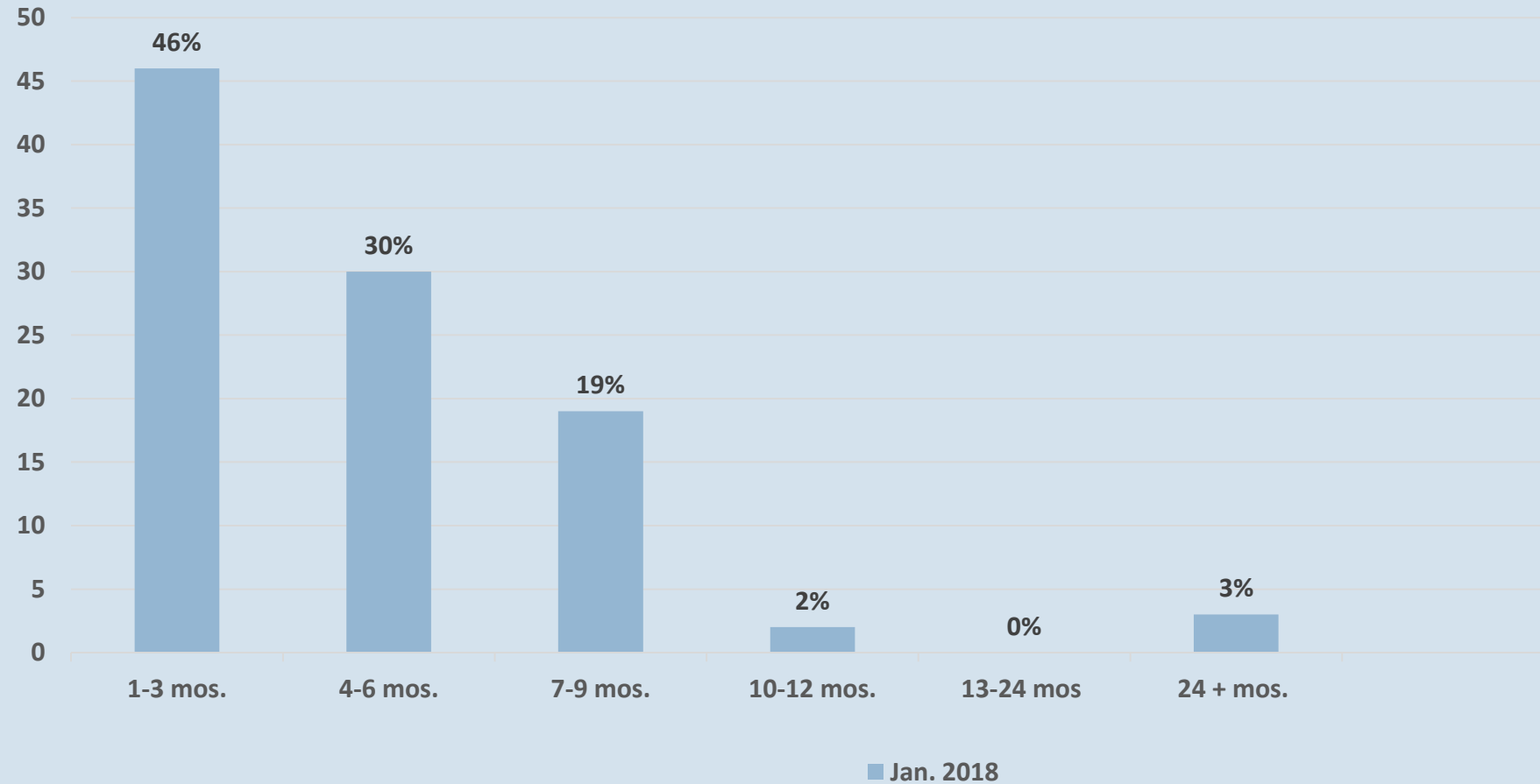
- The Family Peace Center furthers the Washoe County strategic priority of safe, secure and healthy communities.
- Supervised Visitation
  - Refers to the contact between a non-custodial parent and children in the presence of a third person responsible for observing and ensuring the safety of those involved.
- Benefits
  - To the child
  - To the custodial parent
  - To the non-custodial parent



# 2017 Statistics

- 1077 visits supervised
- 162 families served
- Approximately 50 families use the service weekly
- 233 children engaged in visitation
- 70% of families have a history of family violence

# Length of Visitation Services





# Why Supervised Exchange?

- Supervised Exchange
  - Refers to the supervised transfer of the child from one parent to the other. We utilize best practices to ensure parents do not come in contact with one another.
- Benefits
  - Diminishes anxiety for the child
  - Reduces parental conflict in front of the child
  - Addresses timeliness



# Challenges For The Center

- Security
  - Currently, the Center has 2 deputy sheriffs present for after hour and Saturday visitation tracks.
- Space
  - Until 2010, the Center operated in a free standing building of approximately 2000 square feet.
  - Currently, the Center operates out of 2 adjoining rooms located in the Second Judicial District Court with approximately 700 square feet.
- Funding
  - General Fund
  - Grants





# The Family Peace Center

# Family Peace Center Impact

- Among the things that children report liking: the availability of games and activities, being supervised, feeling safe, having a choice, having other children around with similar experiences and the ability to spend quality time with a parent.
- “To All Peace Center Staff, Thank you so much for the services you provided my family. My children haven’t seen their dad in 2 years. You provided a safe, warm and comforting place so they could reunite with him along with giving the rest of us assurance of their safety. Thank you for EVERYTHING you do! We appreciate it! You provide a much needed service to our community.” 2017 Custodial Parent