

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

MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2007

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held on Friday, January 19, 2007 at the Richmond Police Training Academy in Richmond.

Members Present

Mike Hall – Chair Person
Lauren Caudill
Sally Cipolla
Michelle Clayton
Ruth Anne Cutright
Mindy Loiselle
Darby Lowe
Nan McKenney
Shawn Schwertfeger

Members not Present

Sharon England
Terica Hodge
Peggy O'Neill
Claudette Overton

Staff Present

Laurel Marks
Holly Oehrlein
Melissa O'Neill

- I. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes: The regular quarterly meeting of the CASA/CJA Advisory Committee was held on Friday, January 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Richmond Police Training Academy. The meeting was called to order by Michael Hall at 10:15 a.m.

Mike Hall called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Mindy Loiselle motioned for approval of the minutes and Nan McKenney seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Citizen's Review Panel – Nan McKenney, Virginia Department of Social Services. The NOIRA for the Child Protective Services Regulations has been approved by the Department of Social Services Board at the December 2006 meeting and is currently in the Governor's office. The regulations will be available for review at the next meeting in April.

Statewide child abuse and neglect statistics were distributed and reviewed by the committee and discussed. A copy of the "Evaluation of the Differential Response

System” report submitted to the General Assembly by the Department of Social Services in December 2006 was distributed to the committee and discussed. The discussion focused on the outcomes of the study and plans for the next study to include an analysis of screened out reports. Further discussion was held on the variation between and within agencies related to complaints.

II. CASA Program Update – Melissa O’Neill provided an update for the committee on the following CASA activities:

- Governor’s Budget Proposal – Governor Kaine included an additional \$1 million increase for CASA programs in his proposed budget.
- Regulatory Revision Update: The second public comment period has been completed as of 12-16-06. The proposed regulations must be filed within 180 days after the close of the comment period.
- COMET Standardization: The COMET Standardization Workgroup completed its work in December and the final draft of the manual has been sent to the Network for comment back to DCJS. Implementation is still scheduled for July 2007.
- Best Practices Court Conference: CASA programs were invited to attend the conference in November which went very well.
- VACE: The Virginia Association of CASA Executives (VACE) applied for NCASAA membership as an auxiliary organization. NCASAA considered the application and denied the membership with a request that VACE consider becoming an auxiliary to DCJS which would allow for statewide representation.
- NCASAA Self Assessment – There are four tasks that the advisory committee can assist with to help DCJS come into compliance with NCASAA state standards:
 1. Develop a public education/outreach plan
 2. Develop a CASA specific mission statement to be included on the website and Three-Year plan
 3. Develop a diversity plan
 4. Develop a crisis management and communications plan to be attached as an addendum to the existing DCJS plan

The committee agreed to review documents via email and provide comment prior to the April meeting.

III. CJA Program Update: Holly Oehrlein provided an update on the following Children's Justice Act activities:

- The committee conducted its annual review of the Three-Year Plan and approved the plan for submission with the 2007 CJA grant application.

The committee discussed the need to have a retreat this fall to develop the next Three-Year plan. It was decided that a retreat would be helpful. The retreat dates will be November 8 and 9, 2007.

- Legislative Update - The committee reviewed several bills that were introduced related to child abuse, neglect and welfare. There were three bills that the committee agreed to support. These were:

1. HB 2523
2. HB 2778
3. HJ 682 (with an amendment)

The committee opposed HB 1794.

IV. New Business

The next meeting was changed to May 2, 2007.

Retreat/Fall Quarterly Meeting Dates – November 8 – 9, 2007.

V. Adjourn: There being no additional sharing of information, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.