

DRAFT

Pursuant to § 2.2-3707.1 of the Code of Virginia this DRAFT of the minutes of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Advisory Committee is available to the public. The public is cautioned that the information is provided in DRAFT form and is subject to change by the Advisory Committee prior to becoming final. Once the minutes have been finalized, they will be marked “FINAL” and made available to the public.

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

October 28, 2022

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children’s Justice Act programs was held on October 28, 2022 at St. Joseph’s Villa in Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present

Randy Bonds
Kim Barbarji
Eugene Butler
Shamika Byars
Shardell Gerald
Shannon Hartung
Katharine Hunter
Judge Jerrauld Jones
Sandy Karison
Jeannine Panzera
Giselle Pelaez
Eric Reynolds
Judge Thomas Sotelo, Chair

Members Not Present

Regina Baker
Jackie Robinson Brock
Allison Gilbreath
Pat Popp
Ashley Thompson

Guests

Angela Alvernaz, DCJS
McKayla Burnett DCJS
Cayla Morris, VDSS
Lora Smith, VDSS

Staff Present

Jenna Foster (DCJS)
Melissa O’Neill (DCJS)
Terry Willie-Surratt (DCJS)

- I. **Call to Order:** Judge Thomas Sotelo, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Members introduced themselves.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The committee received and reviewed the draft minutes of the July 22, 2022 meeting. Giselle Pelaez made a motion to approve the minutes. Shannon Hartung provided a second. The motion was approved.
- III. **Overview of Three-Year Plan Requirements**

The CASA/CJA Advisory Committee met to prepare the 2024-2027 Three-Year plan for the Children’s Justice Act. Jenna Foster, DCJS Children’s Justice Act Program Coordinator, provided committee members with an overview of the purpose of the federal requirements for consideration when developing recommendations.
- IV. **State of the Commonwealth Presentations – Current Initiatives**

Committee members heard presentations on the following topics:

 - Human Trafficking Response – Angela Alvernaz, DCJS State Trafficking Response Coordinator
 - Virginia Department of Social Services – Shannon Hartung, Protection Program Manager, Virginia Department of Social Services
 - Office of the Children’s Ombudsman – Eric Reynolds, Director
 - Safe and Sound Task Force – Eric Reynolds, Director, Office of the Children’s Ombudsman
 - Law Enforcement Response to Child Abuse – Lieutenant Randy Bonds, Christiansburg Police Department
- V. **Review of Feedback from Current Recommendations**

Jenna Foster prepared a summary of the feedback provided from committee members during meetings held the previous year where the current plan recommendations were reviewed and evaluated.
- VI. **Development of 2024-27 Three Year Plan Recommendations**

Committee members incorporated information from the previous discussions held throughout the year and from the presentations during the meeting to formulate new recommendations. Members worked in teams to determine general themes for updated recommendations.

The following topic areas were identified as priorities for inclusion in the final recommendations: Multi-Disciplinary Teams; best practices; policy; CASA programs; multi-systems training; and diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging. DCJS will develop recommendations based on the information provided during the discussions and provide a draft of these recommendations to the Committee for review at the January 27, 2023 meeting.
- VII. **Adjourn** –The meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM.

Next meeting dates:

Friday, January 27, 2023 (this meeting will be held virtually)

Friday, April 28, 2023

Friday, July 28, 2023