



CASA Kids Newsletter

October 2019

Announcements, Upcoming Events, and Support for CASAs

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Washington State Association of GAL Volunteer Programs 27th Annual Statewide Conference! October 25th and 26th, 2019 Northern Quest Casino and Resort Airway Heights, WA

This year's conference in Spokane will feature over 35 sessions to enhance your skills as a child advocate, the annual Volunteer of the Year award presentation, and several opportunities for child advocate volunteer networking.

The theme for the conference this year is centered on advocating for the child's best interests and what it means for the children for whom we advocate. In that spirit, there will be new and old speakers to provide information and training on how you can inform your practice as a child advocate for the children you serve.

Registration is only \$150 for two full days of training, conversations and being around those who share your commitment and passion for advocating for abused and neglected children in Washington State.

To make your registration and to see a list of available sessions and featured keynotes, visit <http://www.wachildadvocates.org> and click on the "2019 Conference" link.



Annual Conference Raffle

In 2019, our program offered an extra incentive for CASAs to earn training hours and entered all training attendees into a raffle for each training in which they participated. We had 330 entries! Let's congratulate **Deborah Erickson** who won the raffle and will be headed to the Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights, WA for the conference.

Thanks to all who participated!

National CASA/Washington State CASA/Local Programs Update

As some of you may be aware, Washington State CASA has recently changed its name and you might be wondering why. Historically, the local CASA Programs have operated structurally under standards and support from state and national programs. Over the last few years, the National CASA Association has been working on improving their branding, standards and reporting requirements from local county programs. This has caused some tensions between the National organization and the State organization and has impacted local programs and jurisdictions, as well.

The Washington State CASA program is no longer a member of the National CASA Association. Due to the National CASA Association owning the trademark name, CASA, the former Washing State CASA program has recently changed their website name to Washington Child Advocates and the conference this year is titled as such. The good news is that this change in names has not impacted the way we do business. Our Pierce County program is still working collaboratively with the former Washington State CASA program and business is operating as usual despite the name change. This year's conference will be happening! There are amazing speakers lined up to present and we are all excited to attend. The former Washington State CASA and local county programs will be working together to develop a new name. If you have ideas, please share them! In the interim you might see alternate names like Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem (VGALs) or Child Advocates being used.

The future relationship between our Pierce County program and the National CASA Association is unknown at this time. However, we continue to strive to make sure our programming is stable for children, families and our volunteers no matter what organizations we are affiliated with and/or what we call ourselves i.e. CASA, VGALs, Child Advocates, etc. Most importantly, it is you the volunteers who are the heart of our program and we are working to ensure the impact on everyone is minimal.

Please contact Amber or Buffy if you have any questions or concerns. We hope to see you at the conference.



We are currently re-assessing the **CASA Book Club** and looking at alternative methods of delivery such as a Facebook Book Club and/or phone app. CASAs,

please contact Buffy Via (253-625-4006) or Amber Hasler (253-798-7926) with any feedback and/or suggestions you may have.



Each year, Project Child Success identifies and celebrates people in Pierce County who have made a significant impact in the lives of children and families. These are not just experts or professionals, but people from all walks of life who have made a difference for children and families from our community.

Pierce County Juvenile Court CASA Program's very own **Laura Bentle** was recently surprised as a 2019 recipient of the Champions for Children award. Laura's passion for the last 30+ years has been supporting CASA programs in Spokane, Tacoma, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and Pend Oreille County. Laura spent six years with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians implementing their Tribal CASA program and as their Program Manager for the Tribal/County dual Program, now known as the Pend Oreille Valley CASA. Laura returned to the PCJC CASA Program in 2014 where she continues to advocate for children and supports CASA volunteers. Laura assisted with the development of the CASA ICWA Institute that is having its third annual cohort this year. She continues to assist and support the development of tribal programs across Washington State. Laura sits on LICWAC in Region 5, is a member of NICWA and sits on the Board of Washington State CASA as the Tribal Liaison.

Way to go Laura



Spotlight



MICHELLE

Fun facts:

- 1) I'm an amazing baker and food photographer.
- 2) I designed a website and blog that helps female entrepreneurs build their business while working with a tight budget.
- 3) I own a graphic & web-design agency.
- 4) I hate working out (like really hate it) but I always feel good once I do it.
- 5) My children & I have a Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas tradition: We build a blanket fort named Fort McWalters and watch movies with chocolate milk and Rice Krispy Treats.

Why did you become a CASA?

I became a CASA after a friend's son was murdered by a relative he was placed with when he and his sisters were removed from their mother's care. DFACS had 2,500 pages documenting his abuse and did nothing to remove the children from the home. He was also a child of color which I believe is facet to his tragic death. I knew I couldn't bring him back but if I could prevent this from happening to another child his death would not be in vain. I feel everyone becomes a CASA for many different reasons but our common denominator is compassion. These children need a voice that truly care about the outcome of their lives to advocate for them. More importantly Black American children need advocates who understand the cultural norms and are actual members of the Black/African American communities. I don't have a deep philosophical reason to become a CASA. It's simple, these children need us.

Favorite quote:

-Alone we are a drop of water, together we are an ocean.



Spotlight



PAI

Fun facts:

- 1) Moved to the Seattle area 2 years ago from Kansas when my husband left retirement to work for World Vision
- 2) Recently took up longarm quilting as a way to survive the cloudy weather - on pace to finish a quilt/month
- 3) Got my degree in chemical engineering but "retired" to raise 2 kids
- 4) I adore the Great British Baking Show and all things British
- 5) Can be seen "plogging" in my neighborhood regularly - picking up trash whilst I jog

Why did you become a CASA?

I signed up for the CASA program because I wanted a way to get involved in the community. A friend of mine who recently became a foster parent told me that she thought it would be a good fit for me. Even though it seemed out of my comfort zone, I thought that it would be a good challenge - (I'm not dead yet).

What would you tell someone who is considering becoming a CASA?

I'd advise someone that the reward of advocating for children as a CASA is very satisfying. If it seems out of your comfort zone, be assured that you will receive all the support and encouragement that you need from your coordinator. It has made me aware that the foster care system is populated with many caring and talented professionals and I feel honored to work among them to achieve the best possible outcome for these kids.



Did You Know?

CASA Kids is pleased to announce that we are now able to assist with the following needs:

- Rent and/or utility deposits when needed to secure or maintain safe housing for a dependent child. This could be available to a potential relative placement or to a parent needing suitable housing in order to reunite.
- CASAs who advocate for a child placed out of state may apply for airfare to visit the child.

Guidelines for applying for this assistance are posted at www.casakids-pierce.org

Please note: Our funds are limited so please explore other options for funding before applying.

Advice & Information for CASAs



Morgan's Legal Corner

Discovery Requests: When a Party Asks for Your File

As a CASA, you maintain a file that contains, among other things, your notes, Court documents, and correspondence regarding the case. Under RCW 13.50.100(10) and GALR2(p), your entire CASA file is "discoverable." Anything that is "discoverable" means that any party to the case can request a copy of anything and everything in your file. Generally, the only thing that another party can't see is communication between yourself and the CASA program attorney, Morgan Chaput, as that is identified as "attorney-client privileged" information.

Discovery requests are handled under a set of Court Rules known as the Civil Rules, generally CR26, CR30, CR33, CR34, and CR36. The most common discovery requests that you will see are requests for written answers to questions, called interrogatories, under CR33, and requests for documents, called

requests for production, under CR34. You may also see a request for a deposition under CR30, which is an interview conducted under oath.

So, what should you do if someone asks to see something in your CASA file?

Their request is considered a discovery request and *must* involve our attorney. First, immediately let your CASA Coordinator and our attorney know about the request. Our attorney will follow up with the requesting party to make sure that we understand exactly what they are looking for, including what specific documents and specific date ranges. Second, bring your CASA file to your Coordinator. They will get it to our attorney, who will go through your file, retrieve the requested documentation or information, copy, and redact any confidential information, and get the documents to the requesting party. Your file will then be returned to you.

Your CASA file must include *everything* you have about the case. Including text messages and emails. Our attorney will determine what documents or information is to be disclosed to the other party and she needs everything in the file to make that determination.

If you receive a request for a deposition, please contact your CASA Coordinator and our attorney immediately and they will advise you on the next steps. It is extraordinarily rare for a party to request a CASA deposition, but it is a possibility under the Civil Rules.

Questions or concerns about the discovery process? Please talk to your CASA Coordinator or CASA attorney Morgan Chaput for more details.

Civility, Collaboration, and Hope **By Starr Mayer**

Last week was an inspiring one. It started with closing a case for a family with three small children, who had been in and out of the court's jurisdiction for many years. It was a small court room packed with parents, siblings, grandparents, great grandparents, and cheer. There were teddy bears for the kids, applause, and hugs; a certificate for the parents; and sighs of relief from the social worker, the CASA, and the judge – all of whom had travelled the winding road with the family.

Wednesday was the Permanency Summit. A large room was filled with judges and attorneys and social workers and random court workers – along with a smattering of foster parents, bio parents who serve as parent advocates, CASAs and agency directors. The theme was “Civility and Collaboration.” Laying out the obvious – that the processes and people involved in permanency planning are inherently adversarial –the presenters worked to move us to a different plane. As

one person said: “You will have to go through your days and attend to tasks, no matter what; why not be kind?”

The obvious tensions between parties involved in working with families toward permanency can be moderated. We can collaborate, and civility greases the gears to grind more easily and efficiently. Foster Parents and Biological parents CAN work past the deeply rooted fears and resentments; attorneys and social workers CAN have shared goals; judges and families CAN be a team. We are all there on behalf of the children.

I have been a CASA for more than 3 years. I needed to hear, again, the story of recovery as told by one of the parents. I ached at the plea by a teenage panel member who survived multiple foster home placements. She asked us to help kids and families resolve problems, rather than fast-forwarding to removal. I shed tears at the description of a new foster mother meeting a new parent for the first time, welcoming her with open arms. As she hugged her, I heard the foster mother whisper to the parent: “Your child is safe with me. I will take care of her until you are able.”

I don't wear rose colored glasses. I suppose I wear the transition lenses – the ones that adjust and adapt to the situations in which I find myself. Lately, from the morning newspaper to the tasks of the day, my world view has felt more dark than light. This week, I felt like I had had an optical surgery that allowed me to see clearly—without obstruction or distortion – neither tinted rose nor gray.

I feel hope.

(Kudos to Buffy Via and Julio Serrano, who was on the committee to plan the event and Amber Hasler, who wrote a grant (accepted) to create a child friendly space at the court. And a special thank you to all the potential collaborators we work with day in and day out, most of whom go beyond civility to create real partnerships for our children to allow them to be in permanent healthy homes.)

Services, Resources and Community Events



Lifeline Assistance Program

Recognizing the important benefits associated with phone access and concerned that low-income households may not be able to afford phone service on their own, the government created the Lifeline Assistance program. This government benefit program is supported by the federal Universal Service Fund (USF). Since 1985, the federal Lifeline Assistance program has provided discounted phone service to low-income households that qualify based on federal or state-specific eligibility criteria.

<https://www.assurancewireless.com/lifeline-services/what-lifeline>

Coordinated Care Sessions:

Adoption Success and Community Forum

- Learn about the partnership between the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and Coordinated Care
- Share your ideas and feedback to help build a better system of support for adopted youth and their families

Tuesday | October 8, 2019

Two Sessions:

12:30PM to 2:00PM OR 6:00pm to 7:30PM

1145 Broadway Suite 300, Tacoma, WA 98402

Questions? Contact Julie.M.Lowery@coordinatedcarehealth.com

Tacoma Housing Authority Waitlist OPEN

The Tacoma Housing Authority is accepting eligible people to apply for affordable housing October 7-18, 2019.

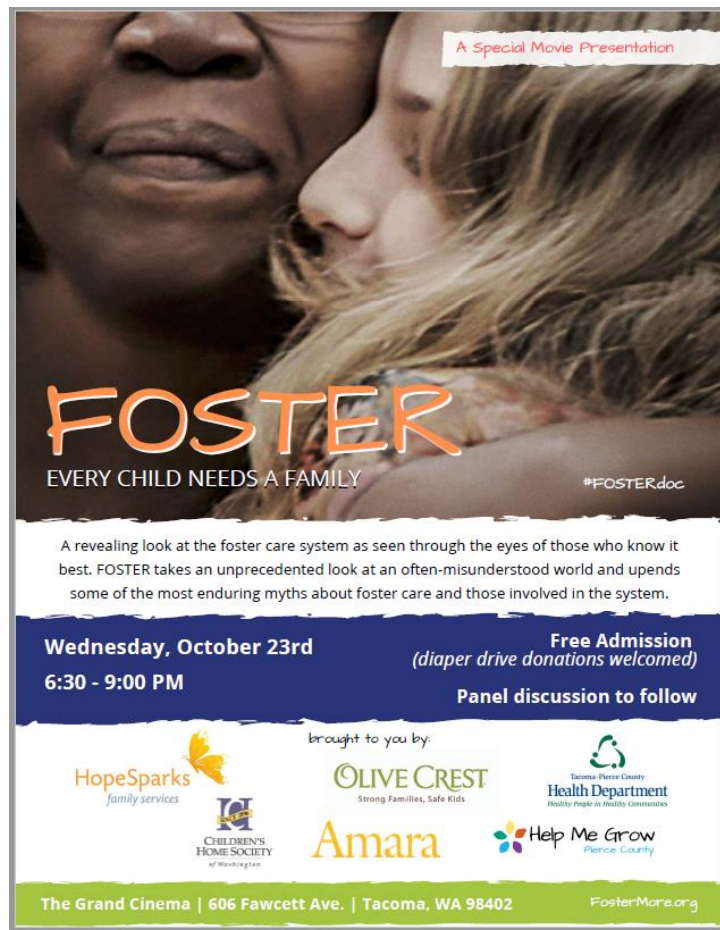
Stu King from MultiCare

Stu King from MultiCare gave the following information on connecting people to substance use treatment.

- Folks must have Pierce County Medicaid (until January, when it becomes state wide vs county) and a photo of some sort to identify themselves. They do intakes in Tacoma and Puyallup and it is all walk-in basis Mon-Fri from 8-2pm. They have the ability to do more intakes in Tacoma, but if someone wants services in Puyallup, they are able to set up services at that site. The intake/assessment takes about 1-2 hours.
- Stu King: stu.king@multicare.org 253-459-6583

Triple P for Free Online

Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department is offering Triple P for free online: Flyer attached and more info here WWW.TRIPLEP-PARENTING.COM/PIERCECOUNTY



A Special Movie Presentation

FOSTER

EVERY CHILD NEEDS A FAMILY

#FOSTERdoc

A revealing look at the foster care system as seen through the eyes of those who know it best. FOSTER takes an unprecedented look at an often-misunderstood world and upends some of the most enduring myths about foster care and those involved in the system.

Wednesday, October 23rd
6:30 - 9:00 PM

Free Admission
(diaper drive donations welcomed)

Panel discussion to follow

brought to you by:

HopeSparks family services
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY of Washington
OLIVE CREST Strong Families, Safe Kids
Amara
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Healthy People in Healthy Communities
Help Me Grow Pierce County

The Grand Cinema | 606 Fawcett Ave. | Tacoma, WA 98402
FosterMoms.org

2019 Fall Play to Learn Schedule

Morning 9:30 - 11 a.m or 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Afternoon 1:30 - 3 p.m. | Evening 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Monday: September 23, 30 | October 7, 14*, 21, 28 | November 4, 18 | December 2, 9

Madison Early Learning Center | 10 a.m. | 3101 S. 43rd St., Tacoma, WA 98409

Key Peninsula Civic Center | 9:30 a.m. | 17010 S. Vaughn Rd., Vaughn, WA 98394

South Hill Pierce County Library | 1:30 p.m. | 15420 Meridian E., Puyallup, WA 98375

**No class at South Hill Library on October 14*

Tuesday: September 24 | October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | November 5*, 12, 19 | December 3, 10

Puyallup Public Library | 9:30 a.m. | 324 S. Meridian, Puyallup, WA 98371

**No class at Puyallup on November 5*

Inclusive Circle Time at Museum | 10 a.m. | 1501 Pacific Ave. Tacoma, WA 98402

Sumner Pierce County Library | 1:30 p.m. | 1116 Fryar Ave., Sumner, WA 98390

Salishan Family Investment Center | 4:30 p.m. | 1724 E. 44th St., Tacoma, WA 98404

Wednesday: September 25 | October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | November 6, 13, 20 | December 4, 11

Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Library | 10 a.m. | 13718 Pacific Ave S., Parkland, WA 98444

Eastside Community Center | 9:30 a.m. | 1721 E. 56th St., Tacoma, WA 98404

Graham Pierce County Library | 1:30 p.m. | 9202 224th St E., Graham, WA 98338

Wednesday classes on Joint Base Lewis McChord

Escape Zone | 10 a.m. | 851 Lincoln Blvd. S.W., McChord AFB, WA 98438

Raindrops and Rainbows | 1:30 p.m. | 8197 American Lake Dr., Lewis North

Thursday: September 26 | October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | November 7, 14, 21 | December 5, 12

Lakewood Pierce County Library | 10 a.m. | 6300 Wildaire Rd. S.W., Lakewood, WA 98499

Bay Terrace | 10 a.m. | 2550 S. 'G' Street, Tacoma, WA 98405

Moore Library | 10 a.m. | 215 S. 56th Ave., Tacoma, WA 98408

Milton/Edgewood Pierce County Library | 1:30 p.m. | 900 Meridian E., Suite 29, Milton, WA 98354

Friday: September 27 | October 4, 11, 18, 25 | November 1, 8, 15*, 22 | December 6, 13*

Asia Pacific Cultural Center | 10 a.m. | 4851 S. Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409

Key Peninsula Civic Center | 9:30 a.m. | 17010 S. Vaughn Rd., Vaughn, WA 98394

**No class at Key Peninsula Civic Center on November 15 and December 13*

Prairie Ridge Recreation Hall | 10 a.m. | 14205 215th Ave. E., Bonney Lake, WA, 98391

Winter Break: December 16 - January 3
Winter Play to Learn Begins: January 6, 2020

Native American Children's Booklist 2019

Regina Hopkins from Fostering Together created a Native American children's book list you can share with all your caregivers. The books are available at local libraries and bookstores. The list is located on the [Fostering Together website](#) and attached.

Opioid-Dependent Newborns Get New Treatment: Moms Instead of Morphine

Click link to read the article:

<https://www.chcf.org/blog/opioid-dependent-newborns-get-new-treatment/>

Ali's Prom Project

Ali's Prom Project that provides FREE dresses, shoes and accessories formal dances to students on free or reduced lunch.



Student Information

Name: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____

Event Name: _____ Event Date: _____

Person Making Referral

Name: _____ Ph/email: _____

Referral Date: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

Comments: _____

For questions contact:

alispromproject@gmail.com

Appointments may be scheduled online at:

AlisPromProject.org

- Must be currently enrolled in high school and present a valid school ID card or other proof of current enrollment.
- Each teen may select one dress, as well as related accessories if available.
- Must make an appointment and arrive on time. Arriving more than 15 minutes after scheduled time, may result in forfeiture of appointment.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

DCYF Kinship Caregiver Resource Fair

You were there when your family needed you. Now let us be there for you.

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is hosting a resource fair designed to support kinship caregivers.

Drop in and stay for a while. This is a child friendly event. Light snacks provided to keep you energized!



Informational booths include:

- DCYF: RGAP, clothing vouchers, dependency process, Kinship Care Support Funds, mileage reimbursement
- Department of Licensing: relative home study, foster care licensing
- Community Service Office (CSO): financial assistance
- Kinship Navigators: support groups, emergency short-term funds
- CASA/GAL Staff: court process, child advocacy

And Many More

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**DCYF Tacoma Office, 1949 South State Street,
Tacoma, WA, Rm 195**

New Apprenticeship Resource

NEW APPRENTICESHIP RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED FOSTER CARE, HOMELESSNESS

Passport to Apprenticeship is a new program for adults ages 18-26 who have experienced homelessness or foster care. This scholarship can help with tuition for classes, books, fees, work clothes, and other supplies needed to complete an apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship. For more eligibility information, and information on how to apply, see:

<https://wsac.wa.gov/passport/guide>.

Resource for Children with Autism to Pay for Related Incidentals

Ben's Fund

<https://www.featwa.org/bens-fund.html>

It is a grant founded by the Seahawks GM for kiddos 2-18 (actually they just added eligibility for young adults 19-23 as well) diagnosed with Autism to pay for related incidentals. A CM with our Medicaid team just used it to get a kiddo a weighted blanket, crash mat and stimulating toys. They can get up to \$1000 per year, per person and having insurance does not impact their eligibility. It sounds like if approved, they use Amazon to ship the requested items directly to the family.

Family Support Centers

Safe, Stable, Nurturing

Family Support Partnership promotes safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children. Healthy relationships and environments fostered at home, school and in the community:

- Are powerful, protective and healing in a child's life.
- Promote positive experiences for children.
- Are the building blocks of a child's physical and emotional growth.

Confidence to build strong relationships.



Family Support Centers

Get the help and resources you need to achieve your family goals. Each support center offers unique services. We design each center to meet the needs of the community around it.

Bethel

18020 8 St. E.
Spanaway, WA 98387
(253) 683-6850

Tacoma (Eastside)

3569 E. Roosevelt Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98404
(253) 798-4569

Key Peninsula

17010 S. Vaughn Rd. KPN
Voughn, WA 98394
(253) 884-5433

Sumner/Bonney Lake

1518 Main St.
Sumner, WA 98390
(253) 891-6150

Orting

120 Washington Ave. N.
Orting, WA 98360
(360) 893-8500

White River

250 W. Main, Building 200
Buckley, WA 98321
(360) 829-5883

Get services for your family

Go to www.tpchd.org/fspreferral.

- Request a program or service.
- Complete all information.
- Click Review and verify accuracy.
- Click Submit.

You can also contact us at (253) 798-4608 or fspartnership@tpchd.org.

Healthy Kids.
Healthy Families.
Healthy Communities.



Upcoming Trainings

Best for Babies | Friday, 10/18 | 11:00am – 1:00pm

Information Gathering/Monitoring Training | Wed 10/30 | 5:30 - 7:30

GAL Rules Training (mandatory once) | Fri 11/15 | 10:30am – 12:30pm | Sat 12/7
at 9:30am -11:30am

Report Writing | Fri 12/20 at 11am-12:30pm

Training for New CASAs | Sun 10/13 & Tues 12/10



<https://www.facebook.com/CASAKidsPierce/>

Please Like Us on Facebook

Please Consider Helping Our Cause by Donating or Sharing this Link:

www.crowdrise.com/casakidstacom

Board of Directors & Committees

Mary Bartley: President | Kathy Bertram: Vice President; Recruitment & Retention | Jenny Kenyon Gentry Secretary; Recruitment & Retention; Community Relations & Social Media | Dan Casey: Treasurer, Children's Program | Buffy Via: CASA Liaison | Lauren Stasiak: Newsletter | Mike McCowan: Fundraising

CASA Kids meets on the 2nd Wednesday, every other month, from 5:30 - 7:30 in the CASA room at Remann Hall. Meetings are open to all.

January | March | May | July | September | November