

## CASA Program Newsletter Fall 2013



Aloha!

I just want to start by sending a big MAHALO out to all of the CASAs, CASA Program Staff, the William S. Richardson School of Law students, and any other volunteers, who came out to support the CASA Program for the Paniolo Fair on September 14th! We were able to raise just over \$1,900, which was AMAZING! Your support of our event helped us to raise some much-needed funding to help our CASAs help the youth we work with every single day.

I'd also like to share some other exciting news with you about the Fostering Futures Program! I'm sure you've all heard the name "Fostering Futures" floating around over the past few months, but not all of you may be familiar with what it is.

*"Fostering Futures is a specialized training curriculum to help CASAs become better advocates for older youth in foster care (ages 14-21). These older youth face many challenges as they prepare for adulthood, including homelessness and increased pregnancy. Fostering Futures empowers volunteers with tools to plan much earlier in assisting older foster youth in their transition into adulthood."*

In other words, Fostering Futures is the future of advocacy for our youth. We want to make sure that our youth are prepared to move outside of the system, and we'll do this by helping specially trained CASAs to become not only advocates, but mentors.

Fostering Futures will be part of the current CASA Training in October, but all of you are invited (and encouraged!) to attend the training as well. The training will occur on Saturday, November 2nd, from 8:30am-4:30pm at the Kapolei Judiciary. We hope that you'll join us for this very important training!

MAHALO for all that you do!

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### Providing Support for LGBT Youth!

Please take a look at the article attached to this email about providing support for LGBT Youth! These youth face risks that all CASAs, and all caregivers, should be aware of. The more you know, the better you can advocate for your youth!



## **Support Friends of CASA Hawaii!**



We have a few of these awesome t-shirts left over from the Paniolo Fair and would love to have all of our CASAs wear them proudly to promote the CASA Program! Shirts are \$10. Please contact Shari at (808) 954-8121 for size availability and pick-up options!

## **CASA Program Staff**

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## **Court Practices - Tips & Tools**

Here are some tips & tools from the August 17th workshop, from presenters Lauri Tochiki, Mei Nakamoto and Ray Zeason.

### **Tools for Avoiding a Trial**

- ◇ Negotiation: Negotiations can happen inside and outside of the courtroom. See if you can help all the parties come up with a solution that works for everyone!
- ◇ Ohana Conferencing: This is a great way to get the family's support system together to help make important decisions.
- ◇ Mediation: An objective, third party mediator, will sit down with the parties to the case and try to help everyone come to an agreement.

### **Preparing for Trial**

- ◇ Get the CASA file ready by tabbing all of the exhibits and documents so that everything will be easy to find.
- ◇ Read all of the exhibits and documents in the file, paying special attention to your court reports and any exhibits submitted by the CASA Program. These will be the documents you'll be asked about the most.
- ◇ Go through trial prep with your attorney. They will tell you anything you need to know about the people you will interact with on the stand and you'll have the opportunity to practice testifying, which will help you become more comfortable.

### **Testifying in Court**

- ◇ Stay calm!
- ◇ Take your time answering the attorney's questions and paraphrase their question back to them as you understood it if you need clarification on what they're asking. Don't let the attorney's rush you. This is when mistakes are made!
- ◇ Be truthful, answer questions to the best of your ability, and if you don't know the answer, it's okay to say you don't know or you don't remember. Don't try to make something up!

## **CASA Program Clerks**

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**Shari Yamashiro**

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## **After-Hours Hotline**

In an effort to make sure that CASAs and our clients receive the best assistance possible, the After-Hours Hotline was created. Should you need support or advice from CASA Program Staff during the hours of 4:30pm-7:45am during the week, or anytime on the weekends, please call 285-4186. An on-call staff member will be available to assist you.

## **Helpful Hints & Practical Pointers**

### **Advocacy for Non-Verbal Children**

Protecting non-verbal children is one of the most difficult and important things that we do as CASAs. These are the children who can't tell us what they're going through, and rely on us to know them, and the signs, well enough to protect them when they can't protect themselves. Below are some signs of abuse in the infancy and pre-school stages.

#### **Infancy**

**Physical Abuse:** Frequent crying, lack of social responsiveness, social avoidance

**Physical Neglect:** Lethargy, delayed growth, cognitive delays, social delays

**Emotional Abuse:** Anxiety-fear response, social withdrawal, mistrust of people

**Emotional Neglect:** Lack of social responsiveness, poor eye contact, cognitive delays, social delays

**Sexual Abuse:** Excessive crying, agitation, somatic symptoms, failure to thrive

#### **Preschool Period**

**Physical Abuse:** Aggressive behaviors, destroys property, irritable, moody, oppositional behaviors, hyperactivity

**Physical Neglect:** Developmental delays, lethargy, inappropriate eating

**Emotional Abuse:** Poor risk takers, poor peer relationships, anger, moodiness, causes trouble, need for control, oppositional, inappropriate attention-getting behavior

**Emotional Neglect:** Social withdrawal, high need for attention, overly dependent, separation panic

**Sexual Abuse:** Pseudo-maturity, provocative, explicit sexual behaviors, excessive masturbation, excessive clinging, regressive behaviors, fear

#### **News and Upcoming Events**

##### **October 2013**

- ♦ CASA Training: 10/5 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, Kapolei Judiciary, 8:30am-4:30pm
- ♦ Children & Youth Day: 10/6/13, State Capitol, 10:00am-3:00pm
- ♦ HSTA Fair: 10/14/13, Blaisdell Center, All Day
- ♦ Supreme Court Oral Arguments on Current CASA Program Placement Dispute: 10/24/13, Kapolei Courthouse, Courtroom 1, 12:00pm.

##### **November 2013**

- ♦ Fostering Futures Training: 11/2/13, Kapolei Judiciary, 8:30am-4:30pm

##### **December 2013**

- ♦ Family Service Plan Training: 12/6/13, Kapolei Judiciary, 8:30am-4:30pm
- ♦ Foster Families Christmas Party: Date & Time TBA

#### **Please review National CASA's Online Communication and Social Media Guidelines!**

"Volunteers and staff should not link to personal pages (or become online "friends") of families or children they may encounter in their capacity with the CASA/GAL Program. This includes email addresses, instant messenger names, blogs, photo sharing sites and social networking sites, such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and YouTube. In addition, many programs prohibit volunteers from giving their email address or cell phone number to the child(ren) or family members on any case to which they are assigned."

**To read the rest of the policy, please visit:**

<http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/community/programs/communications/onlinepolicyfinal.pdf>

Our CASA Program here in Hawaii has adopted these policies and all CASAs are expected to follow this policy at all times.



## Community Resources

Name of the Organization	Services Provided by the Organization	Contact Information	Address
<b>Catholic Charities Hawaii</b>	Provides therapeutic services to individuals, families, and children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual abuse, or any other type of trauma. CCH also provides couples counseling, faith-based counseling, or other general counseling needs.	Office: (808) 527-4470 <a href="http://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org">www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org</a>	Counseling Center Clarence T.C. Ching Campus 1822 Keeaumoku St., Honolulu, HI 96822
<b>Keiki O Ka Aina</b>	Healthy Marriage Program, Hawaiian-based Montessori pre-school (Kulia I Ka Nu'u), Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters (HIPPY), Parents as Teachers (PAT), Parent Participation Inclusion Program (Poli's Place).	Office: (808) 843-2502 <a href="http://www.keikiokaaina.org">www.keikiokaaina.org</a>	
<b>Arbor Child Care Connections</b>	Federal subsidy program helping families pay for child care.	Office: (808) 972-7267	

