



CASA Newsletter

A Better Life for Every Child

July 2014

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Exciting Program Events Coming Up!!

We are so excited about the upcoming events that our Training & Retention Coordinator, Cassandra Richardson, has been working on. Below are a few of the awesome events to look forward to:

Flex Training for New Advocates starting July 10th:

For the first time in our program we are offering the flex training that is available through National CASA. New Advocates are now able to complete the training online for five sessions and then in person for five sessions. We are hopeful that this will allow for more flexibility in potential advocates schedules. We already have 13 new trainees signed up for this training!

Thank you to the 40 advocates who completed the advocate survey. We really appreciate it!

From Darkness to Light Training on August 5th:

The "From Darkness to Light" curriculum educates individuals about child sexual abuse. The Carrie Lynn Center has graciously offered to present this curriculum to our CASA program. The training will be at Heartland Church with two options for times: 9-11:30 AM or 6-8:30 PM. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:

This year our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be on August 19th at the Klehm Arboretum. Once again dinner is free for any CASA advocates who attend. Any other individuals,

family members, or friends who would like to attend will be charged \$5 dollars for the meal. The food provided will be burgers, brats, salads, and lots of other delicious items! Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the gardens as well.

Coming Soon: Advocate Refresher Course

We have been working hard on a new refresher course to assist in updating our advocates on changes that have occurred with training material as well as with the variety of agencies that we work with. This course is really going to help answer a lot of questions that have been circulating among our CASA volunteers over the past year. Stay tuned for updates as to when and where this new course will be.

From the CASA Office:

Hi CASAs!

I have to tell you that you all are really doing an excellent job representing our CASA children. I know it's not an easy job at times. There are difficult people we come into contact with, some from the families we are appointed to and some from the professionals that we need to work with. And surprisingly, sometimes the children are the most difficult ones to work with. I cannot begin to thank you enough for sticking with your commitment and giving

these children the voice that they would not have without you.

In the last year, we have been challenged to increase our commitment to our children. As you know, we report to our accredited affiliations in order to operate as a CASA program. National CASA has increased their standards of all programs to work more diligently towards achieving appropriate permanency for the children that we represent. Because the expect-

tations have changed, I will be hosting a mandatory training for all advocates this month. We will meet at different times so that you may all find a time that works for your schedule. Please look for this info in an email next week. Any questions? Let me know.

Thank you so much for being a part of our program. Have a safe month and stay cool, friends!

Taryn Marko, Director



Happy 4th of July!!!

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

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:

- Maureen Barrett**
- Marilyn Clark**
- Karen Baker**
- Katie Collopy-Norris**
- Tom Harrolle**
- Jill Gentry**
- Don Vayr**
- Becky Harvey**
- Mary Sargent**



Time Sheets for June 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!

- Joyce LaMont**
- Laura March**
- JoAn Todd**
- Jocelyn Teske**
- Joan Miller**
- Laura Axon**
- Carole Perrin**
- Tom Harrolle**
- Sara Mulvain**
- Faye Marcus**
- Jenny Ralston**
- Karen Christianson**
- Lenore Lund**
- Burnette Shivers**

- Linda Rutz**
- Kevin Harvey**
- Karen Baker**
- Pat Fausett**
- Pat Webster**
- Marilyn Clark**
- Dena Hobbs**
- Becky Harvey**
- Elaine Leslie**
- Kate Schnell**
- Don Vayr**
- April Juarez**
- Lauria Johnson**
- Mike Harvey**

Remembering: Kay Eagleson

It is with great sadness that the CASA office recognizes a CASA advocate who recently passed away in June.

Kay Eagleson, age 73, passed away on Friday June 13th at her home.

Kay became a CASA in June of 2010. Kay made a difference in four children's lives

and we are so thankful to have had the opportunity to work with her here in the CASA office. Thank you Kay, you will be missed.



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 June 2014 total:

534 hours and 4432 miles

Great Work CASAs!



New Board Members:

Welcome NEW Board Members!

Our Board of Directors has grown and we are excited to welcome the following Board Members to our CASA Team:

- Kimberly Bruce**
- Michele Corirossi**
- Michelle Lewis**
- Julie Snyder**
- Matt Thomann**

July 2014 Docket:

07/1/14	9:00 AM	14JA170-173	CASA: Erickson	Pretrial Conf.
	10:30 AM	13JA100-101	CASA: Rutz	Status on Summer School
	10:30 AM	14JA41	CASA: Barrett	Review
	11:30 AM	11JA123	CASA: Marcum	Status on Visitation
	1:30 PM	11JA315	CASA: Schiller	Permanency Review
	2:30 PM	13JA134	CASA: Lund/Griswold	Permanency Review
07/02/14	3:00 PM	13JA315	CASA: Shivers	Status
	9:00 AM	08JA381-382, 384,	CASA: Baker	Status on Foster Family Relocating
	9:00 AM	11JA219, 12JA92	CASA: Schiller	TPR-Fitness Hearing
07/03/14	11:30 AM	12JA258, 12JA260-262	CASA: M. Johnson	Status on Family Case/Case Closure
07/16/14	9:00 AM	14JA170-173	CASA: Erickson	Adjudication
07/17/14	10:30 AM	14JA135, 14JA153-155	CASA: Vacant	Adjudication
07/21/14	9:00 AM	13JA406	CASA: Vera	Status on School
	3:00 PM	11JA15-16	CASA: Perrin	Decision/Best Interest
	3:30 PM	12JA349-340, 14JA88	CASA: Dyreson	Status on Guardianship/Interstate
07/22/14	9:00 AM	07JA86	CASA: Siegner	Permanency Review
	9:00 AM	11JA272	CASA: Sehr	Permanency Review
	11:00 AM	12JA208	CASA: Perrin	Permanency Review
	2:30 PM	13JA11-13	CASA: Franzen	Permanency Review
07/24/14	3:00 PM	12JA383	CASA: A. Williams	Decision/Best Interest
07/25/14	8:30 AM	11JA189	CASA: Woodman	Status on Appeal
	1:30 PM	11JA205, 12JA134	CASA: Vining	TPR
07/28/14	9:00 AM	12JA359-361, 13JA421	CASA: Dominguez	Permanency Review
	9:00 AM	12JA53, 12JA280-281	CASA: Kickertz	Status on Summer School
	10:00 AM	13JA56	CASA: Young	Review on CUS
	1:30 PM	12JA125-126, 12JA133, 13JA216-217	CASA: Fausett/Whitesel	Permanency Review
	3:30 PM	13JA343-344	CASA: Sidener	Disposition Continued
07/29/14	9:00 AM	12JA370	CASA: LaMont	Permanency Review
	11:30 AM	14JA134	CASA: Dane	Status on Placement
	4:00 PM	13JA547-548	CASA: Erickson	Status on Discretion to Place
07/31/14	9:00 AM	12JA343	CASA: M. Johnson	TPR
	11:00 AM	14JA130	CASA: Woodman	Adjudication

CASA Office Info:

211 S. Court St. Suite 258
 Rockford, IL 61101
 815-319-6880
 Fax: 815-319-6881

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
 Larissa Stern-Advocate Facilitator: casalarissa@wincoil.us
 Jillisa Benton-Case Manager: casajillisa@wincoil.us
 Raquel Vera-Outreach Coordinator/Case Manager.: casaraquel@wincoil.us
 Gail Wemlinger-Case Manager: casagail@wincoil.us
 Cassandra Richardson-Training & Retention Coordinator.: casacassandra@wincoil.us



CASA Birthdays:

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

Happy Birthday!!

Diane Mitchell	07/06	CASA for 4 years
Kelly Schwenk	07/10	CASA for 5 years
Rich Gerdeman	07/11	CASA for 6 years
Kate Ordway	07/13	CASA for 14 years
Brandon Sanchez	07/13	CASA for 4 years
Rose Donepanya	07/15	CASA for 3 years
Chrystal Turner	07/15	CASA for 2 years
Kellie Hartman	07/16	CASA for 3 years
Brenda Kickertz	07/16	CASA for 14 years
Robin Quatrano	07/20	New CASA
Curt Sidener	07/21	CASA for 1 year
Sharon Pickett	07/23	CASA for 1 year
Don Vayr	07/23	New CASA
Jocelyn Teske	07/24	New CASA
Karen Schiller	07/25	CASA for 9 years
Al Siegener	07/25	CASA for 7 years
Carole Perrin	07/26	CASA for 12 years

From your Advocate Rep:

Hello again.

Now we have Summer. We say Thank You for the heat because before we know we turn around, it will be October/November. Then we wonder where the Summer went. So we enjoy the sunshine while it lasts; of course, the thunder storms are a part of that package deal.

Since our last note, we went to the National Conference in Grapevine, Texas. It was a great experience, meeting new people, hearing some of their experiences. One of the greatest highlights for me was that first session on Sunday morning. Ashley Rhodes-Courter, author of the book, Three Little Words was the facilitator. A victim of abuse and neglect, Ashley shared much of her life with us during that session, like living in a trailer with 16 occupants. It does happen. She also told us that two of the worse days of her life were being separated from her mother and when she was placed in the Mosses household.

By age ten, she had been in 14 placements. Her life began to change for the better when she was adopted. Truly, I will be remiss trying to do an overview. “Three Little Words” paints a very vivid picture of Ashley's life and how CASA was involved. Get the book, It's worth the reading. She even signed my copy!

There were so many other workshop sessions. There's not enough room. I'm still going through my notes. A wonderful learning trip. Thank you for allowing me to attend.

*“I continue to believe that if children are given the necessary tools to succeed, they will succeed beyond their wildest dreams”,
David Vitter, US Senator.*

Let's make a difference!

Shivers



See you on the Links!

Don't forget that the **Rockford ProAm** is on
Monday, July 14, 2014
at Forest Hills Country Club!

Pick up your CASA T-shirt to wear at the event now before the mad rush.

T-shirts are available in sizes Small – XXL.

Forgotten what shift you signed up for? **Contact Cassandra for a quick reminder:: 815-319-6880**



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 June:

Thermo Fischer Community Involvement Fair
Kiwanis of Rockford
RCC: Women in Business Luncheon

Raquel has also been posting informational flyers around Rockford. There are currently flyers up at:

Starbucks-Perryville and 173 location
Panera Bread-both locations
Potbelly Sandwich Shop
Meg's Daily Grind-Perryville Location

If any of you are interested in posting a flyer about CASA, please contact Raquel at the main CASA office number.

Thanks to everyone for their support!

Sloppy Joes Easy Cheesy

Provided by Kay Nordquist from the CASA Cookbook

3 lbs. ground beef
1 onion, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
1 red pepper, chopped
2 cans fiesta nacho cheese soup
3/4 to 1 cup BBQ sauce
Package of mini hamburger buns



Brown beef, onion, and peppers in a large skillet or slow cooker. Add cheese soup and BBQ sauce. Mix well. Heat on low for either 1 hour on the stove in a skillet or 2 hours in a slow cooker.



Director's Report: June 12, 2014

New Cases	CURRENT MONTH	YTD			
CHILDREN IN COMMUNITY/NEED	May, 2014	2014			
• Abuse & Neglect	44	1445			
• Truancy	2	35			
	CURRENT MONTH	2014 YTD	2014 GOAL		2020 GOAL
CASES					
• Open	19	61			
• Closed	14	43			
• Children Served	285	321	450		1075
% Served:	26%	29%			100%
VOLUNTEERS					
• Active Advocates	111		150		450
• Affiliate Advocates	26		31		
• Available	2				
• Resignations (Advocates)	2	YTD: 16	15		
• Total Advocates	137		231		
• Spring Training		11			
• Fall Training					
• Friends of CASA	11	YTD: 19	50		
• Total Volunteers		156			
	CURRENT MONTH May, 2014	Total: 2014			
Reported Hours	179	1,072			
Reported Miles	1,138	8,064			

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 (211 S. COURT ST. SUITE 258, ROCKFORD, IL, 61101) BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH.

TIME INTERVALS

<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 | -Other interviewing time |
| -Review of case at FA | -Phone calls |
| -Court observation | -Conference with coordinator |
| -In-Service | -Court report preparation |
| -Observing visit | -School meeting |
| -Time with CASA child | -Other (specify) |

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