

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

October 28, 2022

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held on October 28, 2022 at St. Joseph's Villa in Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present

Randy Bonds  
Kim Barbarji  
Eugene Butler  
Shamika Byars  
Shardell Gerald  
Shannon Hartung  
Katharine Hunter  
Judge Jerrauld Jones  
Sandy Karison  
Jeannine Panzera  
Giselle Pelaez  
Eric Reynolds  
Judge Thomas Sotelo, Chair

Members Not Present

Regina Baker  
Jackie Robinson Brock  
Allison Gilbreath  
Pat Popp  
Ashley Thompson

Guests

Angela Alvernaz, DCJS  
McKayla Burnett DCJS  
Cayla Morris, VDSS  
Lora Smith, VDSS

Staff Present

Jenna Foster (DCJS)  
Melissa O'Neill (DCJS)  
Terry Willie-Surratt (DCJS)

- I. **Call to Order:** Judge Thomas Sotelo, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Members introduced themselves.
  
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The committee received and reviewed the draft minutes of the July 22, 2022 meeting. Giselle Pelaez made a motion to approve the minutes. Shannon Hartung provided a second. The motion was approved.

### **III. Overview of Three-Year Plan Requirements**

The CASA/CJA Advisory Committee met to prepare the 2024-2027 Three-Year plan for the Children's Justice Act. Jenna Foster, DCJS Children's Justice Act Program Coordinator, provided committee members with an overview of the purpose of the federal requirements for consideration when developing recommendations.

### **IV. State of the Commonwealth Presentations – Current Initiatives**

Committee members heard presentations on the following topics:

- Human Trafficking Response – Angela Alvernaz, DCJS State Trafficking Response Coordinator
- Virginia Department of Social Services – Shannon Hartung, Protection Program Manager, Virginia Department of Social Services
- Office of the Children's Ombudsman – Eric Reynolds, Director
- Safe and Sound Task Force – Eric Reynolds, Director, Office of the Children's Ombudsman
- Law Enforcement Response to Child Abuse – Lieutenant Randy Bonds, Christiansburg Police Department

### **V. Review of Feedback from Current Recommendations**

Jenna Foster prepared a summary of the feedback provided from committee members during meetings held the previous year where the current plan recommendations were reviewed and evaluated.

### **VI. Development of 2024-27 Three Year Plan Recommendations**

Committee members incorporated information from the previous discussions held throughout the year and from the presentations during the meeting to formulate new recommendations. Members worked in teams to determine general themes for updated recommendations.

The following topic areas were identified as priorities for inclusion in the final recommendations: Multi-Disciplinary Teams; best practices; policy; CASA programs; multi-systems training; and diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging. DCJS will develop recommendations based on the information provided during the discussions and provide a draft of these recommendations to the Committee for review at the January 27, 2023 meeting.

### **VII. Adjourn** –The meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM.

Next meeting dates:

Friday, January 27, 2023 (this meeting will be held virtually)

Friday, April 28, 2023

Friday, July 28, 2023