

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

January 23, 2026

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held on January 23, 2026.

Members Present

Morgan Cox
Jackie Robinson Brock
Shamika Byars
Judge Eugene Butler
Davy Fearon
Sandy Karison
Katharine Hunter
Allison Martin
Jeannine Panzera
Pat Popp, Vice-Chair
Eric Reynolds
Judge Thomas Sotelo, Chair

Members Not Present

Lana Mullins
Lora Smith

Guests

Keshia Bagby-Bailey (VDSS)
Rachel Miller (VDSS)

Staff Present

Jessica Carter
Jenna Foster
Laurel Marks
Melissa O'Neill

- I. Call to Order:** Judge Thomas Sotelo, Committee Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. All present introduced themselves.
- II. Approval of Minutes:** The committee received and reviewed the draft minutes of the October 24, 2025, meeting. Eric Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes, and Jackie Robinson Brock provided the second. The motion was approved with Davy Fearon abstaining.
- III. Citizen Review Panel Presentation:** A presentation on the Parental Child Safety Placement Program was delivered to the Committee by Keshia Bagby-Bailey, In-Home

Services Program Manager at the Virginia Department of Social Services. The presentation highlighted current statistics on program participation and outcomes.

Committee members reviewed the Citizen Review Panel's 2025 recommendations submitted to the Virginia Department of Social Services. The 2026 recommendations must be finalized by the April meeting to comply with CAPTA requirements. Members discussed the current recommendations and agreed to come prepared in April to propose revisions.

IV. Conflict of Interest Act Training and Statement of Economic Interest Act Filings:

Committee members were reminded to respond to emails containing instructions for completing Conflict of Interest Act training and submitting the Statement of Economic Interest filings.

V. Legislative Update: Bills of Interest

DCJS and members of the committee reported on bills of interest introduced during the 2026 General Assembly session regarding the investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse cases.

VI. CJA Program Update: The CASA/CJA Advisory Committee was provided with an update on the activities of the CJA program this quarter including multi-disciplinary team training evaluation and collaboration, continuation of the child death protocol training, and ongoing support of multi-disciplinary teams statewide.

VII. CASA Program Update: The committee was previously provided with a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. The following additional topic was discussed.

Funding Formula Focus Groups: The Committee received a presentation on the Funding Formula Focus Group project completed in October 2025. DCJS shared information on the purpose of the focus groups, participation by local CASA programs, feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the current funding formula, and ideas and strategies for improvement.

Virginia Case Studies Training of Facilitators Update: The Committee received an update on the Virginia Case Studies Training of Facilitators events held in January. Three regional sessions were scheduled for the month of January, with 20 programs registered to participate. Participant feedback has been positive, and plans are in place for implementation throughout the 2026 calendar year.

VIII. New Business: Members provided updates, information and news from their respective agencies and disciplines.

IX. Adjourn: Davy Fearon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Eric Reynolds provided the second. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Next meeting dates:

Friday April 24, 2026

Friday July 24, 2026 – Virtual