

COURT and EVENT SCHEDULE

4/2/12	8:00 AM 1:30 PM	11-JA-123-125 10-JA-191-193	CASA Marcum CASA Johnson	Motion-MMGC Status- Return Home
4/3/12	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 2:30 PM	10-JA195-197, 11-JA-179 06-JA-107 04-JA-248, 08-JA-14-15 10-JA-5	CASA G. Williams CASA Dane CASA Perrin CASA A. Williams	Permanency Review Permanency Review Permanency Review Permanency Review
4/4/12	9:00 AM 11:30 AM	10-JA-235 11-JA-48-49	CASA Gentry CASA Hopper	TPR- Adjudication Status
4/5/12	1:30 PM	09-JA-124	CASA Myrick	Status- Reasonable Efforts
4/9/12	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 1:30 PM 3:00 PM	09-JA-236, 11-JA-150 10-JA-394-395 10-JA-413-414, 11-JA-315 08-JA-148 10-JA-151-152	CASA Bailey CASA Cultra CASA Schiller CASA Malachowski CASA Myrick	Status Review- CUS Permanency Review Status- Appeal Status- FDC
4/10/12	10:00 AM 2:30 PM	08-JA-40 10-JA-74-75 03-JA-50-51	CASA Schultz CASA Perrin CASA Stone	Permanency Review Permanency Review Permanency Review
4/11/12	10:00 AM	11-JA-364-366	CASA Fox	Adjudication
4/13/12	8:30 AM 10:00 AM 4:00 PM	09-JA-68-70 11-JA-199-201 10-J-19	CASA Fox CASA P. Anderson CASA León	Status Disposition Status- School Attend
4/16/12	9:00 AM	08-JA-56, 09-J-3-4, 10-JA-98-101 10-J-35-37 08-JA-173	CASAs Leslie/Mulvain CASA Sensel CASA Gentry	Perm Review Cont Status- CUS Permanency Review
4/18/12	Spring Training Begins St. James Parish Hall, Youth Room			6:00 PM
4/23/12	10:00 AM 3:00 PM	10-JA-218, 11-JA-392 10-JA-151-152	CASA Clinton CASA Myrick	Permanency Review Motion- MMGC
4/24/12	3:30 PM	11-JA-403		Permanency Review
4/25/12	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 1:30 PM	10-JA-323-324 10-JA-378-379 11-JA-45-47	CASA Elsberg CASA Vining CASA Fox	Arraignment of MMGC Adjudication- MMGC Status
4/27/12	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:00 PM	09-JA-243 08-JA-46-48, 248 07-JA-234-237 11-JA-98	CASAs Sensel/Vining CASA Young CASA Landsee CASA Sehr	Status-Appeal Status Disposition Status- School Attend
4/30/12	3:00 PM	10-JA-154	CASA Baker	Permanency Review

**Winnebago Co.
CASA
Board of Directors**

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From Your Rep:

Happy Spring to all!

Yes, it is already April and it seems like winter never officially came to northern Illinois this year. I am not complaining.

As you know, the CASA board is constantly trying to figure out new and effective ways to fundraise, and more importantly, recruit more volunteers. CASA's goal is to have a CASA for all children in our court system. That is a large job. Do you know anyone that would be interested? We start spring training in two weeks.

During my latest court date, the ruling for the best interest of the children was to terminate parental rights. This CASA had to keep repeating to herself: "every child deserves a safe and permanent home". Unfortunately, safe and permanent was not with their biological parent. After over three years of court dates, visits in too many places to remember and hours of conversations, it was still bittersweet. It is not over yet, according to our trusty mentors/office staff, adoption can take months! I am looking forward to that happy day. As in the words of one of the children, "I won't be called a foster child anymore".

Don't forget to check out our website about all the events coming up soon.

Joan Young
 Joan.e.young4@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!
June 15, 2012

In 2012, our Winnebago County CASA Program is celebrating 25 years of advocating for abused and neglected children. We will be holding a very special Volunteer Appreciation / 25-year celebration on the evening of June 15, 2012, at Franchesco's. We hope all CASAs will attend. More information will follow.

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 March, 2012, total:

181 hours and 1510 miles

Great Work, CASAs!

CASA BIRTHDAYS

To the following CASA advocates and friends who will be celebrating an April birthday:



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

<i>Melisa Shank</i>	<i>4/08</i>	<i>Ryan Nelson</i>	<i>4/19</i>
<i>New CASA</i>		<i>4 years</i>	
<i>Darius Smith</i>	<i>4/08</i>	<i>Katie Kelly</i>	<i>4/24</i>
<i>7 years</i>		<i>2 years</i>	
<i>Linda Rutz</i>	<i>4/11</i>	<i>Lara Fierz</i>	<i>4/28</i>
<i>New CASA</i>		<i>2 years</i>	
<i>Connie Cameron</i>	<i>4/17</i>	<i>Katie Collopy-Norris</i>	<i>4/29</i>
<i>New CASA</i>		<i>8 years</i>	

ITEMS FROM THE CASA OFFICE

(telephone no: 815-319-6880) (fax: 815-319-6881)

(e-mails: **Taryn:** casataryn@wincoil.us
Marie: casamarieaj@wincoil.us
Terry: casaterryf@wincoil.us
Zan: casazan@wincoil.us
Roseann: casaroseann@wincoil.us)

A situation arose last month which we would like to bring to your attention. If you are provided information, or witness some issue, regarding one of the children you represent, and this necessitates a hotline call, we encourage you to call the office and advise your case manager about the situation. Also, after you call the hotline, **BE SURE YOU DO NOT QUESTION THE CHILD** about the situation. It is important that the first person who speaks with the child is the DCFS Investigator. One of the CASAs on a case was told about possible hitting (and bruising) of the child to whom that CASA is assigned. The CASA did go to see the child, to check out if there were bruises and how bad they were, but the CASA never asked the child about what happened. The important thing is **NOT** to talk with the child about the possible abuse. Again, it is the DCFS Investigator who will question the child. If you have any questions about this, feel free to call your case manager (Taryn, Marie or Terry), or call Roseann.

Spring, 2012, Training

Included with this newsletter is the tentative schedule for the upcoming Spring Training. The days and times and locations will not change. We haven't yet confirmed with all the speakers so there might be a couple of changes in the subject matter of one or two of the classes. If you wish to attend a specific class, call the office to confirm that the class is held as indicated on the enclosed schedule. Remember that these classes count toward your ongoing training commitment. Also, they are a very good review and it is very helpful to the trainees to speak with experienced CASAs. Hope to see you there.

T H A N K S !!!

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

Geneva Anderson
Raegan Caras
Sharon Cooper
Kate Ecklor
Mary Kay Garganera
Sue Gorski
Robin Griswold
Debi Hopper
Marilyn Kloepper
Rachel León
Faye Marcus

Taryn Marko
Kathy McCarty
Jean Nelson
Rachel Schultz
Mindi Searle
Sheila Sensel
Melisa Shank
Jeanne Shipman
Tiltyla Stone
Peggy Timmerman

SAVE THE DATE! April 24, 2012

On Tuesday, April 24, 2012, at **12:15 — 12:45 PM**, in front of the Criminal Justice Center (corner of State and Winnebago Sts.), there will be a program to call attention to child abuse and domestic violence. April is child abuse prevention month. In recognition of this, Judge Rosemary Collins, chair, and the rest of the 17th Judicial Circuit Court Family Violence Coordinating Council, have sponsored the **"Hands around the Courthouse"** event for the last several years. We would love to have CASAs participate. We will send you more information as details are confirmed. Hope to see you there.

REPORT TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY CASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 8, 2012

STATISTICS (for February, 2012)

No. of ACTIVE Volunteers (assigned to casework)	108
No. of AFFILIATE Volunteers	28
No. of NEW Volunteers	<u>2</u>
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS	138

(Note: Husband/wife teams are counted as two individuals.)

No. of FRIENDS of CASA	58
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TOTAL OPEN CASA CASES as of February 29, 2012:	289 cases -- 127 families
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TOTAL CLOSED/DISCHARGED CASA CASES (since 1987) as of February 29, 2012:	1,729 cases -- 674 families
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CASA CASES OPENED/ASSIGNED during February, 2012:	5 cases -- 3 families
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CASA CASES CLOSED/DISCHARGED during February, 2012	4 cases -- 0 families
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CASA COURT APPEARANCES for February, 2012:	75
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CASA VOLUNTEERS AVAILABLE FOR ASSIGNMENT (partners are considered as one available CASA)	5
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REPORTED VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED	for Feb., 2012:	fiscal year to date
	251	incl. February:
		1,134

REPORTED VOLUNTEER MILES CONTRIBUTED	for Feb., 2012:	fiscal year to date
	2,062	incl. February:
		7,177

SPRING, 2012, TRAINING
St. James Parish Hall, Youth Room **

<u>Day/Date/Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1. Wed, 4/18 6:00 -- 9:00 PM	Introduction of Staff/Trainees/Overview of Training Role of CASA/Guardian ad litem Role of CASA Advocate Rep Permanence and the Law
2. Thurs, 4/19 6:00 – 9:00 PM	Child Development / Permanency Issues
3. Mon, 4/23 6:00 – 9:00 PM	How Children Enter DCFS System / Investigations Case Participants / DCFS Child Welfare Services
4. Tues, 4/24 4:00 – 7:00 PM	Understanding Family Dynamics re: Substance Abuse Understanding Families re: Mental Health
5. Thurs, 4/26 5:30 – 8:30 PM ** Courtroom PSB2	Juvenile Court Process: Shelter Care Hrng/Pretrial Conf/ Adjudication/Disposition/Perm Revw/TPR
6. Tues, 5/1 4:00 – 7:00 PM	Carrie Lynn Center Understanding Family Dynamics re: Sexual Abuse
7. Thurs, 5/3 6:00 – 9:00 PM	Understanding Families re: Poverty Understanding Families: Domestic Violence
8. Mon, 5/7 6:00 – 9:00 PM	Cultural Awareness
9. Tues, 5/8 6:00 – 9:00 PM	Communication Skills, Interviewing CASA Role plays
10. Thurs, 5/10 4:00 – 7:00 PM	Report Writing Volunteer Safety

CASA TIME SHEET

ADVOCATE NAME _____ TIME PERIOD _____

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY CASA IN-SERVICE MEETING, PLEASE MAIL OR DELIVER YOUR TIME SHEET TO THE CASA OFFICE (403 ELM STREET, ROCKFORD, IL, 61101) BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH.

<u>TIME INTERVALS</u>		
<u>MIN</u>	=	<u>TIME</u>
1-15	=	.25
16-30	=	.50
31-45	=	.75
46-60	=	1.00

- SUGGESTED JOB DESCRIPTIONS
- File review at DCFS
 - Review of case at FA
 - Court observation
 - In-Service
 - Observing visit
 - Time with CASA child
 - Other interviewing time
 - Phone calls
 - Conference with coordinator
 - Court report preparation
 - School meeting
 - Other (specify)

DATE	JOB DESCRIPTION	TIME	EST. MILES
TOTAL TIME AND MILES REPORTED FOR THIS TIME PERIOD			