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# CASA Newsletter

A Better Life for Every Child

August 2014

## DCFS Hotline basics:

All of the CASAs are mandated reporters and sometimes things can get confusing when DCFS uses terminology or timelines that we are not familiar with. Here is a rundown of how a hotline call works.

First a mandated reporter, such as a CASA, will call the hotline number, 1-800-25-ABUSE to report concerns of abuse occurring in a child's home.

The call is picked up by the State Central Registry (SCR) Staff in Springfield, IL. That person answering the call determines if the situation that is being reported meets any of the allegation requirements through DCFS. If the incident meets the requirements than the SCR staff person creates a ticket and all the information about the incident and persons involved is sent to the local county DCFS office.

The information is now considered an open investigation and is handed off to an investigator. This DCFS investigator has 24 hours from the time the investigation is received at the local office to make contact with the child/family. An investigation can only be open for 60 days, so the investigator makes every attempt to see the child/family as soon as possible. At the end of the investigation there will be a finding of unfounded or indicated. If a CASA was the reporter of the abuse then the CASA will receive a letter by mail from DCFS letting them know the outcome of the investigation.

Sometimes when a mandated reporter calls the hotline and the incident or concern that is being reported does not rise to the level of abuse/neglect and there is an open foster care case, the SCR staff per-

son will pass on a related information report. This report is not sent to a DCFS investigator, but is sent on to the DCFS or private agency placement worker to review.

There are also times when the situation or incident is not considered abuse/neglect and there is no related information passed on. This means that there is no investigation or staff looking into the concern.

A lot of times CASA has called in a concern about one of our CASA foster children and believed that an investigation was started when really it was only sent to the case worker. The SCR personnel should be able to clarify if it was taken as an investigation or as related information only. Hopefully this helps give a better understanding of how a hotline call is handled.

## From the CASA Office:

Greetings!

August is upon us already. Where has this summer gone? We seem to be gearing up for the school year to begin in a few weeks. The first day of school gives me excited thoughts of seeing friends you haven't seen over the summer, meeting new teachers, and the all important: what am I going to wear on the first day of school?!

There are many needs of young people during this time, including school supplies, backpacks, and uniforms. This can be very

overwhelming for parents to handle, with so many of these items being so expensive. Thankfully, there are many programs throughout the area that are collecting for our young people so that families are not overburdened in this capacity. The CASA Office has a list of programs if you would like to refer your families to them.

I want to give a huge **THANK YOU** to all of the advocates who attended the CASA Updates Training this past week! We all agree that it is a time consuming and emotionally draining job to

advocate for our CASA children. I really enjoyed talking with all of you about your experiences, idea sharing on some of the obstacles we face, and getting back to the basics on what it is we CASAs do for our children. Thank you for your time and participation.

Has your CASA child changed schools? Inform your case manager and a new introduction letter will be sent out so that you may contact the schools when you need. See you all soon!



We want to **thank** and **recognize** the CASAs who closed a case during the month of July.

A CASA's dedication to the children they represent is greatly appreciated, and we are confident that efforts on behalf of these children will reap many benefits for them in the future.

**Thank you:**

- Bernie Sehr**
- Marie Johnson**
- Laura Franzen**
- Joan Young**

**UPCOMING ADVOCATE SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS:**

- August 7th from 12-1 PM
- August 18th from 6-7 PM

These meetings are held at Heartland Community Church in the Bride's room. Any questions contact Gail at the CASA office



# Time Sheets for July 2014:

We want to thank and recognize the following CASAs and Board members who turned in a timesheet last month. We appreciate your extra effort!

- Laura Franzen**
- Dena Hobbs**
- Sharon Pickett**
- Rachel Schultz**
- Elaine Leslie**
- Lauria Johnson**
- Bruce Erickson**
- Dwan Montgomery**
- Laurie Cecil**
- Raquel Vera**

- Carole Perrin**
- Evie Webster**
- Don Vayr**
- Karen Christianson**
- Angela Collins**
- Brandi McKinney**
- Joyce LaMont**
- Randy Cecil**
- Cherie Dominguez**



## Save the Date:

Coming up in September:

**Kegel's Superhero Ride on Sept 6th:** Come out for our motorcycle ride to raise awareness and money for the Winnebago Co. CASA program. Superhero costumes are optional!

**Rockford City Market on Friday Sept 12th from 3-8 PM:** Come out and enjoy an evening by the river and

check out all the fun booths at the Rockford City Market, including the CASA outreach booth.

**Casey's Bar and Grill on Sept 18th from 6-9 PM:** Tickets will be \$10 dollars for the drawing for a large door prize and includes a pasta, pizza, salad, and cookie dinner. Lots of fun Chinese auction items and the big drawing!

## STATISTICS

A sincere THANK YOU to all of our CASA advocates who continue to serve their children and the CASA program. Your contribution in hours and miles for July 2014 total:

212 hours and 2350 miles

*Great Work CASAs!*

## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:

**Tuesday August 19th from 6:00 to 9:00 at the Klehm Arboretum.**

All of our CASA Advocates are encouraged to attend and will be free for the event. Advocates may bring additional guests at the cost of \$5 dollars per person

In addition to a wonderful BBQ style dinner, guests will have the opportunity to walk around the Klehm gardens and enjoy an evening with nature.

Taryn and the staff will be handing out awards for the 25, 15, 10, 5, and 1 year milestones as well as

Some fun and creative awards for our CASAs.

We look forward to seeing all of you there so we can celebrate all the hard work that you do to help the CASA children in our program.

## August 2014 Docket:

08/01/14	8:30 AM	10JA32-33, 10JA391, 12JA279	CASA: Colletti	Status on Appeal
08/04/14	10:00 AM 2:30 PM 2:30 PM	12JA152-154, 12JA163 08JA290-294 08JA381-382, 384	CASA: Harrolle CASA: Wing CASA: Baker	Permanency Review Permanency Review Status on Adoption
08/05/14	10:00 AM 3:00 PM	10JA418 12JA60	CASA: Mitchell CASA: Perrin	Status Hearing on ICWA
08/06/14	10:00 AM	14JA83-85	CASA: Malachowski	Disposition
08/08/14	8:30 AM 8:30 AM	10JA357-358 11JA307, 13JA408	CASA: Schneider CASA: Baker	Status on Appeal Status on Appeal
08/11/14	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM	07JA221 13JA175 12JA53, 12JA280-281	CASA: Cameron CASA: Sidener CASA: Kickertz	Permanency Review Permanency Review Status on School
08/12/14	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:00 AM 1:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 4:30 PM	14JA170-173 13J01 13JA128 12JA439 09JA161, 09JA306, 12JA55-56 09JA227 12JA427	CASA: Erickson CASA: Bartelli CASA: Bondick CASA: Hartman CASA: Waldorf/Cooper CASA: Highland CASA: Mulvain	Status on Counseling Permanency Review Permanency Review Status on Case Closure Permanency Review Permanency Review Permanency Review
08/13/14	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 3:30 PM 4:30 PM	11JA123 11JA219, 12JA92 13JA456-458 13JA21	CASA: Marcum CASA: Schiller CASA: Donnelli/Hobbs CASA: Montgomery	Status TPR/Fitness cont. Status on Family Case Status on CUS/Motion
08/14/14	9:00 AM 11:30 AM 3:30 PM	12JA343 09JA236, 11JA150, 12JA99 12JA230, 12JA232	CASA: M. Johnson CASA: Dominguez CASA: Geddes/Condon	Decision on Fitness/BI Permanency Review Status on Reference Coun.
08/15/14	10:30 AM 1:30 PM	08JA213 12JA257	CASA: Vining CASA: L. Johnson	TPR-Fitness Hearing TPR
08/18/14	9:00 AM 1:30 PM	14JA135, 14JA153-155 10JA195-197, 11JA179	CASA: Vacant CASA: G. Williams	Adjudication/Status Permanency Review
08/19/14	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM	11JA381, 384 12J05 03J16	CASA: Lund/Griswold CASA: Eschmeyer CASA: Schultz	Permanency Review Status on School/Assess Permanency Review
08/25/14	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM	12JA230-232 13JA62-63 09JA68-70	CASA: Condon/Geddes CASA: Shreve/Harms CASA: Perrin	Permanency Review Permanency Review Permanency Review
08/26/14	9:00 AM 9:00 AM	13JA406 14J03	CASA: Vera CASA: Fierz	Pre-trial Conf. Status on School
08/27/14	9:30 AM	13JA561	CASA: Bry	Permanency Review



### CASA Birthdays:

To the following advocates and friends who will be celebrating a August birthday:

### *Happy Birthday!!*

Pat Green	08/02	CASA for 15 years
Mindi Searle	08/02	CASA for 3 years
Shauna Cain	08/08	Friend of CASA
Nicole Reyes	08/09	New CASA
Leo Waskiewicz	08/10	CASA for 3 years
Michelle Colletti	08/15	CASA for 4 years
Cassandra Lorenz	08/16	Friend of CASA
Becky Harvey	08/21	CASA for 15 years
Maureen Morrissey	08/21	CASA for 3 years
Lenore Lund	08/23	CASA for 3 years
Judy Condon	08/24	CASA for 12 years
Brandi McKinney	08/26	CASA for 2 years
Teresa Fox	08/27	Friend of CASA

### **From your Advocate Rep:**

Hello to all,  
What a beautiful day this is. As I pen this note, the temperature is about 70 degrees, the sun is shining beautifully, a gentle breeze blowing. It's a GRAND DAY to appreciate, especially when we know that in a few short months, we break out the snow shovel. So I'm sure we are taking advantage of this beautiful weather while we still can.

Again, we thank Taryn, our Director and her staff for the work they do especially the on-going, continuing education training that is always at our disposal. We all know that it doesn't matter how long we've been on the job, there is still more to learn. Really looking forward the 'Refresher Course'. So thanks again, Taryn.

Remember to watch the board and/or the Newsletter for pending events. If you were at the **ProAm** at Forest Hills in whatever capacity, either on the 9<sup>th</sup> hole or the concession, I'm sure you had a good time. I've never seen so many hotdogs. Remem-

ber the 'Stewards of Children' on August 5<sup>th</sup>, presented by Carrie Lynn; a session that we should attend if possible. Let's not forget our Volunteer Appreciation dinner. This will be a good opportunity to thank each other for the work that we do, the commitments we've made. What we do on behalf of our children does make a difference.

On Monday morning I received a call from one of my CASA children. It was a family of seven boys. The one who called was special to me. He knew that as did his adoptive mother. He's now in ROTC, planning to join the Marines when he graduates. The work that we do can have a very positive influence on the lives of the children we serve.

**"Every child needs a champion"**  
Hillary Rodham Clinton

Speak Up CASA,  
Shivers

### CASA in the Community:

Our Outreach Coordinator, Raquel Vera, has been busy this past month promoting CASA! Raquel and members of the Outreach Committee have had the opportunity to present to the following businesses and organizations in the month of July:

YMCA Retired Men's Group

Raquel will be out at the Panera Bread on West Lane Road (Rt. 173) in Machesney Park on August 2nd from 7:30 to 10:30 AM answering potential advocates questions about the CASA Program and volunteering for CASA. If you have any friends or family who might be interested in becoming a CASA advocate please pass this information along. There will be free coffee and bagels for those who stop in.

Raquel and other outreach volunteers will be hosting a table for CASA at the Black Family Reunion August 16th from 10-7 and August 17th from 11-6. The event is taking place at Ellis Elementary School. Anyone is welcome to stop by and the event is free.

### Turkey Taco Black Bean Soup:

**Provided by Debbie Vettore from the CASA Cookbook**

- 1 pkg. ground turkey
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning mix
- 1 small onion
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 tsp. cilantro
- 1 (14.5 oz.) can of diced tomatoes
- 1 (15 oz.) can of black beans
- 1 tsp. olive oil



Fry turkey in large skillet. Add chopped onion, taco mix, garlic cloves, tomatoes, and cilantro. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in black beans and olive oil. Simmer until bubbling and salt to taste. Serve with cornbread or tortilla chips. Serves 4

### Must Do's as a CASA:

1. See your CASA child/children at least monthly
2. Keep in touch with the case worker on the case
3. Turn in court reports two weeks before court date
4. Attend court dates for your CASA case
5. Keep in touch with the parents on the case

### **Emails:**

Taryn Marko-Director: [casataryn@wincoil.us](mailto:casataryn@wincoil.us)  
 Larissa Stern-Advocate Facilitator: [casalarissa@wincoil.us](mailto:casalarissa@wincoil.us)  
 Jillisa Benton-Case Manager: [casajillisa@wincoil.us](mailto:casajillisa@wincoil.us)  
 Raquel Vera-Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager.: [casaraquel@wincoil.us](mailto:casaraquel@wincoil.us)  
 Gail Wemlinger-Case Manager: [casagail@wincoil.us](mailto:casagail@wincoil.us)  
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