

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
STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

November 9 & 10, 2016

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held on November 9 and 10, 2016 at the Virginia Department of Social Services' Central Regional Office, Richmond, Virginia. This was the Committee's strategic planning meeting.

Members Present

Robin Foster
Hum Cardounel, Jr. **
Julia Fuller-Wilson
Allison Gilbreath
Donna Gilles
Alicia Lenahan
Nancy Oglesby
Jim Pope *
Pat Popp
Eric Reynolds
Viola Vaughan-Eden
Mary Walter for Rita Katzman
Ellen White

Members Not Present

Frederick Rockwell
Robin Morgan
Malcolm King

** attended first day only

* attended second day only

Staff Present

Laurel Marks
Melissa O' Neill
Mary Wilson
Quasean McLeod, Intern
Chrissy Wengloski, Intern

Special Guests

Sandy Karison and Jane Lissenden - Court Improvement Program
Alli Ayres - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Avni Sharma, MD - VCU Pediatric Fellow

- I. **Wednesday, November 9, 2016 Call to Order:** Viola Vaughan-Eden, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM. Attendees introduced themselves and reviewed the meeting materials.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Upon a motion by Alicia Lenahan and seconded by Nancy Oglesby, the committee unanimously approved the minutes of July 29, 2016.
- III. **Approval of By-Laws:** Upon a motion by Alicia Lenahan and seconded by Julia Fuller-Wilson, the changes to the by-laws were approved.
- IV. **CASA Program Update:** Melissa O'Neill highlighted VOCA funding for CASA. Additionally, Melissa noted that over 300 participants are planning to attend the 2016 Statewide CASA conference set for November 18 and 19 at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel. Committee members are invited guests to the conference and several committee members are included as conference presenters.
- V. **CJA Program Update:** Mary Wilson updated the committee on the planning for the DCJS conference *Intersection of Violence: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse* which is now set for April 12 – 14, 2017 at the Norfolk Marriott. Committee members will be invited to attend.

Mary Wilson provided the committee with an overview of CJA Three Year Assessment requirements and structure for this strategic planning meeting. The committee received the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Team Survey Report and discussed the results for consideration as part of the three year assessment.

- VI. **State Child Fatality Review Team Data:** Alli Ayres, State Child Fatality Review Team Coordinator with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, presented data and preliminary recommendations from the fatality team's review of child poisoning deaths. The committee discussed risk factors distinct for young children versus those for teens.
- VII. **Citizen Review Panel:** Mary Walter, CPS Policy Specialist with the Virginia Department of Social Services, indicated that she will be taking Rita Katzman's position on the committee as the VDSS representative as Ms. Katzman will be retiring at the end of the year. Ms. Walter presented a comprehensive overview of initiatives and policies implemented in CPS and child welfare in Virginia over the past three years which included: code and regulatory changes; implementation of Structured Decision Making in CPS ongoing cases; regional child fatality teams; CPS trainings updated; updates to CPS out of family investigations; and reviewing substance exposed infant (SEI) practices. Additionally, in the next year or so VDSS will continue to develop a multidisciplinary response for plans of safe care for SEI, child fatality prevention, and enhancements to the state CPS hotline.

- VIII. Presentations by Committee Members:** Committee members presented and discussed strengths, concerns, needs and ideas around improving the state's investigative, administrative and judicial handling of child maltreatment cases. Each committee member offered input from his/her area of expertise and/or those of constituent groups with which they identify.
- IX. Adjourn:** The first day of the strategic planning meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM on November 9, 2016.
- X. Thursday, November 10, 2016 Call to Order:** Vice-Chair, Julia Fuller-Wilson, called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. DCJS staff facilitated a discussion to summarize themes from the previous day.
- XI. Presentations by Committee Members Cont.:** Committee members continued discussion including an overview of the Court Improvement Program from Sandy Karison, new CIP Director. The committee requested information on Child Advocacy Centers in Virginia. DCJS staff will request a presentation from Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia at the next meeting.
- IV. Identification of Priorities for Recommendations for Next Three Year Plan:** In the interest of time, the Committee identified some common themes from their discussion over the past two days. Ideas included concerted efforts around collaboration in investigations, advanced education for child abuse professionals, child abuse recognition for medical professionals, safety planning, and identifying opportunities for collaboration with CIP to name a few. DCJS staff will draft recommendations for the committee's review at the next meeting.
- XII. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.
Next meeting dates:
- January 27, 2017
 - April 28, 2017
 - July 28, 2017