

Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act Programs

AGENDA

In-Person Committee Meeting

Henrico Training Center
7701 E Parham Rd, Richmond, VA 23228
April 26, 2024
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- 1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introduction of Guests
- 2. Review and approval of January 26, 2024 Minutes
- 3. Final Outcome of Tracked General Assembly Bills
- 4. **Presentation on Human Trafficking Multi-Disciplinary Team and Response** McKayla Burnett, DCJS State Trafficking Response Coordinator
- 5. CJA Program Update
 - Domestic and Sexual Violence Workgroup
 - DCJS Domestic Violence Conference Child Track
- 6. CASA Program Update
 - Review proposed draft CASA Regulations
 - Legislative Study on CASA Expansion
- 7. Citizen Review Panel
 - Development of 2024 CRP Recommendations
- 8. Adjournment

Report to the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee

April 26, 2024 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Children's Justice Act (CJA)

Prepared by: Jenna L. Foster, Children's Justice Act Coordinator - DCJS

I. MDT Stakeholder Group: Statewide MDT Support Initiative

DCJS continues to collaborate with Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), Child Advocacy Centers of Virginia (CACVA), and the Commonwealth Attorney's Services Council (CASC) to institutionalize the MDT 101 virtual training for newly established, reengaged, and struggling MDTs in Virginia. Using a train-the-trainer model, four subject matter experts from child welfare and law enforcement have been recruited to facilitate quarterly virtual MDT 101 trainings. Trainings will be held virtually on April 30, July 30, October 24, and December 10, 2024. Registration is available at: https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/training-events/mdt-101-building-strong-foundation-mdt-success-april-30.

II. 2024 Crime Victims' Rights Week: "Supporting Child Victims"

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is offering a virtual training series: "Supporting Child Victims" in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22-26, 2024. Participants may register for any or all of the sessions. Topics are: "Where the Boys Are: understanding the Impact of Trauma on Boys;" "Preparing Children for Court;" "Navigating the Realities of Childhood Disclosure: A Child Sexual Abuse Survivor's Perspective on Best Practices;" "Creating a Trauma Informed System: The Important Collaboration Between Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and the Courts;" and Providing Culturally Sensitive, Trauma-Responsive Victim and Survivor Services for Tribal Populations." Registration is available at: https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/training-events/supporting-child-victims-virtual-training-series-april-22.

III. 2024 Child Death Investigation Protocol Update

DCJS will continue to provide regional in-person Child Death Investigation Protocol (CDIP) trainings throughout the Commonwealth. Six trainings are scheduled in 2024 throughout Virginia. DCJS will also work with regional police academies to institutionalize the protocol training information as part of mandatory training for investigators in Virginia. The CDIP content is currently included in the Child Protective Services (CPS) training and as a part of the annual conference for prosecutors facilitated by the Commonwealth Attorney's Services Council. Registration is available at https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/training-events/foundations-child-death-investigation.

IV. CJA 2024 Application

This year's annual application under the Children's Justice Act is due to the Children's Bureau on Friday, June 7, 2024. The anticipated funding is \$412,570.00. There is an increased focus on foster and kinship care in addition to working with LGBTQIA+2 youth.



VIRGINIA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAMS



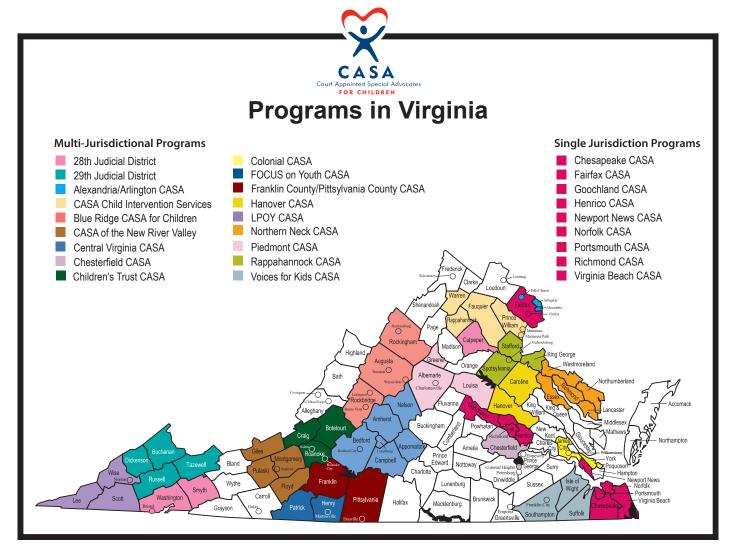
What CASA Does

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers are appointed by juvenile court judges to cases involving child abuse and neglect. These specially trained citizen volunteers provide a consistent presence and a voice in court for children, helping to ensure the best possible outcome for child victims of abuse and neglect. CASA volunteers provide victims with a chance to thrive during one of the most vulnerable times in their young lives by ending the cycle of violence, and assisting the court in securing safe, permanent homes.

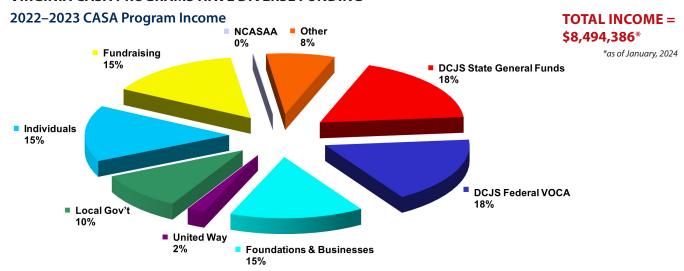
In FY2023 there was a 2% overall increase in the number of children served by CASA programs statewide. While there was a reduction in volunteering nationally, CASA programs volunteer rates remained steady. Further, the number of advocacy hours reported increased by 7%. Experiences of individual CASA programs vary. For example, 15 of the 27 CASA programs reported a reduction in cases served. Most programs experiencing lower caseloads attribute the reduction to changes in child welfare practices and a lack of available volunteers.

FY2023 CASA PROGRAM STATISTICS

- 27 operational Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs in Virginia
- 3,233 children received advocacy services
- 1,324 citizen volunteers active on cases
- 124,669 volunteer advocacy hours were contributed, valued at \$4,062,962



VIRGINIA CASA PROGRAMS HAVE DIVERSE FUNDING



SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Abuse and Neglect in Virginia in FY2023

- 40,079 children involved in Child Protective Services family assessments
- 4,368 abused and neglected children in founded Child Protective Services investigations
- 24 children died as a result of abuse or neglect
 - Data as of November 1, 2023 with 73 investigations pending final disposition
- · 4,997 children in foster care
- 47% of the children in Virginia's foster care system are between the ages of 13 and 19

Young People Aging Out of Foster Care

CASA programs are dedicated to improving outcomes for older youth continuous, youth centered advocacy until age 21. CASA volunteers focus advocacy to create successful independence if other permanency efforts are not achieved for older youth who may age out of the system. Without support, research shows that, when compared with their peers, young people aging out of care, on average are:

- · Less likely to have a high school diploma
- Less likely to be pursuing higher education
- More likely to experience unemployment
- Less likely to be earning a living wage
- More likely to experience homelessness
- More likely to have had a child without being married
- More likely to become involved with the criminal justice system (Barth, 1990; Cook, 1991; Courtney & Barth, 1996; Courtney & Piliavin, 1995, 1998; McDonald, Allen, Westerfelt & Piliavin, 1996)

CASA Volunteers Make an Impact in the Lives of Children

- 86% of CASA volunteer recommendations are accepted and incorporated into judicial court orders
- 81% of children had one CASA volunteer throughout the duration of their case. Scientific research indicates the presence of one caring, stable adult relationship is one of the keys to building skills of resilience. (1, 2)
 - ¹ National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. (2015). Supportive Relationships and Active Skill-Building Strengthen the Foundations of Resilience: Working Paper 13. www.developingchild.harvard.edu
 - ² Levine, S. (2003). Psychological and social aspects of resilience: A synthesis of risks and resources. Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience, 5, 273-280. doi: 10.31887/DCNS.2003.5.3/slevine

CASA Programs are Economical

Of the various interventions provided to a child, CASA provides a cost effective service. In Virginia in FY2023, it costs:

- \$2,627 to provide CASA advocacy services to one child
- \$5,952 to \$8,820 to provide basic foster care to one child
- An average of \$22,128 to serve one child in Therapeutic Foster Care and \$39,695 for Residential Treatment
- \$254,396 to serve one child in the direct care of Virginia's Department of Juvenile Justice



The second secon

Report to the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee

April 26, 2024 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Programs

Prepared by: Melissa O'Neill, CASA Coordinator - DCJS

I. CASA Network State Leadership Team Updates

The State Leadership Team (SLT) is focused this year on updating and implementing the goals of the strategic plan. DCJS worked during this reporting period to facilitate meetings of the SLT. The following is a highlight of accomplishments of the SLT efforts during this reporting period.

A. Training Committee

The Training Committee is developing the 2024 CASA College schedule of events for the remainder of the calendar year. During the past quarter, three workshops were held.

In January, 24 CASA program staff attended a session on the topic of Marketing and Brand Awareness for Volunteer Recruitment. This training was hosted by Barry Martin, CEO of the Idea Center, who provided insights and strategies for use of the various tools developed during the statewide volunteer recruitment campaign. Participants learned how to use the assets created during the state campaign in their own local program volunteer recruitment efforts. Each CASA program was offered an hour of individual pro-bono support by the Idea Center to set up their local campaigns.

The Honorable Thomas Sotelo, Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge, provided a session on Testifying in Court for CASA volunteers and staff. This session was held in February and 197 participants attended.

In March, CASA program staff were invited to a session for an update from the Office of the Children's Ombudsman (OCO). This session offered 27 participants an opportunity to learn about the work of the OCO and important legislation that will impact children and families assigned to CASA programs.

The Training Committee is diligently moving forward with the revision of the Virginia Case Studies Curriculum. The Committee met six times during the past quarter and has successfully completed the detailed review, incorporating input from reviewers. The next steps include incorporating activities from the NCASA curriculum and developing the Training of Facilitators guide.

B. Data Committee

The Data Committee met in February to discuss implementation of 2024 action items and planned activities. However, most of the meeting focused on CASA program directors' concerns related to the CASA Manager database. Participants shared concerns related to integrity of data reporting, system functionality, new user training, and inefficient reports.

Because of these concerns, participants discussed other data tracking options and after some discussion, determined the best course of action is to gather more information on the details of user issues with CASA Manager. This information will assist DCJS and the Network in evaluating user support requests and next steps. Participants noted that CASA Manager staff are responsive to CASA program users, and this is a positive aspect that should not be overlooked.

DCJS will be tracking CASA Manager user support requests for the next quarter and will ask CASA Manager staff for support call tracking from the past quarter. This information will inform plans for next steps. DCJS also suggested CASA Manager develop a national user group for feedback and input on concerns and issues as well as future database changes. CASA Manager responded immediately to this suggestion and the team (Developer Assistance Team) met the next month. DCJS made numerous requests of CASA Manager staff for improvements to avoid complications, especially during quarterly reporting timeframes.

Action Items for the Data Committee include focusing on the CASA Network Assessment Survey. This survey was first launched in 2018 and again in 2021. The survey is used to assess the needs of the CASA Program network and helps to inform the State Leadership Team Strategic Plan. The survey will be released to local CASA programs in October 2024 with results compiled in December 2024.

The Data Committee identified an interest in exploring a Virginia Judicial Satisfaction survey.

Finally, the Data Committee is interested in engaging in the development of the statewide needs assessment and growth plan for the Virginia CASA Network.

II. Network Support Meetings

DCJS facilitated three CASA Network Support meetings and three New Director Support Calls using virtual technology during this reporting period. These meetings assist local programs with navigating program operations and management concerns.

III. DCJS CASA Grant Program

DCJS announced the grant application process for the FY25 CASA grants. The total amount available to local CASA programs is \$1,532,870 in state general funds and \$1,499,900 in federal VOCA funds, for grant awards totaling \$3,032,770. Applications were received and are currently being reviewed for approval by the CJSB at the June 2024 meeting. Programs will receive award notices in June 2024.

IV. CASA Regulations Revision

The Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) public comment period ended on January 31, 2024. There were no comments received during the 30-day public comment period. DCJS continued preparation of the draft proposed changes for publication and sought input from the State Leadership Team and the CASA program Network.

V. CASA Expansion Projects

Through the availability of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, DCJS was able to award grants to three local programs for the purpose of CASA program expansion to unserved localities in the state. The grants support program expansions into a total of six previously unserved localities.

An additional CASA program is expanding services to a previously unserved area with support from the local program resources, bringing the total number of expansion localities to seven during this fiscal year.

DRAFT

Pursuant to § 2.2-3707.1 of the Code of Virginia this DRAFT of the minutes of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and Children's Justice Act (CJA) Advisory Committee is available to the public. The public is cautioned that the information is provided in DRAFT form and is subject to change by the Advisory Committee prior to becoming final. Once the minutes have been finalized, they will be marked "FINAL" and made available to the public.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE/CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 26,2024

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held virtually on January 26, 2024. The Committee met virtually pursuant to the approved CASA/CJA Advisory Committee Remote Participation Policy.

Members Present

Randy Bonds

Jackie Robinson Brock

Judge Eugene Butler

Shamika Byars

Davy Fearon

Katharine Hunter

Sandy Karison

Jeannine Panzera

Giselle Peleaz

Pat Popp, Vice-Chair

Lora Smith for Shannon Hartung

Judge Thomas Sotelo, Chair

Ashley Thompson

Guests

Kathleen Hollywood (VDSS)

McKayla Burnett (DCJS Human Trafficking Coordinator)

Staff Present

Jenna Foster

Carolyn Halbert

Laurel Marks

Melissa O'Neill

Terry Willie-Surratt

Members Not Present

Regina Baker Eric Reynolds

- **I.** Call to Order: Judge Thomas Sotelo, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Members introduced themselves.
- **II. Approval of Minutes:** The committee received and reviewed the draft minutes of the October 27, 2023, meeting. Shamika Byars made a motion to approve the minutes. Randy Bonds provided a second and Sandy Karison abstained. The motion was approved.
- III. Conflicts of Interest and Financial Disclosure Reminder: The committee was reminded that as members they are required to complete annual financial disclosure statements. Members should have received emails with instructions for completing the forms. Additionally, every two years, members must complete the Conflicts of Interest Act training. Those members required to complete the training this year will be notified.

IV. General Assembly Session: Presentation of Bills of Interest

DCJS and members of the committee reported on bills of interest introduced during the 2024 General Assembly session regarding the investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse cases.

V. CASA Program Update: The committee was previously provided a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. A draft document of proposed changes to the CASA regulations was sent to the committee for review and comment in advance of the meeting. The committee held a brief discussion regarding the proposed changes and the regulatory process. Committee members are requested to provide additional comments to DCJS by March 25, 2024. A revised draft will be presented during the April 26, 2024 meeting.

VI. CJA Program Update

The CASA/CJA Advisory Committee was provided with a written report detailing significant activities of the CJA program this quarter. The following additional updates were provided.

In 2024, DCJS will focus on child victims during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22-26. A virtual resource kit and daily training will be available to professionals throughout the week.

In 2020, the CJA program surveyed Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence (DVSV) programs to assess gaps and challenges in their Children's Advocacy programming efforts. Due to COVID, plans to move these findings forward were put on hold. In the Spring, DCJS plans to re-survey the DVSV field to gain new data on trends and needs for children's programming within shelter programs and community-based programs that serve primary and secondary (children) victims of domestic and sexual violence. Following the survey results, a workgroup of 10-20 child advocates throughout the Commonwealth will convene to analyze data and identify training, technical assistance, and other resources that are needed in DVSV children's programming in the field. The plan is for the group to meet monthly and to prepare a formal report to share with other agencies and technical assistance providing organizations that can meet the identified needs.

The committee requested a report on the activities of multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs). A report including FY23 MDT and CAC data based on locality was provided to the Committee via email following the meeting.

VII. Citizen Review Panel

The committee reviewed the current Citizen Review Panel recommendations to the Virginia Department of Social Services and began discussion for updates for 2024 recommendations. Committee members will make final recommendations at the April 26, 2024 meeting.

- **VIII.** New Business Members provided updates, information and news from their respective agencies and disciplines.
 - **IX. Adjourn** Pat Popp made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Giselle Pelaez provided the second. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Next meeting dates:

Friday, April 26, 2024 Friday, July 26, 2024



Wight intermed of the Control of the

The state of the s

The second secon

In the control of the control o



The second secon



Parameter Service Control of Cont





The Court Appointed Special Advocate/Children's Justice Act Advisory Committee (CASA/CJA) POLICY FOR THE REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS

1. AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

- a. This policy is adopted pursuant to the authorization of Va. Code § 2.2-3708.3 and is to be strictly construed in conformance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA), Va. Code §§ 2.2-3700—3715.
- b. This policy shall not govern an electronic meeting conducted to address a state of emergency declared by the Governor or the Board of Supervisors. Any meeting conducted by electronic communication means under such circumstances shall be governed by the provisions of Va. Code § 2.2-3708.2. This policy also does not apply to an all-virtual public meeting.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

- a. "Advisory Committee" means the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Children's Justice Act Advisory Committee (CASA/CJA Advisory Committee) or any committee, subcommittee, or other entity of the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee.
- b. "Member" means any member of the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee.
- c. "Remote participation" means participation by an individual member of the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee by electronic communication means in a public meeting where a quorum of the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee is physically assembled, as defined by Va. Code § 2.2-3701.
- d. "Meeting" means a meeting as defined by Va. Code § 2.2-3701.
- e. "Notify" or "notifies," for purposes of this policy, means written notice, such as email or letter. Notice does not include text messages or communications via social media.

3. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Regardless of the reasons why the member is participating in a meeting from a remote location by electronic communication means, the following conditions must be met for the member to participate remotely:

- a. A quorum of the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location; and
- b. Arrangements have been made for the voice of the remotely participating member to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location. If at any point during the meeting the voice of the remotely participating member is no longer able to be heard by all persons at the meeting location, the remotely participating member shall no longer be permitted to participate remotely.

4. PROCESS TO REQUEST REMOTE PARTICIPATION

DRAFT

- a. On or before the day of the meeting, and at any point before the meeting begins, the requesting member must notify the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee Chair (or the Vice-Chair if the requesting member is the Chair) that they are unable to physically attend a meeting due to (i) a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance, (ii) a family member's medical condition that requires the member to provide care for such family member, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance, (iii) their principal residence location more than 60 miles from the meeting location, or (iv) a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter.
- b. The requesting member shall also notify the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee staff liaison of their request, but their failure to do so shall not affect their ability to remotely participate.
- c. If the requesting member is unable to physically attend the meeting due to a personal matter, the requesting member must state with specificity the nature of the personal matter. Remote participation due to a personal matter is limited each calendar year to two meetings or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. There is no limit to the number of times that a member may participate remotely for the other authorized purposes listed in (i)— (iii) above.
- d. The requesting member is not obligated to provide independent verification regarding the reason for their nonattendance, including the temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition or the family member's medical condition that prevents their physical attendance at the meeting.
- e. The Chair (or the Vice-Chair if the requesting member is the Chair) shall promptly notify the requesting member whether their request is in conformance with this policy, and therefore approved or disapproved.

5. PROCESS TO CONFIRM APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF PARTICIPATION FROM A REMOTE LOCATION

When a quorum of the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee has assembled for the meeting, the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee shall vote to determine whether:

- a. The Chair's decision to approve or disapprove the requesting member's request to participate from a remote location was in conformance with this policy, and
- b. The voice of the remotely participating member can be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.

6. RECORDING IN MINUTES

a. If the member is allowed to participate remotely due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition, a family member's medical condition that requires the member to provide care to the family member, or because their principal residence is located more than 60 miles from the meeting location the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee shall record in its minutes (1) the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee's approval of the member's remote participation; and (2) a general description of the remote location from which the member participated.

DRAFT

- b. If the member is allowed to participate remotely due to a personal matter, such matter shall be cited in the minutes with specificity, as well as how many times the member has attended remotely due to a personal matter, and a general description of the remote location from which the member participated.
- c. If a member's request to participate remotely is disapproved, the disapproval, including the grounds upon which the requested participation violates this policy or VFOIA, shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

7. CLOSED SESSION

If the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee goes into closed session, the member participating remotely shall ensure that no third party is able to hear or otherwise observe the closed meeting.

8. STRICT AND UNIFORM APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY

This Policy shall be applied strictly and uniformly, without exception, to the entire membership, and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting. The Chair (or Vice-Chair) shall maintain the member's written request to participate remotely and the written response for a period of one year, or other such time required by records retention laws, regulations, and policies.

2024 Legislation Child Welfare Bills

Bill Number	Patron(s)	Topic	Summary	Status
HB27	Katrina Callsen	Kinship as Foster Care Prevention Program; Established	Establishes the Kinship as Foster Care Prevention Program to promote and support placements of children with relatives by local boards of social services in order to avoid foster care. The bill provides that a child is eligible to participate in the Program if the local board determines that (i) the child is at imminent risk of being removed from his home and a preliminary protective order is insufficient to address the child's immediate safety concerns and (ii) the child's parent or guardian consents to the placement of the child with a relative pursuant to an agreement with the local board developed in accordance with the provisions of the bill.	12/18/23 House: Prefilled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24103039D 12/18/23 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services 01/18/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with substitute (8-Y 0-N) 01/18/24 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee on Appropriations 01/23/24 House: Reported from Health and Human Services with substitute (21-Y 1-N) 01/23/24 House: Committee substitute printed 24106095D-H1 01/23/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations 01/23/24 House: Referred to Committee on Appropriations 01/23/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting (8-Y 0-N) 02/02/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting (8-Y 0-N) 02/05/24 House: Reported from Appropriations (21-Y 0-N) 02/08/24 House: Read first time 02/08/24 House: Read first time 02/08/24 House: Committee substitute agreed to 24106095D-H1 02/08/24 House: Read second time 02/08/24 House: Read third time and passed House (96-Y 0-N) 02/09/24 House: Read third time and passed House (96-Y 0-N) 02/10/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed 02/12/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services 02/16/24 Senate: Referred to Finance and Appropriations 02/29/24 Senate: Referred to Finance and Appropriations 02/29/24 Senate: Reported from Rehabilitation and Social Services (12-Y 0-N) 03/05/24 Senate: Reported from Finance and Appropriations 03/05/24 Senate: Reported from Finance and Appropriations 03/05/24 Senate: Reported from Finance and Appropriations 03/05/24 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 03/05/24 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 03/05/24 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 03/05/24 Senate: Signed by President 03/25/24 House: Enrolled 03/25/24 House: Enrolled Bill communicated to Governor on March 27, 2024 03/25/24 House: Signed by Governor-Chapter 629 (effective 7/1/24)
<u>HB140</u>	David Reid	Adoption; award of damages, death by wrongful act	Provides that, in a case for death by wrongful act, the child of a decedent who has been adopted after the death of such decedent shall be included in the class of beneficiaries entitled to an award of damages resulting from such case, provided that a court had not previously terminated the parental rights of such decedent.	01/02/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24100045D 01/02/24 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice 01/19/24 House: Assigned Courts sub: Civil 01/22/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with amendments (7-Y 0-N) 01/26/24 House: Reported from Courts of Justice with amendment(s) (21-Y 0-N) 01/26/24 House: Reported from Courts of Justice with amendment(s) (21-Y 0-N) 01/26/24 House: Reported from Health and Human Services 02/01/24 House: Read first time 02/06/24 House: Read second time 02/06/24 House: Committee amendments agreed to 02/06/24 House: Engrossed by House as amended HB140E 02/06/24 House: Printed as engrossed 24100045D-E 02/06/24 House: Printed as engrossed 24100045D-E 02/07/24 House: VOTE: Block Vote Passage (100-Y 0-N) 02/07/24 House: VOTE: Block Vote Passage (100-Y 0-N) 02/07/24 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice 02/18/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice 02/18/24 Senate: Reported from Courts of Justice (11-Y 0-N) 02/20/24 Senate: Read third time 02/21/24 Senate: Read third time 02/21/24 Senate: Read third time 02/21/24 House: Enrolled 02/27/24 House: Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB140ER) 02/27/24 House: Signed by President 03/01/24 Senate: Signed by President 03/11/24 Governor: Sovernor's Action Deadline 11:59 p.m., April 8, 2024 03/11/24 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 69 (effective 7/1/24)

F	B317	Debra Gardner	Office of the Children's Ombudsman; children's	Authorizes the Office of the Children's Ombudsman to request that the Department of Social Services, local department of social services, a children's residential facility, or a child-placing agency grant access and provide consent to interview children in foster care who are the subject of or the complainant in an investigation or. The bill also contains technical amendments.	02/07/24 House: VOTE: Block Vote Passage (100-Y 0-N)
Ŀ		Shelly Simonds	Human trafficking response teams	Requires attorneys for the Commonwealth to establish multidisciplinary human trafficking response teams. The bill provides that each team shall hold a meeting, at least annually, to (i) discuss implementation of protocols and policies; (ii) establish and review guidelines for the community's response to various forms of human trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking; and (iii) review protocols for the trauma-informed, victim-centered collection, preservation, and secure storage of evidence from physical evidence recovery kit examinations. The bill also provides that the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) shall not apply to human trafficking response teams, with certain exceptions.	01/09/24 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24104836D 01/09/24 House: Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns 01/23/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with amendments (8-Y 0-N) 01/26/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with amendments (3-Y 0-N) 01/26/24 House: Subcommittee recommends referring to Committee for Courts of Justice 01/26/24 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice 01/30/24 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice 01/30/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with amendments (8-Y 0-N) 01/26/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with amendments (8-Y 0-N) 01/20/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with amendments (8-Y 0-N) 02/07/24 House: Committee on Courts of Justice with amendment agreed to 02/12/24 House: Committee on Courts of Justice amendment agreed to 02/12/24 House: Engrossed by House as amended HB581E 02/12/24 House: Printed as engrossed 24104836D-E 02/13/24 House: Printed as engrossed 24104836D-E 02/13/24 House: VOTE: Block Vote Passage (99-Y 0-N) 02/14/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed 02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice 02/26/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice 02/26/24 Senate: Reforted from Courts of Justice with amendment (14-Y 0-N) 02/27/24 Senate: Resorted from Courts of Justice with amendment (14-Y 0-N) 02/27/24 Senate: Resorted from Courts of Justice with amendment (14-Y 0-N) 02/27/24 Senate: Read inird time 02/28/24 Senate: Read inird time 02/28/24 Senate: Reading of amendment waived 02/28/24 Senate: Engrossed by Senate as amended 02/28/24 Senate: Engrossed by Senate as amended 02/28/24 Senate: Engrossed by Senate as amended 03/01/24 House: Enrolled 03/01/24 House: Signed by Senate as amended 03/01/24 House: Senate amendment agreed to by House (96-Y 0-N) 03/01/24 House: Signed by Senate as amended 03/07/24 House: Signed by Senate as amended 03/07/24 House: Signed by Senate Signed by President 03/11/24 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 366 (

HB893	Adele Y. McClure	Standards for attorneys appointed to represent parents or guardians; child dependency cases; compensation; Virginia Parent Advocacy Commission established	Requires the Judicial Council of Virginia, in conjunction with the Virginia State Bar, on or before June 30, 2025, to adopt standards for the qualification and performance of attorneys appointed to represent a parent or guardian of a child when such child is the subject of a child dependency case, as defined in the bill. The bill also requires the Judicial Council of Virginia, beginning July 1, 2025, to maintain a list of attorneys admitted to practice law in Virginia who are qualified to be appointed to represent indigent parents involved in a child dependency case. The bill also requires the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, in conjunction with the Virginia State Bar and the Office of the Children's Ombudsman, on or before June 30, 2025, to develop initial qualifying educational programs on the standards of practice for attorneys representing parents and guardians of a child who is the subject of a child dependency case and educational programs for judges, guardians ad litem, and agency attorneys regarding such standards for qualification and practice. The bill provides that an attorney appointed by the court to represent a parent, guardian, or other adult in a child dependency case shall be compensated pursuant to existing law governing compensation of court-appointed counsel. Additionally, the bill provides that counsel appointed by the court to represent a parent in the appeal of a termination of his parental rights in the Court of Appeals shall be compensated in the same manner as counsel appointed to represent a defendant who is appealing a felony conviction. The bill also establishes the Virginia Parent Advocacy Commission and enumerates the Commission's powers, duties, and membership.	02/28/24 Senate: Reported from Finance and Appropriations with amendments (15-Y 0-N) 02/29/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (39-Y 0-N) 03/01/24 Senate: Engrossed by Senate as amended 03/01/24 Senate: Passed Senate with amendments (40-Y 0-N) 03/04/24 House: Senate amendments rejected by House (3-Y 93-N) 03/05/24 Senate: Senate insisted on amendments (40-Y 0-N) 03/05/24 Senate: Senate insisted on amendments (40-Y 0-N) 03/05/24 Senate: Senate requested conference committee 03/06/24 House: House acceded to request
HB1128	Elizabeth Bennett- Parker	Children's advocacy centers; definitions; investigations by local departments of social services.	Replaces the term "child advocacy center" with "children's advocacy center" and defines such term. The bill provides that if during the course of an investigation of child abuse by a local department of social services a local multidisciplinary team determines that an interview of the child by a children's advocacy center is needed and such interview cannot be completed within the jurisdiction within 14 days, the local department of social services may facilitate the interview with another trained child forensic interviewer. The bill also provides that if it is determined during a human trafficking assessment that a forensic interview of the child is needed, such interview may be conducted by a children's advocacy center within the jurisdiction; however, if the interview cannot be completed within 14 days, the forensic interview may be conducted by a children's advocacy center located in another jurisdiction or another trained child forensic interviewer.	02/05/24 House: Read third time and passed House (97-Y 0-N) 02/05/24 House: VOTE: Passage (97-Y 0-N) 02/06/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed 02/06/24 Senate: Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services 02/16/24 Senate: Reported from Rehabilitation and Social Services (12-Y 0-N) 02/19/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (38-Y 0-N)

HR1547	Candi Mundon King	Child abuse and neglect; mandatory reporters; statute of limitations; penalties	A prosecution for any misdemeanor violation of § 63.2-1509 shall be commenced within one year of the discovery of the offense. Any person required to file a report pursuant to this section who fails to do so as soon as possible, but not longer than 24 hours after having reason to suspect a reportable offense of child abuse or neglect, shall be fined not more than \$500 for the first failure and for any subsequent failures not less than \$1,000. In cases evidencing acts or attempted acts of rape, sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, or object sexual penetration as defined in Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, a person who knowingly and intentionally fails to make the report required pursuant to this section shall be is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.	01/19/24 House: Presented and ordered printed 24105852D 01/19/24 House: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice 01/30/24 House: Assigned Courts sub: Criminal 02/02/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services 02/02/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with substitute (8-Y 0-N) 02/08/24 House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with substitute (22-Y 0-N) 02/08/24 House: Incorporates HB449 (Obenshain) 02/08/24 House: Committee substitute printed 24107285D-H1 02/102/24 House: Committee substitute agreed to 24107285D-H1 02/12/24 House: Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB1542H1 02/13/24 House: Committee substitute agreed to 24107285D-H1 02/13/24 House: Committee substitute agreed to 24107285D-H1 02/13/24 House: Constitutional reading dispensed BLOCK VOTE (99-Y 0-N) 02/13/24 House: COTE: Block Vote Passage (99-Y 0-N) 02/14/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed 02/14/24 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice 02/14/24 Senate: Reported from Courts of Justice (14-Y 0-N 1-A) 03/01/24 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 03/05/24 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 03/05/24 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 03/05/24 Senate: Passed by for the day 03/06/24 Senate: Read third time 03/06/24 Senate: Read third time 03/06/24 Senate: Read third time 03/06/24 Senate: Substitute printed 24108920D-S1 (Surovell) 03/06/24 Senate: Substitute by Senator Surovell agreed to 24108920D-S1 03/06/24 Senate: Engrossed by Senate - floor substitute HB1542S1 03/06/24 Senate: Engrossed by Senate - floor substitute HB1542S1 03/06/24 Senate: Engrossed by Senate - floor substitute HB1542ER) 03/06/24 House: Senate substitute agreed to by House 24108920D-S1 (98-Y 0-N) 03/07/24 House: Senate substitute agreed to by House 24108920D-S1 (98-Y 0-N) 03/07/24 House: Senate substitute agreed to by House 24108920D-S1 (98-Y 0-N) 03/07/24 House: Signed by President 03/25/24 House: Signed by Speaker 03/25/24 House: Signed by Speaker 03/25/24 House: Signed by Senate- floor substitute HB1542ER) 03/25/24 House: Signed by
SB-12	Barbara A.	Children's Advoccy Center: definitions, investigations by local departments of social services	Replaces the term "child advocacy center" with "children's advocacy center" and defines such term. The bill provides that if during the course of an investigation of child abuse by a local department of social services a local multidisciplinary team determines that an interview of the child by a children's advocacy center is needed and such interview cannot be completed within the jurisdiction within 14 days, the local department of social services may facilitate the interview with another trained child forensic interviewer. The bill also provides that if it is determined during a human trafficking assessment that a forensic interview of the child is needed, such interview may be conducted by a children's advocacy center within the jurisdiction; however, if the interview cannot be completed within 14 days, the forensic interview may be conducted by a children's advocacy center located in another jurisdiction or another trained child forensic interviewer.	02/13/24 House: Placed on Calendar 02/13/24 House: Read first time 02/13/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services 02/15/24 House: Reported from Health and Human Services (22-Y 0-N) 02/19/24 House: Read second time 02/20/24 House: Read third time

<u>SB39</u>	Harnara	Kinship as Foster Care prevention program: Established	Establishes the Kinship as Foster Care Prevention Program to promote and support placements of children with relatives by local boards of social services in order to avoid foster care. The bill provides that a child is eligible to participate in the Program if the local board determines that (i) the child is at imminent risk of being removed from his home and a preliminary protective order is insufficient to address the child's immediate safety concerns and (ii) the child's parent or guardian consents to the placement of the child with a relative pursuant to an agreement with the local board developed in accordance with the provisions of the bill.	12/18/23 Senate: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/10/24 24101422D 12/18/23 Senate: Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services 01/19/24 Senate: Reported from Rehabilitation and Social Services with substitute (15-Y 0-N) 01/19/24 Senate: Committee substitute printed 24105803D-S1 01/19/24 Senate: Incorporates SB162 (McDougle) 01/19/24 Senate: Incorporates SB467 (Obenshain) 01/19/24 Senate: Reported from Finance and Appropriations 02/08/24 Senate: Reported from Finance and Appropriations 02/08/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (39-Y 0-N) 02/12/24 Senate: Read second time 02/12/24 Senate: Reading of substitute waived 02/12/24 Senate: Committee substitute waived 02/12/24 Senate: Engrossed by Senate - committee substitute SB39S1 02/12/24 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (40-Y 0-N) 02/12/24 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 02/12/24 Senate: Passed Senate (40-Y 0-N) 02/12/24 House: Paced on Calendar 02/15/24 House: Read first time 02/15/24 House: Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services 02/20/24 House: Read second time 02/12/24 House: Read second time 02/23/24 House: Read second time 02/23/24 House: Passed House BLOCK VOTE (98-Y 0-N) 02/23/24 House: Passed House BLOCK VOTE (98-Y 0-N) 02/23/24 House: Passed House BLOCK VOTE (98-Y 0-N) 02/28/24 Senate: Enrolled 02/28/24 Senate: Signed by Speaker 03/02/24 Senate: Signed by Speaker 03/02/24 Senate: Signed by President 03/11/24 Senate: Enrolled Bill Communicated to Governor on March 11, 2024 03/11/24 Senate: Enrolled Bill Communicated to Governor on March 11, 2024 03/11/24 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 662 (effective - see bill)+A1:E11
-------------	---------	--	---	---