

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

State Board Members Present:

Courtney Clarke - Virtual
Mark Elcock - Virtual
Rick McIntosh
Beth Myers, Chair
Judge Owens
Wayne Schellhammer, Vice Chair
Michael Steele - Virtual
Angela Stokes - Virtual

Staff Present:

Amy Carpenter
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.

Approval of Minutes for Previous Meetings

Handout 1. Judge Owens moves and Clarke seconds a motion to approve the December 10, 2021 Iowa Child Advocacy Board meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Those present introduced themselves to ICAB's new Board Member, Rick McIntosh. McIntosh greeted the board.

CASA Program Report, Amy Carpenter

Handout 2. Carpenter reports that what is becoming very evident on the dashboard is the training cycle. November - January ICAB our numbers were lower due to prospective volunteers being in training during those months. She reports that for February we swore in 31 advocates.

Handout 3. In December we launched our CAS A volunteer satisfaction survey. We had a 32% response rate. Carpenter brought a few barriers the volunteers mentioned to the board's attention; doing things in person during Covid, reimbursement for travel expenses and not being recognized as a party to their case.

In the calendar year 2020 we had 42% of our volunteers who met the annual in-service training requirements. In the calendar year 2021 we had 65% of our volunteers who met their training goals. We have been building in the training requirements right from the beginning and doing a lot more at the state level to help volunteers meet their requirements.

During calendar year 2022 National CASA incorporated the annual survey into the new self-assessment. Each local office will pull together their individual data to give to the state office, who will then complete the self-assessment Statewide National CASA survey.

ICAB will be hiring a new program planner 2 for the Polk County office. This individual will be a recruiter/trainer for the three Polk County coordinators. Overall, the goal is for those three coordinators to manage about 50 volunteers, which allows us to serve more volunteers.

Because DHS has removed the language of the ability of a CASA to serve as a GAL we took the duties of the GAL and put them into a new section of code 237. ICAB and DHS worked together to develop a new section to be added to Chapter 237 outlining the duties of the court appointed special advocate.

FCRB Program Report, Shirley Hoefler

Handout 4. Looking at the first two quarters of 2022 we are a little bit ahead of where we were at this point last year in the number of reviews being held and children being reviewed. Participation is still very low for interested parties. We added virtual participation, which is being utilized in some areas. This continues to be one of our focus areas.

Effective January 1, 2022, the policy for selection and approval of local FCRB members new procedures are in place. The approval of new local board members was delegated to an internal supervisory review of the applicant with documentation of approval or declination. The new process is more timely so they can proceed with training and get people sworn in to start serving on boards.

ICAB will be adding some clarification to the policy manual regarding the confidentiality policy that provides an explanation of 237.21 and have something for our FCRB facilitators to have on hand to share with interested parties as needed.

Development of our new FCRB database is going well. Some pieces are now in production. The big piece we are waiting on is being able to schedule and track findings, barriers, etc. We are looking at a “go live” date for staff in late April 2022. Once staff are comfortable with the database we will start introducing it to our FCRB volunteers.

Once 237 is passed there will be some policy/procedural and training items that will need to be updated. Chapter 232 proposed changes will also impact local boards.

There have not been many APPLA kids for the Polk County pilot. DHS provided a list of an additional 10 children, however many of them were no longer eligible for a foster care review. We will be talking to DHS as to whether there is another population of children to review.

ICAB Budget, Steffani Simbric

Handout 5. Simbric reports that we are still behind on bringing in our forecasted IV-E revenue. We have some places where we can save some money to stay within budget. Staff and volunteers are still not traveling, so we will have some savings there. We also have not filled a staff vacancy.

Legislative Day Updates, Beth Myers

Legislative Day went very well. What was significant this year was that they knew who we were. Representative Bergan is proposing a 2.5% increase to our budget.

New Business, Steffani Simbric

ICAB went through a reorganization of our staff. The purpose of it was to be more efficient with serving more children. We eliminated the Grant Writing position and a program planner 2 position in Southern Iowa.

Marla Treiber, Marketing Specialist, will be retiring April 1st. She will be very missed.

Beth Myers, Chair, was not reappointed to the board. Schellhammer nominates Judge Owens. Myers motions and McIntosh seconds the cease of nominations. Motion passed unanimously.









SB Minutes 031022

Final Audit Report

2022-06-20

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