



The Advocate Messenger



October, 2020

Your monthly source of news

The Advocate Messenger is your monthly source of news for all things related to CASA Advocacy. If you have questions, or ideas for a future newsletter, please reach out to us at steve@casaofscck.org. The Advocate Messenger will come to you on the first Friday of each month.



CASA Clothing Order

CASA is coordinating a group order of select **Land's End** shirts/sweaters embroidered with the CASA of South Central KY logo. We have secured a 30% discount off the listed price on all items. Please select the button below to see the items offered and to place an order. Once you complete the order form, we will email you your total cost. At that point, you will make payment to CASA (not Land's End) by check. Once all the orders are in we will place



New Broadcast Messaging Service

CASA will be implementing a new Message Broadcasting Service, through a service called Message Made Easy, effective October 1. As an Advocate, you will be automatically enrolled in this service that will allow CASA to send you email alerts, text alerts, and phone call alerts. This service will be used sparingly but we think you will

the order as that will make it tax-exempt and save you even more. All items will be shipped in one order to the CASA office in Bowling Green and you will need to make arrangements to pick them up there.

THE DEADLINE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
THE DEADLINE TO GET YOUR PAYMENT TO CASA IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

If you have any questions, please call Steve at (270) 782-5353 or email steve@casaofscck.org.

Order now



CASA of South Central KY Book Club

The first book read by the CASA Book Club was Hillbilly Elegy, by J.D. Vance. The book was well received and this first reading was a great success. We will be announcing soon the next book and the schedule for

find it helpful in staying connected and up to date with what is happening at CASA of South Central KY.



2020 Soup & Heroes

With the pandemic underway we are currently planning to hold our annual Soup & Heroes luncheon virtually. We will share further details as they are finalized. We will still be giving out the following awards:

2020 Community Partner of the Year

2020 Margaret Ryan

Huddleston Guardian Ad

Litem of the Year

2020 Hugo Becker Volunteer

Advocate of the Year

Volunteer Milestone Awards

Volunteer who has driven most miles in 2020

Volunteer who has served the most children in 2020

Volunteer who has the most in-service hours in 2020

meetings - so stay tuned! If you would like to participate, or have any questions, or want to stay up to date on news about the club, contact John Daniel, Advocate Coordinator at john@casaofsc.org.

IMPORTANT - *The only way to record credit for the training is to complete a Training Log entry in Optima. Completing the worksheet does not automatically record the training time. You must also enter that in Optima manually.*



National CASA Book Club

The [National CASA / GAL Association for Children](#) is hosting an ongoing quarterly book club centered around race, equity, and inclusion. The group will meet virtually to discuss the first book - Stamped from the Beginning by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi - on August 17. Sign up now to be part of the club!

Register here:



Resources for You and Your Kids

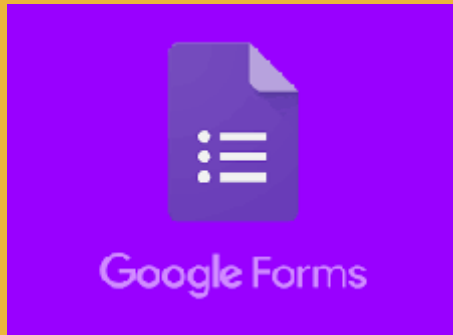
[HERE](#) is a list of resources that Advocates may find helpful in working with their children.



Attending Remote Court Hearings

Here is a nice informative graphic from CASA of Tippecanoe County & the Indiana Office of Judicial Administration.

https://nationalcasa.formstack.com/forms/national_casa_gal_book_study_registration_form?fbclid=IwAR3gTY0jj028NkcBmbEsrEyflhceDQzo2Fper8brx6EP3Rc2KaXyK6-Wep8



Advocate Monthly Exception Forms

Don't forget that while you are not able to visit your children in person, each month you must submit a Monthly Exception Form. You must submit one form for each child you would be regularly visiting. Do not submit one form for a group of children. **Also, please note that these forms are to be used in the future ANY time you can not visit with your child(ren) during the month - not just in response to the Coronavirus issues we are facing.** You can access this form online at: http://bit.ly/monthly_exception_form

TIPS FOR

ATTENDING REMOTE COURT HEARINGS



DRESS THE PART

Get dressed as you would if you were appearing in court in person. Certain fabrics with patterns can appear distorted on video. If you are worried about this, stick to solid colors only.

THINK ABOUT YOUR LOCATION

Pick a private location with minimal distractions. Try not to sit with a window or other light source behind you. If you can, avoid using a light over your head, because it will cast harsh shadows on your face.





STAY STEADY

Instead of holding your device in your hand, choose a spot where you can set up the camera on a table or shelf to stabilize the camera for better video. Set up the camera at your eye level and about an arm's length away. Try not to move around a lot during the hearing, and don't stand up or pace.

PRIVACY IS ESSENTIAL

Make sure you attend hearings in a private place to protect the confidentiality. Ask your household members to be quiet and let you focus during the hearing. If possible, ask another household member to watch your children while you attend court.





BEHAVE LIKE YOU'RE IN COURT

Remember, others will be able to see you during the entire hearing. Do not eat. Do not answer calls or texts during the hearing, even if you are muted.

PREPARE BEFOREHAND

Before court begins, make sure you have a pencil and notepad for notes. Try testing your audio and video, and have the phone number for the court handy in case your connection fails.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FLEXIBILITY!



SOURCE: INDIANA OFFICE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
www.ijad.state.in.us/courtbase



The Contest Continues!

Congratulations to LaVette Page who won September's gift card!



Implicit Bias Training

LifeSkills, Inc. is presenting a training program on Implicit Bias. This training will address what implicit bias is and how it affects attitudes, understanding, and decisions. Participants will gain skills that will aid in naturalizing the impact of bias upon decision making, as well as, address individual biases.

October 5 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM (Central)

October 12 from 1:00 PM-4:00 PM (Central)

To register for the event, follow this link:

https://lifeskills.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DuOr2SdpRbqYUKriVLgOWw

To download a PDF flier about the event click [HERE](#). (Note: Don't use the links in the PDF file to register. They are broken links.)

We know that it is very difficult to fully engage with your CASA children during the visitation restrictions... so, we wanted to put a fun spin on things. For all of October, we are going to be giving away a \$25 VISA gift card to one of you guys. Here's how it works... For every hour that you log volunteer hours and/or in-service hours on Optima, we will put your name in the hat to win the gift card. 5 hours of in-service = 5 times your name is entered!

Make sure to have your September hours in by the monthly deadline of November 3rd. The drawing will take place on November 3rd. It's a win, win. Logging more time with and for your CASA kids... and winning! We will see how this month goes, and if we get good feedback, we will likely keep doing more giveaways in the future. Good luck!

In-Service Opportunities



Understanding Unconscious Bias

KY Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities is excited to offer a new **FREE learning opportunity entitled “Understanding Unconscious Bias” on Oct. 15 from 10am-12pm EASTERN time.**

See below and attached for more information and how to register!

Cost: FREE - This event is being paid for through TAYLRD 2.0 funds

Date/Time: Thursday, Oct. 15 @ 10am-12pm EASTERN TIME

Trainer: Patrick Carrington, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator with the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Training Objectives:

Volunteer In-Service Opportunities



Recorded Trainings and Webinars

Readings

Videos

Podcasts

Local Program Resources



State CASA Website Resources

<http://bit.ly/2mnEg6q>



Attend a Refresher Training

In lieu of the pandemic and social distancing guidelines, we are suspending the option to attend the October training session as a way to acquire in-service hours. However, you may watch our pre-recorded training sessions. Contact your Advocate Coordinator if you would like to pursue this option.



National CASA Resources

[Here is a link to a PDF file](#) that

This training will provide an understanding of:

- 1) How we acquire unconscious biases over time
- 2) How these biases impact our decision making, and
- 3) What we can do to address them.

To register go

to: https://link.zixcentral.com/u/04c81404/eA3OzrLy6hGp4l0Ph3soMg?u=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fwebinar%2Fregister%2FWN_brOuE5AyTh-oP2DZQVqDKg

contains the National CASA office's 2019 Fall & Winter Reading and Movie list for in-service training opportunities.



KCN Newsletters

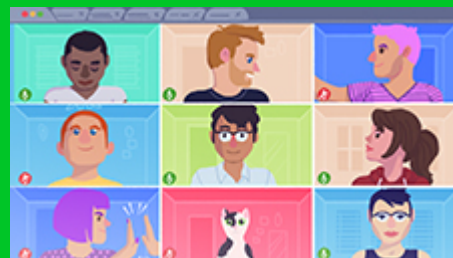
Interested in getting the KCN (Kentucky CASA Network) newsletters? You will find lots of great information as well as possible in-service training opportunities.

To sign up, click [here](#).



Reporting Deadline

We are asking all Advocates to have all contact reports and other materials entered into Optima by the 5th of each month for the previous month. For example, by June 5th you should have all of your data



Zoom Activities & Games

Here are just a few listings of places you can find activities and games you can do with your kids remotely.

[15 Best Games to Play on Zoom with Kids](#)

from May entered into Optima.

It is crucial that we meet this deadline. So much of CASA's funding is grant-based and the multiple reports and grant applications we have to file require that we list the tangible results and outcomes of what we do. If we can't accurately answer how many hours our Advocates work, how far they drive, etc., then we have the potential to lose out on funding.

Please help us by completing all of your data entry by the 5th of each month for the previous month! If you have any questions, please contact your Advocate Coordinator.



New Website Planning

We are in the process of creating a new website for CASA of South Central KY. What tools, ideas, and items would you like to see included in a new site? How can it be structured to help you with your

[Let's Get Ready to \(Digitally\) Rumble! Here Are 12 Super Fun Zoom Games to Play With Kids](#)

[20 Zoom Games & Activities for Kids](#)

[Fun Games to Play Over Zoom or FaceTime](#)

[Fun Games to Play with Kids on Zoom Video Chat](#)



Lunch and Learn

There will be no Lunch and Learn this month.

advocacy? Send your ideas and thoughts to Steve at steve@casaofscck.org.



Foster Care Facts

The purpose of the Foster Care [FACTS](#) is to summarize key data points for our knowledge and management; have consistent data released to the field or external partners who request data on specific points; and produce data for comparisons over time and between regions.

The creation of Foster Care [FACTS](#) is intended to create consistency in how DCBS reports to others. These are the numbers to release when asked questions like, how many children are in OOHC (Out of Home Care)? Here we would always release the same total number of children in OOHC with active placements. The data can be verified using standard TWIST reports.

CASA OF SOUTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY
VIRTUAL NEW ADVOCATE TRAINING

A graphic showing a person standing in front of several computer monitors. Each monitor displays a different person's face, representing a virtual training session. Dotted lines connect the monitors, suggesting a network or flow of information.

Thursday, October 15
5:15 PM - 7:45 PM

Thursday, October 22
5:15 PM - 8:45 PM

Thursday, October 29
5:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Thursday, November 5
5:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Thursday, November 12
5:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Our next training will be online/virtual. In addition to the times listed, there will be 3 hours of pre-work to be completed on your own prior to each online session listed for a total of 30 hours of training.

Contact
Steve Jones
Advocate Development Specialist
(270) 762-5353
steve@casaofscck.org
for more information.
Application deadline is October 2

Apply at: www.casaofscck.org/volunteer

October Online Virtual Training

It's not too early to tell your friends and encourage them to sign up for the next Advocate Training Session!

Our next training will be online/virtual. In addition to the times listed, there will be 3 hours of pre-work to be completed on your own prior to each online session listed for a total of 30 hours of training.

Apply online
at www.bit.ly/casa_apply

Training Dates:

Thursday, October 15, 5:15 PM - 7:45 PM

Thursday, October 22, 5:15 PM - 8:45 PM

Thursday, October 29, 5:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Thursday, November 5, 5:15 PM - 8:15 PM

The Foster Care [FACTS](#) are based on the TWS W058 dataset from TWIST. This dataset includes all children in DCBS custody, their placement and demographic and cost data. The TWS W058 FACT sheet will be generated monthly (first full week of the month) and serve as the numbers to report for the entire month.

These Foster Care [FACTS](#) can be shared with your staff.

Thursday, November 12, 5:15 PM - 8:15 PM



Dates to Remember

October Virtual Training Application Deadline

Friday, October 2

October Virtual New Advocate Training

Thursday, October 15, 5:15 PM - 7:45 PM

Thursday, October 22, 5:15 PM - 8:45 PM

Thursday, October 29, 5:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Thursday, November 5, 5:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Thursday, November 12, 5:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Note: The October training will be online / virtual. There will be 3 hours of pre-work prior to each online session listed above.

If you have any questions, ideas or feedback about **The**

Advocate Messenger, please
contact Steve at
steve@casaofsck.org.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Advocate Anniversaries

October 2 - Linda Seagle (14 years)

Birthdays

October 3 - Lydia Montgomery (Advocate)

October 5 - Holly Naufel (Advocate)

October 13 - Lauri Warden (Advocate)

October 16 - Michael Delaney (Board of Directors)

October 17 - Paula Minnicks (Advocate)

October 18 - Gregg George (Advocate)

October 27 - Janet Applin (Advocate)

October 31 - Linda Seagle (Advocate)



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