

IOWA CHILD ADVOCACY BOARD  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
Conference Room 319 & 320  
Lucas State Office Building  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Friday, June 10, 2022  
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

State Board Members Present:

Ashley Baker  
Courtney Clarke  
Mark Elcock  
Alison Guernsey - Virtual  
Don Logan  
Rick McIntosh  
Judge Owens, Chair  
Wayne Schellhammer, Vice Chair  
Angela Stokes - Virtual

Staff Present:

Amy Carpenter  
Shirley Hoefer - Virtual  
Sherri Ripperger  
Steffani Simbric

Call Meeting to Order; Roll Call of Board Members

Judge Owens calls the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for Previous Meetings

Handout 1. Schellhammer moves and McIntosh seconds a motion to approve the March 10, 2022 Iowa Child Advocacy Board meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Those present introduced themselves to ICAB's new Board Members, Don Logan and Ashley Baker. They each greeted the board.

### CASA Program Report, Amy Carpenter

Handout 2. Carpenter gives an overview of the data on the report. She points out that there have been 121 advocates that have exited during FY22. She has been encouraging coordinators to exit volunteers who have not been responsive or have been on an extended leave. If the advocate wants to come back in the future they can reapply at that time. Judge Owens asks if there are active efforts that the coordinators engage in when issues come up? Carpenter states that there is not a step by step process that the coordinator goes through. It's more on a case by case basis. Judge Owens states that if there are frustrations because of the Judge or the Court, to let him know. He would like to help figure that out.

The National CASA self-assessment for the local programs has been done. We are waiting on feedback from those. We are working on setting up our program goals for FY23. Carpenter just finished up listening sessions with the CASA Coaches. Carpenter is interested in finding out what the coach model looks like and how it's been implemented across the state. A coach's survey, a listening session with coordinators, two listening sessions with coaches and data gathering have been done to help figure out if the Coach Model is actually helping our program serve more children. Carpenter will be making recommendations on the data she's gathered and presenting it to the management team. She would like recommendations to go out to staff by the end of July 2022.

The Polk County CASA team has been restructured. Jen Gustafson has been hired to recruit and train Polk County volunteers.

Carpenter pointed out the legislative updates. As the administrative rules writing process is completed and approved Admin Rules will also be integrated into policy. CASA program policies should be ready for the board's approval in December 2022.

### FCRB Program Report, Shirley Hoefler

Handout 3. Hoefler states we are watching the number of reviews that we do very closely. The numbers have gone down over the last few years as the number of children in foster care has gone down.

Our annual FCRB volunteer survey was done in April. The overall satisfaction is high. Hoefler will be looking into the suggestions from board members from the survey.

Participation for the Boards is low. Boards are back in person, but some of the boards have the ability to continue to have IPs or board members participate virtually through grants or their Friends account money. Clarke asks if offering participation virtually is helping with continuity or increased participation. Hoefler states that offering virtual participation has really helped in the rural areas as well as for parents that may not have transportation or are out of state. Schellhammer asks the cost of the equipment for virtual meetings. Hoefler reports it's \$2,000-\$2,500 per meeting location. The board would like a list of how many locations need virtual equipment. Logan states that bandwidth can be a problem in rural areas. He also feels high end microphones would be best.

The FCRB database is in CAMS live production now. It's working really well and the bugs are getting worked out. Staff are becoming acclimated. We will then bring in facilitators in the fall and then train volunteers. We are hoping everyone will be working in the database in January 2023.

Proposed legislation 237 change for FCRB include that DHS is to provide ICAB with a list of all children in foster care (new entries and exits) on a monthly basis for the foster care registry in accordance with written protocols adopted pursuant to new subsection 4 of 237.16. Also, an intervener and their attorney will be invited to participate in local reviews.

Every year members of ICAB management meet with the DHS Service Business Team and IV-E representative to go over the MOU. This year DHS proposed that we create a standardized population of kids that are served by our local boards. Their suggestions are kids 0 thru 5 yrs in paid placements and secondary to that the APPLA cases. Hoefler does not know if she feels comfortable with the targeted population request. DHS is having the AG's office look at the definition of child receiving foster care in code sections 232 and 237. The board suggests that ICAB meet with the DIA legal counsel and/or the AG's office and draft a formal response that articulates why this is not a good idea. The board also suggests getting the request to Aaron Baack in writing, requesting DIA not sign the MOU on ICAB's behalf regarding Exhibit E until there is resolution. Simbric states that on a positive note, DHS does want to work with us to produce more meaningful reports that come out of FCRB. She also wants to point out that the MOU directly impacts our IV-E funding.

A meeting was held with DHS and Polk FCRB Coordinator Carrie Phelps at the end of April 2022. They identified youth 12–15 yrs who have been in foster care for more than one year to be reviewed. This will begin July 2022. Information from this meeting conflicts with the local DHS proposal presented to ICAB at the May 26th meeting. ICAB requested that the department consider the local request for reviews of 12-15 years olds to proceed for FY23 which was agreed to as of June 9th.

#### ICAB Budget, Steffani Simbric

Handout 4. Simbric feels that ICAB's budget for FY22 is on track. We have not set up our FY23 budget yet. We are waiting on DIA. ICAB did receive a \$23,000 increase in our state appropriations. Simbric will be getting a legislative committee together to figure out how to tap into the state budget.

#### New Business, Steffani Simbric

Handout 5. Board reviewed the administrative code rule changes document prior to the meeting. We are required by law to review the Administrative Rules once every five years. Clarke motions and McIntosh seconds to approve the Administrative Code Rules changes. Motion passed unanimously.

Simbric announced that Judge Owens received the 2022 National CASA Judge of the Year award.

ICAB recently hired a part-time marketing and graphic designer, Kelli Bloomquist. She is allowed to work up to

15 hours per week.

Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting is scheduled for September 9 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Lucas Building Rooms 319 & 320. Upcoming dates: December 9, 2022.

Clarke motions and Schellhammer seconds the meeting adjourns. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourns 2:10 p.m.

ICAB Minutes Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sherri Ripperger

ICAB Minutes Approved On: \_\_\_\_\_

CAB Minutes Approved by Child Advocacy Board Vote

Approved By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge William S. Owens, ICAB State Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steffani Simbric, ICAB Administrator

Handout 1: March 2022 Board Minutes

Handout 2: CASA Program Report

Handout 3: FCRB Program Report

Handout 4: ICAB Budget Report

Handout 5: Administrative Code Rule Changes