



# CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

## Newsletter

**September 2019**

**Adams County**

### Topic One

Congratulations to Danielle Woodyard, CASA Manager, on her upcoming marriage on September 21, 2019! She will be off from September 18, 2019 to September 30, 2019. Contact Ali Hibbert, CASA Coordinator, with any questions or concerns.



### Topic Two



Remember to take a photo of the CASA child(ren) in your case! This helps the court see the change of the child(ren) throughout the life of a case. After the picture is taken, give it to CASA staff immediately and delete the photo off your device.

### Topic Three

**Happy September Birthday!!**

3- Lori Marquart

**Enjoy your special day!**



## Key Dates

### September 12: Noon Networking

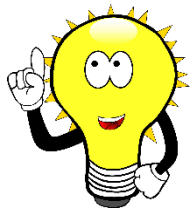
Anita Hanke from the Health Department will be at our office to discuss the All Our Kids (AOK) program. This will start at noon. Please RSVP.



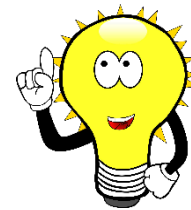
**October 10: Noon Networking**  
A speaker from QU will be at our office to discuss diversity. This will start at noon. Please RSVP.

### October 26: CASA Event

Homebank has Trivia Night scheduled! The fun begins at 6pm at Sesquicentennial in Palmyra. Part of the proceeds will benefit Adams CASA. For more info, see our Facebook page.



# 5 Quick Practical Tips When Receiving New Case



Most Court Appointed Special Advocates become volunteers with CASA because they [care](#) about kids. While that's often the motivation, sometimes talking to kids about tough stuff is the hardest part! So, you're in the car on your way to your **FIRST** meeting with a child to whom you've been assigned, what do you do? Here are 5 quick, practical tips!

- 1. Calm down** - Remember from training, an interview is just a conversation with a purpose. You are at the beginning of building a strong, a trusting relationship with the child. Children in foster care have A LOT going on in their lives. It's chaotic and unpredictable. Be a dependable, calm presence that they can rely on. Dial in to them and be ready to listen more than you talk.
- 2. Prepare (a little)** - I say to only prepare a little here, not because I don't think you should properly research the file before a first meeting, but as a reminder that you don't know what you don't know, so don't sit down and draft out 25 questions to ask the child. What if they have a really important bit of info that you just didn't know to ask about?

Instead, think about 2 or 3 broad objectives for that meeting. For a first meeting, the broad objectives might be 1) to begin establishing rapport 2) to help the child understand your role as a CASA 3) to learn a bit more about the child's knowledge and understanding of their family situation

- 3. Don't [start](#) "with the case"** - This child's court case is one of a million things about their life. Make a point to get to know that child as an individual outside of the harsh lines of a case file. What are their favorite things? What foods do they like or not like? What makes them feel safe? Or loved? What video games or [tv shows](#) are they into right now? (please, no lecture about video games)
- 4. Make an action plan with the child** - If the child asks questions and you don't have the answers or need to [check](#), let them know when you'll be following up. If the child is struggling with a school or family issue, make an informal plan about how they might deal with that issues. If the child can't immediately answer questions about their wishes or other case-related issues, encourage them to take time to think about it and get back to you during your next visit.
- 5. Follow through quickly and with feedback** - If you told the child you would check on something, do it and get back to them quickly. Be dependable and trustworthy.