

## DCSD DISPATCH

FALL 2008

You are receiving this newsletter because of your participation with CASA, FCRB, or Court Improvement. We hope this newsletter keeps you updated on what DCSD is doing to support our programs and volunteers.

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## CASA VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

### Arizona State Office recognizes Raymond Edward Walker as 2008 CASA of the Year

An extraordinary person provides hope for abused and neglected children in Navajo County, Arizona. This past spring, the Arizona CASA State Office honored Ray Walker, a volunteer from Snowflake, AZ with the 2008 CASA of the Year Award. This statewide award recognizes the outstanding dedication and commitment of a volunteer for his/her advocacy efforts on behalf of abused and neglected children.

Walker was honored at a recognition event hosted by the Navajo County CASA program Saturday,

April 26, 2008 where he received a hand-sculpted stone award from Arizona CASA and a certificate of honor from Governor Napolitano. Navajo County Judge Michala Ruechel and Judge Thomas L. Wing attended the ceremony to pay tribute to Walker, who was nominated by CASA Coordinator, Kirk Grugel.

Walker has volunteered with CASA for 11 years. In over a decade of service, he has served 34 children. In January of 2008, Walker attended the adoption hearing for a child that he has been advocating for since 1999. He remains committed to the children he serves, even through his own personal health battles.

In addition to his work as a child advocate, Walker serves on an Arizona Foster Care Review Board and fundraises for the Navajo County Friends of CASA, an auxiliary non-profit.



Bonnie Marcus, statewide Program Manager for Arizona CASA, Ray Walker, 2008 CASA of the Year, & Kirk Grugel, Coordinator for Navajo County CASA.

### National CASA recognizes Barbara Himebaugh as Child Advocate of the Year

Barbara Himebaugh, a CASA with the Pima County CASA Program, was awarded the 2008 G.G. Bettineski Child Advocate of the Year award from the National CASA Association. This esteemed award was presented to Barbara at the National Conference in Washington, D.C. The award presentation was held during the Banquet Ceremony on June 8, 2008. Barbara is Pima County CASA's longest-serving volunteer. She has been appointed to 19 cases and served 39 children during the last 20 years.

A former elementary-school teacher who moved to Tucson in 1979, Himebaugh found the program after her own two children were grown and gone. She was intrigued at the idea of helping children suffering from the effects of drugs, mental illness and domestic violence. "I just love the kids. They tug at you. Their stories haunt you. Every child should have the benefit of a safe and permanent placement," she said.

During her acceptance speech, Barbara thanked her CASA Coordinator Amy Kirch and Program Manager Trish Biddix for the support they offered her

as a CASA. In an especially touching moment, Barbara thanked her husband of 50 years. She received a standing ovation from an audience of over 500 people.



From Left: Trish Biddix, Pima County CASA Program Manager; CASA Barbara Himebaugh; & Amy Kirch, CASA Coordinator

## FCRB VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARDS

The Outreach Committee awarded the Exemplary Service Award to two volunteers for the third quarter: Anne Shane from Maricopa County and Luann Waldron from Pima County.

Anne has served on the FCRB since 1994. She is currently the Vice-Chairperson of her Board and also serves as a Removal Review volunteer. Anne has been instrumental in recruiting volunteers, especially critical as new Boards are opening in Maricopa and Pima Counties to handle an increase

in the number of children in care. "Anne is wonderful to work with and is serious about her volunteer work," said Celia Lara, Program Specialist with the FCRB. "Anne has a passion for her volunteer work and she has a wealth of knowledge from her experiences."

Luann has served on the FCRB since 1991. Luann is currently the Chairperson of her Board and has served on the State Board from 1997-1999. She is a very dedicated volunteer who is a joy to be around and has

spent countless hours on special projects for the FCRB throughout the years. "She has a positive attitude, is always prepared and is a mentor to new board members," said Elis Castillo, Program Specialist with the FCRB. "The Foster Care Review Board is extremely fortunate to have Luann Waldron as a volunteer. She currently works as a school nurse, and her principal appreciates Luann's knowledge of the CPS programs and policies."

*"Anne is wonderful to work with and is serious about her volunteer work."*

## FCRB SPEAKER'S BUREAU

The Speaker's Bureau was established to encourage local board members to recruit volunteers for the Foster Care Review Board in their community. It is an opportunity for board members to share their experiences in the program with various social organizations, church groups, media, and others.

The FCRB Speaker's Bureau also provides outreach to interested parties in order to improve attendance and participation at reviews.

Speaker's Bureau volunteers attend an initial training, which outlines the expectations of the Bureau, protocols, and materials covered during presenta-

tions. To learn more about the FCRB Speaker's Bureau, please contact Courtney Riddle, Community Outreach Specialist, at 602-452-3406, or via email at [criddle@courts.az.gov](mailto:criddle@courts.az.gov)

## ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS SUPPORT CASA AND KIDS

This season, the Arizona Diamondbacks partnered with the Arizona Court Appointed Special Advocates to donate \$100 to CASA support councils for every D-back hit during their games on April 19, May 31, and August 30. The D-backs recorded 26 hits during those three games. On September 3, 2008 the D-Backs presented a \$2,600 gift to CASA's support councils for foster children.

Presenting the gift from the Arizona Diamondbacks was

Dianne Aguilar, Senior Vice President of Community Affairs and from the Arizona Lottery, Deputy Director of Policy, Karen Emery. Accepting the \$2,600 gift on behalf of the CASA support councils were Lois Knudson and Ellen Jones of Pinal Council for CASA, Inc. CASA support councils provide direct support to foster children, providing them with items that the children typically do not receive while in out-of-home care, such as back-to-

school supplies, bikes, and prom dresses. The Diamondbacks promoted CASA awareness during the games. CASA images were played throughout the stadium screens inside Chase Field during the month of June and the CASA logo was shown on the ballpark field HD screen.

Thank you Arizona Diamondbacks for showing your support for CASA kids!



From Left: Dianne Aguilar, Senior Vice President of Community Affairs for the Arizona Diamondbacks, Karen Emery, Deputy Director of Policy for the Arizona Lottery, Lois Knudson and Ellen Jones of Pinal Council for CASA, Inc.

## COURT IMPROVEMENT—MAKING ICWA WORK

The first collaborative training between Arizona Tribal Courts and the State Courts was held on September 18th at the Wild Horse Pass Resort. The training, entitled, *Making ICWA Work: Developing Best Practices*, was a coordinated effort between the [Casey Family Programs \(Indian Child Welfare Program\)](#) and the Court Improvement Program. The goal of the training was to increase participants' understanding of the [ICWA Law](#), to create awareness for the resources that are avail-

able to them, and overall, to improve the outcomes for American Indian children involved in the Arizona Dependency Process through the collaborative efforts of the courts, tribes and agencies.

The 139 attendees represented both state and tribal dependency stakeholders including judges, attorneys, case workers, behavioral health, CASAs and volunteers. Judge William Thorne, an appellate judge from Utah and an ICWA specialist

was the main facilitator. Dennis Ichikawa, Senior Director from Casey Family Programs led an interactive session where all attendees were asked to write a "Small Test of Change" on something they hoped to change as a result of the training. This list will be sent back to the participants in the hopes that it might generate more ideas and continue the enthusiasm for making a difference in the lives of our American Indian children!



### *Making ICWA Work— Developing Best Practices*

**Hon. William Thorne, Associate Presiding Judge,  
Utah State Court of Appeals**

## FCRB COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The FCRB has been working hard to reach out to communities across the state. Due to an extensive outreach in Navajo County, we have been able to recruit more than enough volunteers to fill the two Navajo County Boards, neither of which has been full in at least two years! Other outreach efforts include:

- Articles published in Cochise, Coconino, Maricopa, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, and Yuma counties since March of this year have

helped to attract many new volunteers.

- The Sierra Vista newspaper published an article recognizing Gene Manring, Exemplary Service Award Winner for the 2nd quarter.
- Tempe Town News published an article identifying Anne Shane as the Exemplary Service Award Winner for the 3rd quarter.
- A Public Service Announcement (PSA) runs five times per day in

Navajo County.

- The Show Low Chief of Police helped to recruit police officers to serve on local boards.
- FCRB staff & volunteers participated in a television interview on KTTU/KMSB, which aired twice in Tucson in August.
- Jodi Fox, Tucson Program Specialist, has begun reaching out to group homes in Tucson in order to educate

them about the role of the FCRB and increase youth participation at reviews.

- FCRB staff & volunteers worked with various community stakeholders on the Sibling Reunion Day in Tucson. This picnic reunited over 100 children and was a huge success.

## KEY STATE LEGISLATION

Several of the bills passed in the 2nd session of the 48<sup>th</sup> Legislature will have an impact on dependent children. Senate Bills 1441 & 1442 and House Bills 2453 & 2764 became effective on 9/26/08 and are already impacting the way courts handle these cases.

[Senate Bill 1441 \(Chapter 198\)](#) seeks to expedite permanency for foster children under three. Courts will now hold permanency hearings for these children within 6 months of their removal from home. The court will determine at that time

whether a parent has "substantially neglected or willfully refused to participate in reunification services", a circumstance under which their parental rights could be terminated. Additionally, whereas the law previously allowed expedited adoption hearings for children under 6 months of age, the new law expands this opportunity for children up to the age of three.

With the enactment of [Senate Bill 1442 \(Chapter 199\)](#), the court will, at the 1st hearing, inform the following of their right to be heard:

foster parent, pre-adoptive parent, member of the child's extended family with whom the child is placed, and/or a relative identified as possible placement for the child.

[House Bill 2453 \(Chapter 278\)](#) mandates that dependency court proceedings be presumed open to the public. The court still has the ability to close a hearing for "good cause shown" which could include the protection of the privacy rights of a child or parent, a child over 12 asking for the

hearing to be closed, or to protect the best interests of the child.

[House Bill 2764 \(Chapter 168\)](#) allows the court to appoint a "successor" permanent guardian when the current guardian is unable or unwilling to continue to serve as permanent guardian. Previously, a new petition would have to be filed and the process begun anew in order to appoint a new guardian. With the new law, this should be a smoother and more efficient process.

## EACH ONE REACH ONE

This September, the Arizona CASA State Office introduced a fall campaign to recruit more CASA volunteers. In 2007, CASA served over 1,147 foster children in Arizona. The goal is to serve 1,500 children in 2010. To accomplish this, CASA programs need to recruit 200 additional CASAs, so they turned to their most valuable recruiters for help—CASA volunteers. Through everyday con-

versations with friends and associates, CASAs are able to increase awareness of CASA's mission to provide a voice for children in foster care. By sharing their stories, CASAs give real-life examples of their involvement and commitment to advocacy, and convey the personal rewards that come from involvement with foster youth. Personal volunteer recruitment all comes down to

one volunteer reaching out to another caring adult and engaging them in our cause for foster children.

To help CASAs reach out to other potential volunteers, the state CASA office provided recruitment referral cards for each CASA in the state. Created by the National CASA Association, the cards carry the theme "Each One Reach One." Personal volunteer re-

cruitment is a powerful resource. If each volunteer reached out to just one other person, CASA could serve over 1,000 additional children in Arizona. The campaign runs through November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## PARENT ASSISTANCE HOTLINE

About 80% of the callers contacting PAH staff so far this year have been parents or guardians of children in some way involved in the Arizona dependency process. Hotline callers ask questions on a variety of topics. PAH staff refer callers to the individual or agency that might best address the needs they have identified, whether legal advocacy, be-

havioral health, or other support services.

Hotline staff are available Mon thru Fri, 8am to 5pm, at (602) 452-3580 (toll free (800) 732-8193).

## CASA STATE OFFICE STAFF PRESENT AT NCASAA CONFERENCE

CASA Web Designer Rand Rosenbaum and Outreach Specialist Melissa Dunlap travelled to Washington, D.C. in June to present a workshop on using a website to increase communication between CASA programs as well as the increasing the effectiveness of recruitment and awareness campaigns in furthering the work of CASA. Entitled "Surf's

Up – Don't Miss the Wave: Using a Website to Enhance Your CASA Program," Rand and Melissa took attendees through the design, tools and management of a CASA website. The presentation was very well received, with numerous inquiries about the Arizona CASA website coming in the weeks after the conference.

## CMDP TRAINING

For volunteers in the metro Phoenix area, the FCRB & CASA Programs are sponsoring a Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program (CMDP) training on 11/7/08, 10-11:30 a.m. at 1501 W. Washington, (State Courts Building), Room 345 A&B. The details follow:

*Addressing the Special Healthcare Issues of our Children in Foster Care (CMDP – Comprehensive Medical and Dental*

*Program)*

The goal of this presentation is to outline unique healthcare needs of this very special population and discuss how to access healthcare services through responsible agencies. Topics will include: Importance of the Comprehensive Assessment; How to select a Primary Care Provider; Accessing Dental & Behavioral Health Services; Chil-

dren with Special Medical Needs; Special Pediatric Programs (AzEIP, CRS, DDD, RBHA); Importance of Immunizations; Medical Case Management services; and the Role of CMDP.

For more information, or to RSVP for this training, please contact Lisa Kline at 602-452-3547. For those who are unable to attend the training, the curriculum will be available in

either PowerPoint or on-line training in the near future.

Information about additional volunteer training opportunities is forthcoming. The program would like to thank Pinal volunteer Merna Oakley, who has helped coordinate trainings in Pima and Pinal counties.

## COURT IMPROVEMENT—TRAINING TIDBITS

**Juvenile Law Symposium**—Court Improvement has joined forces with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and the ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law to offer a 1 day training to law students and lawyers working in juvenile law. The *Juvenile Law Symposium: Practice 101* will be held on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. This is just the beginning of the Juvenile Legal Assistance Program spearheaded by Maricopa County Juvenile Court and ASU Law School. Implementation of JLAP will directly address the goals of the Court's strategic plan to promote an integrated juvenile court system, improve public access and maximize prevention and early intervention services. In addition the training will provide law students and lawyers alike the added knowledge and awareness of juvenile law and its unique practice.

**Dependency Attorney Training**—More counties are taking advantage of Court Improvement's Attorney Training with the most recent being held in Pima County.

*Advanced Dependency Training* was held in Tucson on October 28<sup>th</sup> to an audience of 75 Juvenile Judges, Assistant Attorneys General, Private Attorneys, Guardians Ad Litem and Court Staff. The training focused on areas of particular interest to the Pima Juvenile Court, including an overview of their Permanency Pilot Program, Family Law Protocol and Immigration Law as it specifically relates to dependency and the challenges of being a border state. The day concluded with a local expert, Priscilla Misner, presenting *How to Talk to Children*.

**Prenatal Substance Abuse**—Dr. Ira Chasnoff, M.D., is President of the Children's Research Triangle and a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University Of Illinois College Of Medicine in Chicago. He is one of the nation's leading researchers in the field of maternal drug use during pregnancy and the effects on the newborn infant and child. Court Improvement is pleased to have Dr. Chasnoff

present to an eclectic audience of dependency stakeholders. Currently the 150 registrants represent DES, Behavioral Health, Office of the Legal Advocates, Volunteers, CASAs, Court Staff, Guardian Ad Litem, Assistant Attorney Generals and other Child Welfare Specialists. This three-hour session will focus on the structural and functional changes that occur in the fetal brain due to prenatal exposure to alcohol and other drugs, how those changes affect the child's behavior and learning, and systems-based approaches to prevention and early intervention that promote long term success for the child. Dr. Chasnoff will be presenting the following day to all of the judges in Maricopa County, focusing on his community approach to the integration of behavioral health services into primary health care for women and children!

## LOOKING FOR IN-SERVICE AND ONGOING TRAINING RESOURCES?

As the end of the calendar year approaches, many CASAs and FCRB volunteers are seeking ways to improve their ability to advocate for foster children while fulfilling their in-service and ongoing training requirements. Although there is a plentiful array of learning opportunities out there, it can be challenging to locate them quickly. In the interest of saving you

time, we've prepared a list of options to help you condense your search so you can focus more of your energy on helping Arizona's children.

### Online Training

#### Arizona CASA Program

[www.supreme.state.az.us/casa/prepare/training.html](http://www.supreme.state.az.us/casa/prepare/training.html)

Eighteen training modules, available in web, pdf and mp3

format, vary from 30 minutes to one hour of training credit and can be completed for credit once every twelve month time period. Complete the exam to receive credit.

#### National Children's Advocacy Center

[www.nationalcac.org/professionals/trainings/online/register.php](http://www.nationalcac.org/professionals/trainings/online/register.php)

## CI Training

11/1/08—Juvenile Law Symposium, Practice 101 (ASU Law School)

11/6/08—Prenatal Substance Abuse with Dr. Ira Chasnoff, M.D.

12/5/08—Pinal County Attorney Training

2/23/08—2/25/08—New Judges Training: Dependency 101

## CASA Advocacy Academy

November 21-22 (Phoenix)

January 16-17 (Phoenix)

February 20-21 (Tucson)

March 6-7 (Phoenix)

April 17-18 (Tucson)

## FCRB New Board Member

### Orientation

February 12-13

April (Tucson) TBD

July 9-10

October 16-17

## ONGOING TRAINING RESOURCES (CONT)

Go to [www.azcasa.org](http://www.azcasa.org) to review topic options and take the exam to receive credit.

**Child Trauma Academy**

[www.childtraumaacademy.com/](http://www.childtraumaacademy.com/)

Go to [www.azcasa.org](http://www.azcasa.org) to review topic options and take the exam to receive credit.

**Foster Parent College**

[www.fosterparentcollege.com](http://www.fosterparentcollege.com)

Foster Parent College offers 22 on-line courses on general parenting and on problem behaviors. Courses are interactive, self-paced, and available 24/7 for maximum convenience. There is a nominal fee to take each course.

**Podcasts****National CASA Association**

[www.casanet.org/training/podcast.htm](http://www.casanet.org/training/podcast.htm)

National CASA offers weekly 15-20 minute podcasts, covering timely topics such as: aging out of the system; dually adjudicated youth; educational advocacy; kinship care; and child development.

**Online with CWLA**

[www.blogtalkradio.com/CWLA-Radio](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/CWLA-Radio)

The Child Welfare League of America broadcasts a weekly online radio show

devoted solely to discussions about the welfare of America's vulnerable children. Past shows available for download include discussions on substance abuse, disproportionality, Indian Child Welfare, and the experiences of foster youth.

**The Urban Institute – Thursday's Child**

[www.urban.org/events/thursdayschild/index.cfm](http://www.urban.org/events/thursdayschild/index.cfm)

"Thursday's Child" is a public policy forum spotlighting the daunting pathways through childhood, along with the public programs and policies meant to ease the journey. Past forums are available via audio recordings.

**Video****State Resource Library**

[www.supreme.state.az.us/casa/prepare/library.html](http://www.supreme.state.az.us/casa/prepare/library.html)

A diverse collection of VHS and DVD titles is available in 15 topic areas. Ordering can be done online and postage is included.

**PBS.org**

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline)

FRONTLINE has produced 4 documentaries that provide valuable insight into the children and issues that CASAs and FCRBs may encounter on their cases: Growing Up Online; The Medicated Child;

The Meth Epidemic; Inside the Teenage Brain. These four programs can be watched online.

**Books, Articles and Other Publications****State Resource Library**

[www.supreme.state.az.us/casa/prepare/library.html](http://www.supreme.state.az.us/casa/prepare/library.html)

A diverse collection of books is available in 15 topic areas. Ordering can be done online and postage is included.

**REPRESENT foster teen magazine**

[www.youthcomm.org/Publications/FCYU.htm](http://www.youthcomm.org/Publications/FCYU.htm)

A national bi-monthly magazine written by and for young people in the foster care system that provides an inside look at life in the system from the perspective of teens.

**Legal Center for Foster Care and Education**

[www.abanet.org/child/education/publications.shtml](http://www.abanet.org/child/education/publications.shtml)

The Legal Center FCE serves as a national technical assistance resource and information clearinghouse on legal and policy matters affecting the education of children in the foster care system. This is a great resource for beginning to explore the issues related to education for youth in foster care.

The Dependent Children's Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts advocates, on a statewide level, for appropriate services and safe, permanent homes for children in foster care.