



# CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocate  
FOR CHILDREN



## September 2024 Newsletter

Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler

### Friendly Reminders!

\*School is back in session. Ensure you are checking in with teachers/ children to see how they are progressing throughout the year.

\*Children in your current cases are to be seen once a month at minimum. The note from your visit should be added to OPTIMA or ensure your coordinator is aware to add the note for you. If you are not able to see your CASA children during the month let your coordinator know.

*Sorry!* WE'RE  
**CLOSED**

September 2, 2024  
Labor Day

*\* 12 continuing education hours are due by the end of the year. Join in on Networkings to receive hours, watch webinars, watch a movie relating to child neglect, foster care, diversity, juvenile court system, ETC or read a book about these.*

### Birthdays!

3-Lori Marquart  
7-Lori Waddell  
12-Rick Halter  
12-Christina Engle  
13-Tawny Matthews  
23-Vickey Hoenes  
27-Whitney Mintert

**Enjoy your  
day!**

### Adams, Pike, Brown, Cass, Schuyler Counties

Noon Networking  
**Topic:** Adams County Court House Facility Dog, Hoagie w/ Laura Keck  
**When:** September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**Time:** 12:00pm  
**Location:** 1420 Harrison Quincy, IL 62301 and Zoom

Link for Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81249506392>



### Webinar: Ways to Work Well Together as an IEP Team presented by Family Matters

Link: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Register for the above online training if interested using the link. Training will be September 6<sup>th</sup> from 3-4.

### Hancock County

Networking  
**Topic:** OPTIMA Note Taking  
**When:** September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**Time:** 12-1pm  
**Location:** Hancock CASA Office

### Morgan County

Networking  
**Topic:** OPTIMA Training  
**When:** September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**Time:** 12:00pm  
**Location:** Presbyterian Church, located at 870 W College Ave in Jacksonville

## Courthouse Facility Dog

A courthouse facility dog is a professionally trained assistance dog, suitable for providing quiet companionship to vulnerable individuals in legal settings without causing any disruption of the proceedings. Facility dogs are working dogs that are specially chosen because of their calm demeanor and ability to work in a high-stress environment thereby decreasing the risk of creating legal issues. When their workday is over they go home with their primary handler and are “off duty.”

### What Is a Facility Dog Team?

- \* The dog is a graduate of an accredited assistance dog organization. (Accreditation of these nonprofit organizations is under the auspices of Assistance Dogs International, which has set the standards in this industry since 1987.)
- \* Originating in carefully bred litters, they have been socialized to a wide variety of conditions – public spaces, crowded restaurants, children of all ages, elevators and open stairways, cars, office workspaces, public transportation. This wide socialization from an early age produces a dog that is not stressed by public life as an adult.
- \* Each courthouse facility dog is handled by a professional working in the legal field, who have been individually trained by the accredited assistance dog organization. The primary handler receives intensive training on how to handle the dog in public and care for the dog for its lifetime at work and home. Handlers include victim advocates, forensic interviewers, detectives, prosecuting attorneys, Guardians Ad Litem, therapists, and other professionals.
- \* To graduate and be certified as a facility dog team, the dog and handler must pass the ADI Public Access Test (the same test for public safety used for certified service dogs).
- \* The handler and dog are re-certified at regular intervals by the assistance dog organization to ensure that the team has maintained the organization’s training standards and that they continue to safely and reliably work in public areas.