

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

July 29, 2016

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Court Appointed Special Advocate and Children's Justice Act programs was held on Friday, July 29, 2016 at the Richmond Police Training Academy, Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present

Robin Foster
Hum Cardounel, Jr.
Julia Fuller-Wilson
Jane Lissenden (Court Improvement Program)
Malcolm King
Alicia Lenahan
Kirk Marlowe
Robin Morgan
Nancy Oglesby
Mary Walter for Rita Katzman
Jim Pope
Pat Popp
Eric Reynolds
Viola Vaughan-Eden
Tera Yoder for Donna Gilles

Members Not Present

Frederick Rockwell
Alison Gilbreath

Staff Present

Melissa O' Neill
Mary Wilson

Special Guests

Dr. Singh – VCU Child Psychiatry Fellow

- I. **Call to Order:** Viola Vaughan-Eden, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:58 AM with the majority of members present. Attendees introduced themselves.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Upon a motion by Pat Popp and seconded by Jim Pope, the committee unanimously approved the minutes of January 29, 2016. Upon a motion by Eric Reynolds and seconded by Julia Fuller-Wilson, the committee unanimously approved the minutes of April 29, 2016.
- III. **Election of Officers:** Jim Pope and Rita Katzman served as the nominations committee. Jim Pope reported the committee has secured agreements from Viola Vaughan-Eden to serve as Chair and Julia Fuller-Wilson as Vice-Chair for the next year. The committee approved both appointments unanimously.
- IV. **Schedule Meeting Dates for FY17:** The following dates were scheduled for meetings for the year:

November 9 & 10, 2016 Planning Meeting
January 27, 2017
April 28, 2017
July 28, 2017

- IV. **By-Laws Review** – The Committee received revisions to the by-laws prior to the meeting. Changes reflected the recent changes to membership made during the General Assembly session. Alicia Lenahan made a motion to approve the changes and Malcolm King seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. *(NOTE: According to Article IX of the by-laws, amendments to the by-laws must be submitted in writing to the committee at one meeting before a vote can be taken at the next regular meeting. Since the committee was provided with the amendments at the July 29, 2016 meeting, the committee may vote on the by-laws at the next meeting.)*
- V. **CJA Program Update:** The committee was previously provided with a written update regarding the Children’s Justice Act program. Mary Wilson discussed the upcoming planning meeting to develop the next three year plan. Members were encouraged to identify data, topics and presentations of interest to inform the planning process. Dr. Foster suggested including the topic of human trafficking on the planning agenda. Mary Wilson provided the committee with information on pending federal legislation HR4843 that would amend the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require states to track and specify “plans of safe care” for substance exposed infants and their families. Mary Walter advised that the Virginia Department of Social Services is in the process of revising CPS guidance on developing plans of safe care. Mary Wilson and Julia Fuller-Wilson updated the committee on the planning for the DCJS conference *Intersection of Violence: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse* which is now set for April 12 – 14, 2017 at the Norfolk Marriott. Committee members will be invited to attend.

- VI. CASA Program Update:** The committee was supplied a written update regarding the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. Melissa O'Neill highlighted the increases in funding for CASA programs from the Virginia General Assembly and Victims of Crime Act federal funds. CASA programs will be using a portion of VOCA funding to upgrade CASA Manager beginning in August. DCJS is working with CASA programs to assist in managing VOCA reporting requirements. Additionally, Melissa noted the 2016 Statewide CASA conference dates have been set for November 18 and 19 and will be held at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel. Committee members are invited guests to all DCJS sponsored training events.
- VII. Citizen Review Panel:** Mary Walter provided members with a presentation of the Preliminary Report on Child Death Investigations in Virginia during SY2015. The committee asked questions regarding the data and had concerns that about 1/3 of the families had child welfare involvement.
- VIII. New Business:** Dr. Foster shared information regarding a new Primary Prevention Project at VCU to assist in development of attachment between new mothers and their babies.
- IX. Adjourn:** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM.