

Final

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

January 27, 2017

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held on Friday, January 27, 2017 at the Richmond Police Training Academy, Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present

Robin Foster
Hum Cardounel, Jr.
Julia Fuller-Wilson
Allison Gilbreath
Donna Gilles
Malcolm King
Alicia Lenahan
Robin Morgan
Nancy Oglesby
Jim Pope
Pat Popp
Eric Reynolds
Viola Vaughan-Eden
Mary Walter, for VDSS
Ellen White

Members Not Present

Frederick Rockwell III

Staff Present

Laurel Marks
Melissa O' Neill
Mary Wilson
Lynn Sivels
Quasean McLeod, Intern

Guests

Sophia Booker –Intern, Voices for Virginia's Children

Rita Katzman
Jane Lissenden - Court Improvement Program
Wanda Ostrander – Child Advocacy Centers of Virginia

- I. **Call to Order:** Julia Fuller-Wilson, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM. Attendees introduced themselves and reviewed the meeting materials.
 - II. **Approval of Minutes:** The committee received a revised draft of the minutes. In addition to the revised minutes one correction was noted to add Judge White to the members present at the November 2016 meeting. Upon a motion by Eric Reynolds and seconded by Robin Morgan, the committee unanimously approved the minutes of November 9 - 10, 2016.
 - III. **Recognition of Rita Katzman’s Service to the Advisory Committee:** Chairperson Viola Vaughan-Eden presented Rita Katzman with a certificate of recognition in sincere appreciation for her dedication and professional service on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s most vulnerable children as a long-standing member of this advisory committee.
 - IV. **Conflict of Interest Training and Financial Disclosure Forms Update:** Melissa O’Neill thanked the committee for completing the conflict of interest requirements as set out in the email sent from the state Ethics Council. The committee was reminded that the electronic financial disclosure forms are completed annually and the conflict of interest training is completed every two years.
 - V. **CASA Program Update:** The committee was previously provided a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. Melissa O’Neill highlighted that a lot of technical assistance is being offered to local programs regarding VOCA reporting and extracting data from CASA Manager.
 - VI. **CJA Program Update:** The committee was previously provided with a written update regarding the Children’s Justice Act program. Mary Wilson reminded the committee that she had emailed an invitation for them to attend the Intersection of Violence conference as a guest of DCJS, and asked members to notify her as soon as possible if they wish to attend and need lodging. Also, she highlighted that the committee is invited to apply to be stakeholder reviewers for the DSS Child and Family Services Review coming up this April and May. The committee was sent an email with information to apply and a point of contact with DSS.
- Review of Draft Three Year Plan:** The committee reviewed and discussed the draft Three Year Plan. At the request of the committee, recommendation number three will be amended to state: DCJS staff and Advisory Committee should continue to collaborate with and/or advise other system partners regarding issues that impact the child protection system in the Commonwealth *to ensure trauma informed practices.*

- VII. Citizen Review Panel:** Mary Walter, CPS Policy Specialist with the Virginia Department of Social Services, presented a brief overview of the SFY2016 CPS data. She also provided a detailed overview of SB1086 and HB1786 in order to get the committee's input on the proposed changes to Virginia's substance exposed infant statute to bring it in to compliance with the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. Mary also explained HB2162 which would establish a workgroup to study barriers to treatment for substance exposed infants.
- VIII. Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Presentation:** Wanda Ostrander, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia (CACVA) provided the committee with an overview of the history of child abuse multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) and the development of CACs in Virginia. CACVA provides training and technical assistance to localities developing MDTs and interested in starting a CAC or satellite CAC in their jurisdictions.
- IX. Legislative Review and Discussion:** The committee was provided with an updated bill tracking sheet of legislation introduced this General Assembly session which convened January 11, 2017. DCJS staff compiled a list of 26 bills and resolutions impacting child abuse/neglect and child welfare processes in the Commonwealth. The committee discussed background for some bills and provided feedback on language for some bills that are moving through the process. Some of the bills of interest included: several bills regarding services and CPS response to substance exposed infants; creating a 24 hour response time for CPS valid reports of infants under the age of two; CPS reports regarding members of the US Armed Forces; surveying children aging out of foster care; standardizing home studies; standards for guardians ad litem; and exemptions to Freedom of Information Act open meeting requirements for child abuse multidisciplinary team meetings.
- X. New Business:** The committee had no new business.
- XI. Adjourn:** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Next meeting dates:

- April 28, 2017
- July 28, 2017