

FINAL

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

April 29, 2016

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children’s Justice Act programs was held on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the Richmond Police Training Academy, Richmond, Virginia. Because no quorum was present, the committee had informal discussion only.

Members Present

Jane Lissenden (Court Improvement Program)
Rita Katzman
Jim Pope
Eric Reynolds
Viola Vaughan-Eden

Members Not Present

Julia Fuller-Wilson
Robin Foster
Donna Gilles
Malcolm King
Alicia Lenahan
Kirk Marlowe
Robin Morgan
Nancy Oglesby
Pat Popp
Frederick Rockwell*

*Special Advisor for CJA

Staff Present

Laurel Marks
Melissa O’ Neill
Mary Wilson
Carey Natoli

Special Guests

Laura Polk, Virginia Department of Social Services

Deborah Eves, Virginia Department of Social Services

- I. **Call to Order:** Viola Vaughan-Eden, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM without a quorum of members present. Attendees introduced themselves.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Without a quorum of membership present, the approval of minutes will be delayed until the next meeting.
- III. **Appointment of Nominations Committee:** Jim Pope and Rita Katzman agreed to serve on the nominations committee for appointment of committee leadership for the upcoming year.
- IV. **Legislative Review and Discussion:** The committee received an updated spreadsheet tracking various bills of interest that passed during the current General Assembly Session.
- V. **CJA Program Update:** The committee was previously provided with a written update regarding the Children's Justice Act program. Members received an updated three-year plan prior to the meeting. The plan was reviewed and discussed during the meeting. Mary Wilson asked for volunteers to participate in a workgroup to create a survey to assess the development of MDT's since the implementation of the new law in preparation for the upcoming three year planning process.
- VI. **Citizen Review Panel:** Rita Katzman invited Laura Polk and Deborah Eves from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to provide the committee with updates on the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and the Annual Progress and Services Report. Members were provided with information on the upcoming CFSR and potential opportunities for involvement. VDSS will be recruiting partner agency stakeholders to assist in case reviews during the on-site visits. Committee members may select to participate as case reviewers.
- VII. **CASA Program Update:** The committee was supplied a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. Melissa O'Neill highlighted the increases in funding for CASA programs from the Virginia General Assembly and Victims of Crime Act federal funds. Additionally, Melissa noted the 2016 Statewide CASA conference dates have been set for November 18 and 19 and will be held at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel.
- VIII. **New Business:** none
- IX. **Adjourn:** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.