

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

April 22, 2022

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children’s Justice Act programs was held on April 22, 2022 at the Henrico Police Training Center in Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present

Randy Bonds
Jackie Robinson Brock
Allison Gilbreath
Katharine Hunter
Sandy Karison
Jeannine Panzera
Giselle Pelaez
Pat Popp
Eric Reynolds
Nicole Shipp for Shannon Hartung
Judge Thomas Sotelo, Chair
Ashley Thompson

Members Not Present

Regina Baker
Kim Barbarji
Robin Foster
Shardell Gerald
Judge Jerrauld Jones

Staff Present

Jenna Foster (DCJS)
Laurel Marks (DCJS)
Melissa O’Neill (DCJS)
Shernae Valentine (Intern – DCJS)

Guests

Jane Lissenden – Office of the Children’s Ombudsman
Chris Scuderi – DCJS Law Enforcement Training Coordinator

- I. **Call to Order:** Judge Thomas Sotelo, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Members and guests introduced themselves. Giselle Pelaez participated remotely via Zoom from 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, VA, per the approved remote participation policy.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The committee received and reviewed the draft minutes of the October 29, 2021 meeting. Ashley Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes. Randy Bonds provided a second. Nicole Shipp abstained and the motion was approved.

- III. **Approval of Revised By-laws:** Members were provided a copy of the proposed changes to the by-laws at the January meeting. Allison Gilbreath made a motion to approve the changes as presented and Ashley Thompson provided a second. The motion was approved.
- IV. **Update of General Assembly Bills of Interest** – Committee members held a discussion on bills of interest passed during the 2022 Virginia General Assembly Session related to child abuse and neglect.
- V. **CASA Program Update** - The committee was previously provided a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program.
- VI. **Children’s Justice Act Program Update** - The committee was previously provided a written update regarding the Children’s Justice Act Program. Jenna Foster highlighted areas of interest.

Child Death Protocol Discussion - The committee engaged in a discussion of various ways to embed the new Child Death Protocol in existing training.

Three-Year Plan Update Discussion

The Committee reviewed the goal focused on developing multidisciplinary trainings with a racial equity lens and a focus on trauma-informed care for Virginia professionals and volunteers involved in the investigation, prosecution, and judicial handling of child maltreatment. They shared various activities currently underway from the disciplines that they represent.

VII. **Child Protective Services/Citizen Review Panel**

Members were provided a draft set of recommendations in advance of the meeting for review. Judge Sotelo led the committee in a discussion of the recommendations as presented. Amendments were made to the draft document during the discussion. A motion was made by Ashley Thompson to accept the amended 2022 CRP Recommendations, a second was made by Patricia Popp. The motion carried. The 2022 CRP Recommendations will be forwarded to the Virginia Department of Social Services.

VIII. **New Business**

Members provided updates, information and news from their respective agencies and disciplines.

- IX. **Adjourn** – Nicole Shipp moved to adjourn the meeting and Pat Popp provided the second. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Next meeting dates:

Friday, July 22, 2022