

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE

McDonough County, Illinois

October 2017 Newsletter

Advocacy Network for Children Mission Statement: To protect and uphold the rights of children when wrongs have been committed against them; to help abused or neglected children have safe, permanent homes where they can thrive; to act as a powerful voice in these children's best interest and to educate the public about the plight of unrepresented children within the child welfare system.

Illinois Child Protection Data Courts (CPDC) Project Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC)

A common goal for most everyone involved in the juvenile court system is for children not to languish in the system. The goal is to find permanency in a home where the abused and neglected child can thrive. McDonough County is privileged to be involved in a project that helps assure these juvenile cases move through the system in a timely fashion.

The purpose of the CPDC Project is to establish a data collection structure to track nationally recognized child protection court performance measures in order to enable the courts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness in ensuring safety, permanency, due process, and timeliness in child protection court cases. The primary long-term goal is to put into operation a statewide, uniform automated data collection and case tracking structure to measure all 30 court performance measures and track outcomes for children and families.

The CPDC Project, established in October 2009, began with partnerships between the AOIC, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and Kankakee-Iroquois, Madison, McLean, McHenry and Winnebago counties. Original CPDC sites were involved in manual court data collection activities to track 18 of the 30 child protection court performance measures; while one site acted as a test site for automated implementation of the 30 court performance measures.

CPDC sites are given comprehensive data reports that provide the foundation for sites to identify strengths and areas needing improvement. With assistance from the AOIC/NCSC team, CPDC sites work to develop data-driven action plans that

promote change in local practice to improve the court process in abuse, neglect and dependency proceedings.

To further the AOIC's CPDC Project initiative, the project was expanded in 2013 to include four new partnering courts. New CPDC manual data collection project sites included Kane, McDonough, Jefferson and Peoria Counties. In 2017 Sangamon County will join the project.

Some Types of Data Collected

- *Child safety while under court jurisdiction*
- *Child safety after release from court jurisdiction*
- *Achievement of child permanency*
- *Number of judicial officers per case*
- *Time to permanent placement*
- *Time to hearings, i.e. adjudication, dispositional, first permanency hearing, termination of parental rights, etc.*
- *and, incarcerated parents, number of court continuances and the reason for those continuances.*

**This information was taken from the AOIC 2017 Summary Sheet provided at the September 22nd meeting.*

Each September the AOIC hosts a meeting for counties participating in this program. Each county receives easily interpreted, charted data specific to that county. These performance measurements make it easy for the county to identify areas of strength and those in need of improvement.

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Happy October 24th birthday CASA volunteer Jim Pumo! Thanks for your advocacy for abused and neglected children!

2017 Run for CASAs Kids T-Shirts!
We have t-shirts from the 2017 Run for CASAs Kids. They range in sizes from Small to XX-Large in adult sizes. If you know of a school or organization that could put the shirts to good use, please call Vicki Duba at 309-544-0003.

CASA – Calendar of Upcoming Opportunities!

October 5 – Swearing in of six new CASA volunteers and one transfer from Dallas, Texas.

October 5 – CASA Presentations: Who We Are, What We Do.

7:00 am - Macomb Morning Rotary

9:00 am - Macomb Area Christian Ministerial Association

October 10 – Brown Bag Lunch with Lunch Provided! 12:00 noon at the First Presbyterian Church in Macomb, second floor. It's a special time of sharing time amongst CASA volunteers. What are your challenges? Something that deserves a celebration? Most difficult times? RSVP please so we can accommodate everyone for lunch.

October 18 – Interagency Council. 9:00 am to 10:30 am at the McDonough County Health Department. Guest speaker, Norine Hammond, State Representative.

November 8 – Evening In-Service. 5:30 – 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Macomb. Scott Cameron, Permanency Achievement Specialist for Illinois Department of Children and Family Service, will talk about his program, Family Finding. Scott will discuss the importance and benefits of finding immediate and extended family willing to provide support for abused and neglected children just as soon as they are removed from the home.

November 15 – Interagency Council. 9:00 am to 10:30 am at the McDonough County Health Department. Guest speaker is Becky Derry, McDonough District Hospital Behavioral Health. Becky's presentation will be "Taking Care of Yourself as you Serve Others".

December 12 – Holiday Open House, sponsored by Advocacy Network for Children.

4:00 – 5:30 pm in the parlor of the First Presbyterian Church, Carroll and Dudley Streets. Welcome CASA volunteers, the Children's Advocacy Center team, and friends in the community!

April 7, 2018 – 2nd Annual Run for CASA's Kids. Details to come.

"Events in the Making"
Understanding the Integrated Assessment