

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

MEETING MINUTES

October 30, 2015

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held on Friday, October 30, 2015 at the Richmond Police Training Academy, Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present

Robin Foster
Donna Gilles
Rita Katzman
Jane Lissenden for Lelia Hopper
Malcolm King
Alicia Lenahan
Robin Morgan
Jim Pope
Eric Reynolds
Frederick Rockwell*
Viola Vaughan-Eden

Members Not Present

Julia Fuller-Wilson
Kirk Marlowe
Nancy Oglesby
Patricia Popp

Guests Present

Sally Erny
Ben Yoon

*Special Advisor for CJA

Staff Present

Laurel Marks
Patrick McCreery
Melissa O' Neill
Mary Wilson
Carey Natoli

- I. **Call to Order** – Viola Vaughan-Eden, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM with a quorum of members present. Attendees introduced themselves.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – With a spelling correction noted, the minutes of April 24, 2015 and July 31, 2015 were unanimously approved.

- III. **Recognition** – The Chairperson recognized Melissa O’Neill for her outstanding work coordinating the CASA Anniversary Event the previous day at the Capitol as well as a vocal performance concluding the program.
- IV. **National CASA** – Sally Erny, Chief Program Officer, National CASA Association (NCASAA) gave a brief overview of the organization. She noted that in 2014 76,000 volunteers in 44 state programs and 905 local organizations served over 250,000 children. She also highlighted how the Virginia CASA program has partnered with NASAA on several initiatives to further strengthen and grow the program. In particular, she singled out the contributions of Melissa O’Neill, who is in the forefront working to increase the state, local and national partnership effort.
- III. **Election of Officers** – The Nominating Committee’s slate of officers for 2015-2016 included Viola Vaughan-Eden as Chairperson and Julia Fuller-Wilson as Vice-Chairperson. On a motion by Alicia Lenahan and a second by Donna Gilles, the slate of officers was unanimously approved by the committee.
- IV. **Approval of By-Laws** – On a motion by Eric Reynolds and a second by Robin Morgan, the By-Laws were approved as amended and presented at the April meeting.
- V. **Conflict of Interest Training** – Melissa O’Neill reviewed the process for Conflict of Interest Training and noted that the financial disclosure forms will be sent directly to the committee members.
- VI. **CJA Program Update** – The committee was previously provided with a written update regarding the Children’s Justice Act program. Mary Wilson directed the committee’s attention to a variety of accomplishments and trainings during the last quarter and to some items in the planning stages for the future.
- VII. **Citizen Review Panel** – Rita Katzman provided the members with a detailed power point presentation titled “Child Fatalities SFY 2014”.
- VIII. **CASA Program Update** – The committee was supplied a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. Melissa O’Neill highlighted her role on the NCASAA State Director Steering Committee which is charged with the task of providing guidance on critical issues confronting NCASAA during its time of restructuring. On a local level, she reviewed the Network Vision Planning effort; status of the Lee, Scott and Wise program transition; the ongoing CASA Manager implementation and the success of the CASA Anniversary Celebration.
- IX. **New Business** – none
- X. **Adjourn** - There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.