



# CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

## Newsletter

June 2019

Pike County

### Topic One

Don't forget to fill out your calendars as you work your case!!



Please make sure to get those to me by the end of each month.

### Topic Two



Don't forget to enjoy your summer and take time for yourself! Taking care of yourself is a necessity for all the hard work you have been doing!! Take time to soak up some sun, read a book, enjoy your family, etc.

### Topic Three

Please remember when requesting information from schools, therapist etc. to provide a copy of the order that appoints CASA to the case, and the order appointing you as the volunteer.



### Key Dates

June 6<sup>th</sup>: Monthly Meeting

This month topic will be about self-care and recognizing the signs of burnout.



June 21-23: CASA Volunteer Training

A new CASA volunteer training will begin this month! The accelerated training is scheduled to start June 21<sup>st</sup> and end June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please pass the word and call our office for additional information.

# CASA: THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS WORK

## **Addressing an urgent need:**

The stats are harrowing. In 2017, nine out of every 1,000 U.S. children were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect. That's why the need for CASA volunteers is so great. CASA volunteers advocate for the best interests of children who are involved in the court system as a result of abuse or neglect. For many of these children, their CASA advocate will be the one constant in an otherwise chaotic life.

## **The children we serve have experienced significant trauma.**

The vast majority of children who are victims of maltreatment have suffered from neglect. Physical abuse accounted for 18 percent of child maltreatment victims in 2017. Some children are subjected to both physical abuse and neglect.

Physical abuse and neglect are two of a number of highly stressful, potentially traumatic experiences known as "adverse childhood experiences," or ACEs. One in 3 children in the U.S. has experienced three or more ACEs. Experiencing abuse, neglect and other ACEs can cause feelings of helplessness and intense fear in children. Among other ACEs children who have experienced abuse or neglect may have been subjected to are:

- witnessing violence
- sexual or emotional abuse
- having mental illness in the household
- incarceration of a household member

For children who are removed from their families, that removal and life in foster care can add to the trauma. The impacts of this trauma can last a lifetime. Trauma can mark children's health and ability to thrive immediately, and as they age, including negatively impacting:

- brain development
- achievement
- physical health
- behavior
- mental health
- income
- educational

But there is hope. Some children are more resilient to the impacts of trauma. For others, it's a relationship with a supportive adult—like a CASA volunteer—that makes the difference. CASA volunteers help children—and families—access services that promote healing. CASA volunteers are trained to understand the impact of trauma on children.

They spend time with children and the people in their lives. They talk to service providers, teachers and social workers to gather information that will help them make informed recommendations to the court. Based on what they learn, our volunteers advocate for services that help children develop resilience without causing additional trauma. They also encourage services that strengthen parents' relationships with their children.