

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

January 29, 2016

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children’s Justice Act programs was held on Friday, January 29, 2016 at the Richmond Police Training Academy, Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present

Julia Fuller-Wilson
Donna Gilles
Rita Katzman
Lelia Hopper
Malcolm King
Alicia Lenahan
Robin Morgan
Nancy Oglesby
Jim Pope
Pat Popp

Members Not Present

Robin Foster
Kirk Marlowe
Eric Reynolds
Frederick Rockwell*
Viola Vaughan-Eden

*Special Advisor for CJA

Staff Present

Melissa O’ Neill
Mary Wilson
Carey Natoli

- I. **Call to Order:** Julia Fuller-Wilson, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM with a quorum of members present. Attendees introduced themselves.

- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Upon a motion by Robin Morgan and seconded by Nancy Oglesby, the committee unanimously approved the minutes of October 30, 2015.
- III. **Conflict of Interest Training and Financial Disclosure Forms Update:** Melissa O'Neill thanked the members for their patience as the administration verifies completion of Conflict of Interest Training. Several members noted that there is no confirmation email or certificate to print upon successful completion of the online training module. Melissa reminded the members that the financial disclosure forms are separate and will be sent directly to the members annually.
- IV. **Legislative Review and Discussion:** The committee received an updated spreadsheet tracking various bills of interest introduced during the current General Assembly Session. Members discussed several bills and by consensus supported a select few.
- V. **CJA Program Update:** The committee was previously provided with a written update regarding the Children's Justice Act program. Mary Wilson directed the committee's attention to a variety of accomplishments and trainings during the last quarter and discussed the updates to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act that impact CJA. Julia Fuller-Wilson highlighted the Intersection of Violence and Child Abuse conference planned for late September and solicited ideas from the members for potential presentations such as trauma and victims with disabilities.
- VI. **Citizen Review Panel:** Rita Katzman led a discussion on specific bills regarding child welfare and child abuse that are before the General Assembly this Session.
- VII. **CASA Program Update:** The committee was supplied a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. Melissa O'Neill highlighted the network's Vision Planning Sessions for strategic planning. Additionally, Melissa indicated that local CASA programs will be receiving VOCA funds allocated by formula starting in 2017 to be administered by DCJS. The Governor also included an increase for CASA programs in his proposed budget. Carey Natoli, MSW Intern, apprised the committee of the results of the CASA conference survey. Results indicated most volunteers did not know about the conference. Committee members provided input for ideas to increase awareness of the conference and development of a marketing strategy to increase volunteer attendance.
- VIII. **New Business:** none
- IX. **Adjourn:** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.