

# COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

## APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Events!

#### **April 6th at Noon**

Our annual flag raising at the Adams County Courthouse in honor of Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. This will be on the 5th street side of the courthouse. Everyone is invited!

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#### **April 12th at Noon**

Quanada will be here for Noon-Networking to discuss their agency.

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#### **April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9am to 1pm**

At Farm & Home Supply and both County Markets we will be hosting Koins for Kids

Get your Koins ready!

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#### **Thursday May 10th,**

Marilyn Smith from the Quincy Public School will be here for the Noon-Networking to discuss school building updates. We look forward to seeing you!

### **Happy April Birthdays!**

Denette Kuhlman– 6th

Lee Lindsay– 13th

Enjoy Your Special Day!



Please welcome Morgan  
County CASA Coordinator  
Jami Ornellas!



Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

— Elizabeth Andrew

*Danielle  
Ali*

(OVER)

April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month. The basics of these definitions are discussed in CASA training, however a refresher is always important. The following information is provided by Illinois DCFS and additional information can be found at [www.illinois.gov/dcfs](http://www.illinois.gov/dcfs).

As trained mandated reporters, please keep the DCFS Hotline number handy  
1-800-25-ABUSE.

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## What is child abuse and neglect?

Child abuse is the mistreatment of a child under the age of 18 by:

- a parent or their romantic partner;
- an immediate relative or someone living in their home;
- a caretaker such as a babysitter or daycare worker;
- any person responsible for the child's welfare, such as a health care provider, educator, coach or youth program volunteer.

The mistreatment can either result in injury or put the child at serious risk of injury. Child abuse can be physical (i.e. bruises or broken bones), sexual (i.e. fondling or incest), or mental (emotional injury or psychological illness).

Neglect is the failure of a parent or caretaker to meet "minimal parenting" standards for providing adequate supervision, food, clothing, medical care, shelter or other basic needs.

*If you see abuse that does not fit the above mentioned perpetrators please call 911*

## What if I'm not absolutely sure abuse is occurring?

Unfortunately, as much as 70 percent of child abuse goes unreported, and a child tells an average of seven adults that they are being abused or neglected before a report is made. Every delay in reporting suspected abuse or neglect increases the likelihood that abuse will become more serious, or even deadly, and that the perpetrator will abuse additional children. By trusting your own senses, common sense and instincts, and calling the hotline whenever you suspect a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm, you can ensure a child is safe and that her family is getting the help they need.

To prevent unnecessary investigations, hotline calls are screened by trained social workers to determine whether they warrant investigation for abuse or neglect. Of the more than one million hotline calls received over the past four years, only about one in four resulted in a formal report and an investigation. Many of the calls that do not lead to investigations are often directed to referrals that connect families with community-based programs aimed at preventing abuse. When formal investigations do occur, only four percent result in children being removed from their homes.

