

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

November 9, 2018

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held on Friday, November 9, 2018 at the Richmond Police Training Academy, Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present

Pat Popp, Chair
Julia Fuller-Wilson, Vice Chair
Malcolm King
Allison Gilbreath
Molly Dellinger-Wray
Alicia Lenahan
Humberto Cardounel, Jr.
Robin Morgan

Members Not Present

Robin Foster
Allison Jackson
Frederick Rockwell III
Sandy Karison
Eric Reynolds

Staff Present

Laurel Marks (DCJS)
Melissa O'Neill (DCJS)
Jenna Foster (DCJS)
Alana Ama (DCJS Intern)

Guests

Shannon Hartung (VDSS)
Nicole Shipp (VDSS)

- I. **Call to Order:** Pat Popp, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM. Attendees introduced themselves.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The committee received and reviewed the draft minutes of the July 28, 2018, April 27, 2018, and the January 26, 2018 meetings. Upon a motion by Molly Dellinger-Wray, and seconded by Alicia Lenahan, the committee unanimously approved all sets of minutes.
- III. **Conflict of Interest Training Instructions.** Melissa O'Neill briefed the committee on the timelines and requirements for the annual financial disclosure forms that are due in January and the conflict of interest training which must be completed every two years.

- IV. **Update from CJA Annual Meeting (Pat Popp/Laurel Marks).** The CJA grantees meeting was held in July in Washington, D.C. and attended by DCJS Juvenile Services Section Manager, Laurel Marks and CASA/CJA Advisory Committee Chair, Pat Popp. Information regarding how other states administer CJA funds and provide leadership of the program was shared with the committee. Discussion regarding the use of increased VOCA funding to states and collaborative projects were among the topics shared during the meeting. An emphasis on the prohibition of the use of VOCA and CJA funds for prevention services was addressed. Some states are using funds for model multi-disciplinary teams, trauma informed care practices, and secondary trauma services.
- V. **CJA Program Update.** The committee was previously provided a written update regarding the Children’s Justice Act Program. Jenna Foster was introduced as the newly hired CJA Coordinator. She provided supplemental information to the CJA report provided to the committee. DCJS is finalizing a Request for Proposals to create a model policy and protocol for law enforcement investigations of child deaths. The committee suggested to include local practitioners in the process including any possible distribution of the policy or protocol.
- VI. **CASA Program Update.** The committee was previously provided a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. Melissa O’Neill reported one expansion grant proposal was received and will be reviewed for recommendation of funding to the Criminal Justice Services Board at the December 6, 2018 meeting. The committee was made aware of the progress of the State Leadership Team and the anticipated finalization of the strategic plan by the end of the calendar year. This plan will be shared with the Advisory Committee upon completion.

The committee was briefed on an issue raised by a dilemma created by language added to the National CASA Core Model released on September 27, 2018. The added language was in conflict with the *Code of Virginia* and places Virginia CASA programs at odds with National CASA standards compliance. DCJS has negotiated a waiver and Virginia CASA programs should be able to proceed with the membership process. The committee will be kept informed.

- VII. **Citizen Review Panel.** Shannon Hartung, Child Protective Services Program Manager and Nicole Shipp, Child Protective Services Policy Specialist from the Virginia Department of Social Services provided responses to the recommendations and concerns identified by the committee as part of the CAPTA discussion. The following recommendations and concerns were identified by the committee: child sex trafficking, diversion study and practices, structured decision making, substance exposed infants, children with disabilities. A written response will be provided to committee members.
- VIII. **New Business:** The committee provided input regarding funding for treatment of victims of child abuse and neglect during the April meeting. Additional information about needs was gathered from additional stakeholders by survey; results are pending. A cursory review indicates the top seven top priorities for children and youth services include

creating and expanding Child Advocacy Centers (CAC), mental health services, children's domestic violence and sexual violence services, intervention services in schools, teen and youth programming, technology and case management systems, and a designated children's services space.

IX. **Adjourn:** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Pat Popp at 12:03 p.m.

Next meeting dates:

- January 25, 2019
- May 10, 2019
- August 9, 2019