

PLUMAS RURAL SERVICES

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During this holiday season, PRS wants to extend a heartfelt Thank You to all of our partners as well as those we serve. We wish you and yours a safe and joyful transition to the New Year.

PLUMAS STARS

Plumas STARS (Standards, Training, Assistance, Resources, Supports) is the county's local Quality Improvement (QI) System. Plumas STARS supports individuals and agencies providing early learning and care to the children of Plumas County. It is a local consortium of partners focused on supporting young children, including Plumas Rural Services, First 5 Plumas, Feather River College, Plumas Early Education and Child Care Council, Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities, and California Department of Social Services. The consortium's overall goals are to provide individualized and customized support to all care providers in all types of settings. It supports programs and the work they are doing to create quality learning environments.

QI program support strategies used by Plumas STARS include coaching, mentoring, and technical assistance. The program provides assistance in developing quality improvement goals and plans, and offers resources and incentives to support program goals. Free training and professional development opportunities are offered in collaboration with community partners.

The Consortium focuses on three primary areas: Child Development & School Readiness, Teachers & Teaching, and Program & Environment. Within these focus areas, Plumas STARS offers support like child observational assessments, developmental and health screenings (like the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, or ASQ), educational and professional development, and more.

For child care providers - including Licensed Center-Based, Licensed Family Child Care, and Family, Friend & Neighbor providers (FFN) - Plumas STARS offers training, resources and support from the program's Early Learning Specialist (ELS). Participating providers can

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LIZ WELCH

PLUMAS STARS COORDINATOR

Liz Welch, Plumas STARS Coordinator, moved to Plumas County in 1991 coming from the Central Coast of California. She moved up to be near her parents when they moved and bought a local business. She loves the mountains here, though she still misses the ocean.

Liz took her first Early Childhood Education class at Feather River College in 1992, which was "Child, Family and Community" with Shelley Miller. After she took that class, she knew that she wanted to work with children. She started working in Center-Based Care and owned and operated her own family child care business. In the late 1990s she filled in for the Child Care Resource & Referral Coordinator, working temporarily for PRS. She loved working for PRS at that time, and in 2002 when an opening came up for the Family Child Care Home Education Network, she joined the agency.

In 2016, First 5 Plumas launched the local Plumas STARS program (see page 1) and sought an Early Learning Specialist to run it. PRS submitted an application to operate the program with Liz at the helm, which is how she came to her current position at the agency.

Liz finds that being able to support programs and individuals that are providing care for children 0-5 is the most rewarding part of her work. "With Plumas

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STARS we can work with a variety of early learning and care settings," she says. "It might be a grandmother caring for her grandchildren; if she wants to participate I can go out and help her provide developmentally appropriate activities for her children or answer questions." She also appreciates being able to see the outcomes of work she's doing with those providing child care. "When we've met and talked about ways they want to update their child care environment, and then I can go back and see the changes - the kids playing in their new sand area, for example - it always feels good to see how I'm helping them reach their individual goals."

Liz also values building relationships with partners in the Plumas STARS consortium, such as working with Feather River College, First 5 and Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities to collaborate on community events like the High Sierra Parents Conference, or with Feather River College and PRS's Child Care Resource & Referral to host trainings for providers.

When she's not working, Liz likes to spend time with her family, despite the distance they're spread across now. She enjoys being outdoors, camping and kayaking, and taking trips to the coast.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

PRS's Family Empowerment Center hosts a monthly Parent Support Group on the third Thursday of each month from 12-1 PM. The group provides a welcoming environment for parents of children with disabilities to share experiences, gain support, and foster connections. Guest professionals briefly share their services and how parents can access them. The main focus of the group, however, is to create an opportunity for parents to share and connect.

This group is now a hybrid meeting, both online and in-person at offices in Quincy (711 E. Main St.) and Susanville (805 Main St.). Refreshments are provided.

For more information, contact FEC team members at 530-283-2735, ext. 880 or [via email](#).

PLUMAS STARS

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receive an annual financial incentive for developing a Quality Improvement Plan with the ELS, participating in related training and technical assistance, and conducting four visits per year with the ELS (in person, virtual or via phone). The program also shares professional development opportunities and additional resources [online here](#).

For parents seeking more information, Plumas STARS provides a variety of local resources and program information that support families of children 0-5 locally, including education on the Strengthening Families Protective Factors - more information can be found [online here](#).

Plumas STARS operates under the statewide [Quality Counts California](#) initiative with funding from the California Department of Education, California Department of Social Services, and First 5 California. Locally, it is coordinated by PRS's Early Learning Specialist, Liz Welch (see page 2). More information about the program can be found on its [website](#) or by contacting Liz [by email](#) or at 530-283-4453, ext 815.



BOARD: MARIE ANDERSON

Marie Anderson, PRS Board Secretary/Treasurer, was born and raised in Quincy, as were both of her parents and her four children; she has one grandson also raised in Quincy. She likes living in a rural community while still



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having relatively easy access to urban areas like Reno and Chico. What she appreciates most about the area is that "the people in Plumas County are amazing and supportive of each other," she says. "Because I'm the loan officer for all of Plumas County I can say this about all of the towns. Having deep roots here I can't imagine feeling at home anywhere else."

Starting as a credit analyst with Plumas Bank in January 1998, Marie worked her way up over the years to Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer. Her grandfather was a Founding Director of Plumas Bank, making it feel like a family business. Before working at the bank, she raised her children and was very active in the community with youth organizations. She also owned her own business for several years.

Marie joined the PRS Board of Directors in 2019. She was the loan officer for PRS and was impressed with the organization and its Executive Director, Michele Piller, because of the financial strength and versatility she saw. When she was invited to be on the Board, she accepted and has served continuously since. She highly values the agency's longevity, ability to respond quickly to community needs, and its record as a great employer.

Marie brings both her banking and financial background and her history with the community to her position in support of PRS, its staff and the communities and individuals it serves. "I truly believe that our community would be a completely different place without PRS," Marie muses. "I am also a loan officer for other nonprofits, and in my opinion PRS is definitely the Gold Standard."

When she is not working or supporting PRS, Marie's passions are horses and her grandkids. She has been a 4H horse leader for over 20 years, is President of the local equestrian club, and is the Horse Show Superintendent for the County Fair. In addition to her grandson, she has 5 young granddaughters, 3 in Beckwourth and 2 in Janesville, who also love horses and visit her often to learn horsemanship skills.

JOB OPENINGS

The following information includes a snapshot of available positions at the time of this newsletter's publication. Click on job titles for more information.

Up-to-date information on employment opportunities may be found on [PRs's website here](#).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATOR (Full-time)

Supervises and manages the DVS program and staff. Works directly with survivors of domestic abuse and their children at the emergency shelter as well as within the community to provide crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, and more.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (Full-time)

Supports various functions of the agency's General Administration Department, primarily assisting the Executive Director and Human Resources/Marketing Director with a wide variety of administrative tasks.

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER FAMILY SPECIALIST

(Part-time)

Provides information on resources to families of children and young adults with disabilities in Lassen, Modoc, Plumas and Sierra Counties. Provides training and support for children, young adults and their families. Additional pay for Bilingual in Spanish.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE (Part-time)

Provides counseling, legal assistance, emergency shelter, housing and job search assistance, food, clothing and transportation for survivors of domestic abuse and their children. Position works directly with clients and their children at the emergency shelter.

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ALIVE SUPPORT SPECIALIST (Full-time & part-time)

The ALIVE program provides day services, independent living, job development and job coaching services to individuals with developmental, intellectual and physical disabilities.



Friday, December 5, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Mental Health First Aid training for Public Safety
Sierraville School, 305 S. Lincoln St., Sierraville

[Registration required](#)

Thursday, December 18, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Parent Support Group, Hybrid Virtual/In-Person
711 E. Main St., Quincy & 805 Main St., Susanville

[Registration required](#), (see page 2)

Thursday, December 18, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Building Belonging, Childcare Provider CCIP Training
PRs, 711 E. Main Street, Quincy

Dinner provided, Registration required by Dec. 10th
Call Debbie at 530-283-4453, 824

Wednesday-Thursday, December 24-25

PRs Offices Closed for Christmas Eve & Day

Wednesday-Thursday, December 31-January 2

PRs Offices Closed for New Year's Eve & Day



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