



July 2020

## ***SIGNS OF POSSIBLE SEXUAL ABUSE***

Abuse can be hard to recognize. It helps to know specific signs to look for, and trust your gut as you look at the whole picture of a child's physical and emotional health. Here are five signs of possible sexual abuse. If you notice a child experiencing any of these signs, please call and report immediately. You can make a report to the child abuse hotline at 1-800-252-2873, your local DCFS office or your local law enforcement office

1. Symptoms of Anxiety
2. Abnormal Sexual Behaviors or Symptoms
3. Changes in Personality or Mood
4. General Behavioral Changes
5. Changes in Beliefs or Discussions

([www.onewithcourage.org](http://www.onewithcourage.org))

You don't need proof to report abuse. And remember, a child's physical and emotional well-being, and maybe even his or her life, could be at stake.

## ***BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

The agency's new FY 21 Board of Directors was approved at its meeting on June 17th. Thank you to the following individuals for their commitment to our mission: Denise Tallcott (President), Bob Daly (Vice-President), Tammy Niemann (Treasurer), Jeri Conboy (Secretary), Kent Snider (Past President), Dr. Stephanie Reyburn, Bill Paxton, Mark Schlipman, Mandar Dighe, Denette Kuhlman, Brooke Stokes, Shannon Nicholas and Marian Bland.

## ***OFFICES CLOSED***

Our offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd. We wish everyone a safe and wonderful 4th of July holiday weekend.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

July  
03 Office closed  
**August**  
13 Noon Networking - Quincy

We currently have the following volunteer needs:

- Happy Bear Presentations
- CASA Volunteers
- Fundraising
- Mailings

If you would like to help, please contact our office at 217-223-2272.

Our agency could not continue its mission of advocating for children without your help. You can help by:

- Monetary Donation
- ANC Foundation Donation
- Office Supply Donation

## NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS

We would like to welcome two new Hancock County CASA volunteers. Due to COVID-19 concerns, volunteers were sworn in virtually by Judge Rodney Clark on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Pictured top left to right are Judge Clark, Danielle Buss (CASA Manager), and Aaron Stevenson, and bottom row Mandy Humphry (CASA Coordinator) and Chelsie Mason.



Our first group of Brown County CASA volunteers were sworn in by Judge Jerry Hooker at the Brown County Courthouse on June 15th. Pictured left to right are Lori Orr, Judge Hooker, and Chris Brierton.



New Adams County CASA volunteers were sworn in by Judge John Wooleyhan at the Adams County Courthouse on June 16th. Pictured left to right are Steve Schlueter, Kelsey Houghton, Judge Wooleyhan and Allison Liesen.



Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the children in our community and for giving them a voice.

## THANK YOU

The Rotary Club of Quincy recently awarded \$330.00 to the agency to support the installation of new interior and exterior lighting at our Quincy office. The lighting has improved safety and security for the children/families we serve. Rotarian Emily Robbearts is pictured with Todd Shackelford, Executive Director.



A \$1,750.00 grant was awarded to the agency from the Nonprofit Emergency Response Fund through the Community Foundation. Funds will be used for building modifications to meet COVID-19 requirements.

The agency was chosen as the 2nd quarter recipient of \$10,000.00 from 100 Who Care. This wonderful group is comprised of 100 women, meeting 4 times a year for 1 hour, who each contribute \$100 towards a \$10,000 donation to a local nonprofit. With this donation to the agency, the group has donated \$100,000.00 to local non-profits.

The Advocacy Network for Children Foundation received a \$2,000.00 donation from State Street Bank. The funds were part of a grant to help local nonprofit customers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We truly appreciate your support of our agency, its mission and programs!

***Please see page 3 for the agency's response to COVID-19***

**\*\* When shopping at Amazon Smile, choose Advocacy Network for Children as your charity and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to us! \*\***



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[www.advonet.org](http://www.advonet.org)



## ***AGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19***

Amid the ongoing concerns over COVID-19, our agency continues to take steps to keep our staff, volunteers and clients safe. Staff began returning to the office in shifts on June 1st with changes put in place. At this time, we anticipate this continuing through the end of July.

Our Children's Advocacy Center staff continue to do forensic interviews. Safety precautions are in place for our staff, MDT members and children and families and PPE supplies are available if needed. Attendance at court hearings is done at the direction of the respective county. Staff is doing follow-up contact with clients to check on their well-being. Mental health providers remain willing to provide mental health services to our clients via telemental health.

Our CASA staff is constantly in touch with its volunteers for assistance and guidance as it relates to child visits via technology and help with case reports. No home visits are being done for the safety of all parties. Required contact is being arranged with everyone's safety in mind. Attendance at juvenile court case hearings are being done at the direction of the respective county.

We are following all guidelines put into place by our various grantors (both state and federal), the CDC and local and state officials.

We need to remain vigilant and continue to all work together to reduce the spread of this virus. At the same time, with all the stress and uncertainty this pandemic is causing families, we fear child abuse cases will go up in the coming months. With schools and daycares being closed, reporting of child abuse cases has declined significantly. If you suspect a child is being abused, please call the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-2873.

Please visit our website or Facebook page for new or additional updates. Our website also contains a complete list of staff names, phone numbers and office locations.