

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

April 27, 2018

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held on Friday, January 26, 2018 at the Richmond Police Training Academy, Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present

Hum Cardounel, Jr.
Molly Dellinger-Wray
Sandy Karison
Pat Popp, Chair
Eric Reynolds
Ellen White

Staff Present

Bianca Casper (VCU Intern, DCJS)
Laurel Marks (DCJS)
Melissa O'Neill (DCJS)
Lynn Sivels (DCJS)

Members Not Present

Robin Foster
Julia Fuller-Wilson, Vice Chair
Allison Gilbreath
Allison Jackson
Malcolm King
Alicia Lenahan
Robin Morgan
Nancy Oglesby
Frederick Rockwell III
Chris Spain

- I. **Call to Order:** Patricia Popp, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Attendees introduced themselves.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The committee received and reviewed the draft minutes of the January 26, 2018 meeting. Due to lack of a quorum, approval of the draft minutes was deferred to the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- III. **Election of Officers:** Col. Humberto Cardounel reported that he, and fellow Nominating Committee member, Christopher Spain, identified two nominees for election to the offices of committee chair and vice-chair. Current Chair, Patricia Popp, accepted the nomination to serve a consecutive term as chair, as did Julia Fuller-Wilson, as vice-chair. Both offices now have two-year terms in accordance with the bylaw changes adopted at the January 26, 2018 meeting. Election of officers was deferred to the next regularly scheduled meeting due to lack of a quorum.

- IV. Legislative Review:** DCJS staff compiled and distributed to the committee an updated list of bills and resolutions impacting child abuse and neglect introduced during the General Assembly session, which convened January 10, 2018. The committee participated in a discussion of the bills and resolutions presented on the list, and additionally, House Bill 1219, which will require the court to inquire under certain circumstances if a child has expressed a preference for the restoration of previously terminated parental rights.
- V. Citizen Review Panel:** Melissa O'Neill provided a brief description of the role of citizen review panels, as outlined in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The CASA/CJA Advisory Committee is one of three Citizen Review panels in Virginia and serves to advise the Virginia Department of Social Services in the following areas:
- a. Make recommendations to improve the child protection services system in Virginia at the state and local levels.
 - b. Develop a summary report of recommendations for submittal to the Virginia Department of Social Services.
 - c. Review follow-up reports that detail the responses and the outcomes of the recommendations as initiated and implemented.

Ms. O'Neill distributed a list of proposed recommendations to the committee developed through input and suggestions made by the committee throughout the course of its previous meetings. The committee discussed the purpose and the anticipated impact of each recommendation presented.

- VI. CJA Program Update:** The committee was previously provided a written update on the Children's Justice Act Program. Laurel Marks, Juvenile Services Manager, DCJS, briefed the committee on how the Program's staffing needs will be met in the absence of a designated staff person. She also mentioned that she will be serving as the CJA program coordinator for the purposes of the Children's Bureau.
- VII. CASA Program Update:** The committee was previously provided a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. Bianca Casper presented the findings of a study introduced to the committee at its January 26, 2018 meeting, related to cross-over youth. She reported that the study surveyed the features of cross-over youth in general, and specifically, the impact of victimization on CASA served cross-over youth. She presented the details of each finding and fielded questions and comments from the committee.

Melissa O'Neill continued the CASA program updates and provided overviews of the ongoing CASA standards reviews being conducted at the National and local levels, and briefed the committee on initiatives underway by the State Leadership Team. She also reported on DCJS' upcoming on-site visits to CASA programs throughout the state, and reported the Program's completion of desk audits of Virginia's 27 CASA programs.

VIII. Adjourn: There being no further business to discuss, and no quorum present, the meeting was adjourned by Patricia Popp at 11:58 a.m.

Next meeting date: July 27, 2018