

IOWA CHILD ADVOCACY BOARD  
STATE BOARD MEETING  
Conference Room 319 & 320  
Lucas State Office Building  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Friday, December 10th, 2021  
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

State Board Members Present:

Courtney Clarke  
Mark Elcock - Virtual  
Alison Guernsey - Virtual  
Beth Myers - Virtual  
Judge Owens - Virtual  
Wayne Schellhammer  
Michael Steele - Virtual  
Angela Stokes - Virtual

Staff Present:

Amy Carpenter  
Lesia Christianson - Virtual  
Jennifer Cress-Sliffe - Virtual  
Shirley Hoefer - Virtual  
Sherri Ripperger  
Steffani Simbric

Guests Present:

Meg Hill, Friends Executive Director

Call Meeting to Order; Roll Call of Board Members

Myers calls the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Clarke moves and Schellhammer seconds a motion to approve the revised agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes for Previous Meetings

Handout 1. Schellhammer moves and Steele seconds a motion to approve the September 2021 Iowa Child Advocacy Board meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Meg Hill, Friends Executive Director, took a few minutes at the beginning of the meeting to introduce herself to the state board.

CASA Program Report, Amy Carpenter

Handout 2. Carpenter reports that CASA's dashboard numbers are looking ok.

Handout 2.3. The first thing that the Policy and Procedures committee did as far as implementation of the ICAB Messaging Book was to work on the mission statement for the CASA program. After implementing the language from the messaging book, the new mission was developed. Clarke asks the reason for the change. Carpenter responds that we are trying to use language that is more inclusive. Schellhammer feels the mission statement is not definitive. Handout 2.1. ICAB also has a new confidentiality policy. Carpenter goes over the policy change and states that on pages 2 and 3 the language was cleaned up. Page 4 changes are that if a volunteer requests a paper file, it must be double locked.

Clarke motions and Schellhammer seconds the approval of the Confidentiality Policy. Motion passed unanimously.

Schellhammer motions and Clarke seconds the approval of the CASA Mission Statement to be added to policy. Motion passed unanimously.

Carpenter states that ICAB has created a virtual speaker series for our volunteers and staff.

We received a National CASA grant for Polk County for marketing and promotion. We have used this grant to purchase yard signs, tv commercials and hire a temporary marketing employee. We have put a request in to National CASA to put an ad in the Urban Experience Magazine for the metro area. Schellhammer states that he saw a CASA commercial in Colorado on fundraising and awareness during prime news time for Giving Tuesday. He suggested that Carpenter call the Colorado Director and we possibly do something similar next year.

Carpenter reviewed the National CASA local program reviews and self-assessments.

FCRB Program Report, Shirley Hoefler

Handout 3. Hoefler states that we are on track to review as many kids as we did last year. There was a discussion on whether the state board needs to continue to approve the rationale statements. Guernsey states that she's fine with staff approving, but wants to be sure that all data, including diversity, is reviewed. The proposed legislative change would state, "...The members of each local board shall, to the degree reasonably possible, reflect the various racial and ethnic groups and various occupations of their district..."

Schellhammer motions and Guernsey seconds the approval of FCRB policies for onboarding of new volunteers

and reappointments to local boards will be modified to remove submission of rationale statements to members of the state board, effective January 1, 2022, pending the approval of an internal process. Motion passed unanimously.

Hoefer reviews the FY22 Program Priorities. The development of the new FCRB database is expected to be completed by April 2022. FCRB members will then be able to go into the database and see their case information in the system. We continue to monitor the Polk County FCRB. The kids being reviewed have been older teens and DHS is not really seeing the value. DHS requested we review 10 youth who fall in a “gray area” where the likelihood of them going to APPLA at age 16 is high. Reviews will be held for some of these youth in December and the remainder between January and March 2022.

There are now 13 members on the Citizen Review Panel. The focus for the next couple years will be guardian ad litem representation for children with juvenile court cases.

#### ICAB Budget, Steffani Simbric

Handout 4. Simbric states that the revenue is static. DIA does not add revenue into the Revenue area. DIA adds revenue as a credit under each line item under Expenditures. Our IV-E revenue has decreased substantially. The penetration rate has gone down and also the amount of staff and volunteer training time. Simbric mentions that we will be asking for more money and that the request is also in our annual report. Schellhammer says we have to talk to the Governor’s staff and Clarke suggests meeting with the appropriations committee. Simbric will check on how to navigate the funding request with DIA.

#### Annual Report, Steffani Simbric

Clarke asks what an *acknowledgement of a child’s sense of time* means to the Judicial Branch. She suggests making it more direct. Highlight the fact that the timelines are not in sync and therefore children are waiting longer. Clarke recommends that we ask for as much money as we actually need. There was a discussion about the amount to ask for and \$850,000 was decided upon. Clarke asks if there is a mission statement for FCRB and if so, recommends adding it. Clarke motions and Steele seconds the approval of the FY21 Annual Report. Motion passed unanimously.

#### New Business, Steffani Simbric

With the National CASA review process we had to create everything from scratch. It was a good team effort from the state office staff. National CASA is looking at our logo and we had to make adjustments to our background checks. We added national checks and are now in compliance. We will either be awarded compliant or not in compliance.

Judge Owens is on the Supreme Court’s FFPSA task force. During the meeting they got an update from DHS on bringing their own procedures into compliance with FFPSA and also any efforts they were making in regards to

code revisions. They provided four pages of proposed legislative changes. The department is proposing a change to Iowa Code Section 232.2.22a that changes the definition of guardian ad litem; that person be an attorney. If this goes into effect, it would impact Woodbury County and any other county that uses CASAs as Guardian Ad Litem. It also requires GAL's to file court reports. There are other changes regarding safety plans, FFPSA and making sure the code is clear to first look at relative placement, fictive kin and then foster care. He does not believe these changes are in bill form yet.

Simbric reminds the board that Legislative Day is March 10th, 2022. If you plan on participating, please let Sherri Ripperger know. Schellhammer wants us to target appropriations committee members.

Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Lucas Building Rooms 319 & 320. Upcoming dates: June 10th.

Schellhammer motions and Clarke seconds the meeting adjourned. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourns 2:30 p.m.

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

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

CAB Minutes Approved by Child Advocacy Board Vote

Approved By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Myers, ICAB State Board Chair

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

Handout 1: September 2021 Board Minutes

Handout 2: CASA Program Report

Handout 2.1: CASA of Iowa Confidentiality Policy

Handout 2.3: CASA of Iowa Proposed Mission Statement

Handout 3: FCRB Program Report

Handout 4: FY22 Budget Report

Handout 5: ICAB Annual Report

Handout 6: Iowa HESRP Preliminary Report