

IOWA CHILD ADVOCACY BOARD
STATE BOARD MEETING
Conference Room 319 & 320
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa
Friday, September 18, 2020
12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

State Board Members Present:

Rachel Cadena
Mark Elcock - Phone
Beth Myers - Phone
Judge Owens - Phone
Michael Steele - Phone
Dr. Angela Stokes - Phone

Staff Present:

Amy Carpenter
Shirley Hoefler - Phone
Sherri Ripperger
Steffani Simbric

Call Meeting to Order; Roll Call of Board Members

Myers calls the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for Previous Meetings

Handout 1. Judge Owens moves and Dr. Stokes seconds a motion to approve the June 2020 Iowa Child Advocacy Board meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

CASA Program Report, Amy Carpenter

Handout 2. Carpenter reported on end of year FY20 data. She then explained that on the fiscal year comparison data, FY19 was the first full year that we had data from CAMS. She feels very confident in the FY19 and FY20 data. The decrease in the number of advocates that began training is due to Covid and ICAB canceling in-person training.

National CASA is creating new local program standards. These standards should be approved by the National CASA Board of Trustees at their October 2020 meeting. When the standards are finalized we will update our CASA Policy and Procedures manual and bring to the state board for approval at the December meeting.

Handout 3. The CASA Advocates and Coaches participated in a volunteer satisfaction survey during June and July 2020. Judge Owen's states that the National Judge's Advisory Committee is revamping the Judge's Guide to CASA Programs. Their goal is to submit it to National CASA for approval.

Seven ICAB Coordinators formed a committee to look at National CASA's new training curriculum. They took two different curricula and formed our own training that is approved by National CASA. The Coordinators are now being trained by our Training Specialist, Lesa Christianson, on how to deliver the new training. We piloted the training in July and August and got very positive feedback. At this time all of the volunteer training will be virtual. 15 hours are done in the Google classroom and 15 hours will be in person; virtual at this time. Myers attended the pilot training and thought the materials were great. She felt it's a great way for volunteers to get trained without having to travel.

Advocates were authorized to return to in-person visits in July. If they were not comfortable doing in-person we required that they do virtual visits with the child if at all possible. For the most part advocates are conducting visits with children although not every 30 days per policy.

This year we are really working on making sure our advocates have their 12 hours of continuing education annually. National CASA now has a standard that if the advocate does not get their 12 hours in it's grounds for dismissal. We've adjusted our policies to take away some barriers to help them get their hours in. We want to provide advocates with as much information as possible so they provide the best advocacy that they can for children.

We did not fill the coordinator position in NW Iowa. For now Kathy Fritz, Amy Hennies and Crystal Engstrom have shifted some responsibilities and coverage areas to cover the CASA and FCRB work.

National CASA/GAL Association will be doing a site visit to review our practices sometime during 3rd or 4th quarter of 2021. Once we are notified they are coming we have three months to get everything together. They then do an on-site visit to review our entire program.

FCRB Program Report, Shirley Hoefler

Handout 4. Staff are concerned that numbers will be dropping due to Families First implementation. October 1st is the Families First launch date for some parts in Iowa. Hoefler reviewed the dashboard data. Covid has impacted us from doing in person reviews. As we get back to in-person reviews we hope to see participation go up.

We are being more diligent with our staff and auditing of volunteer and case records. State Board members can expect more rationale statements for review in the coming months.

We are working on establishing board terms. Most of our boards are back to in-person. We are running into issues with meeting locations not being open to the public yet. For the four boards that cannot meet in person we are looking into doing the meetings virtually, including interested parties. We are continuing to develop strategies to build relationships with interested parties to increase participation at the local reviews.

We are beginning to work on updating the ICAB Administrative Rules and a review of Iowa Code 237.18 - 237.20 to explore Code changes in fall of 2021 for the 2022 legislative session. The committee will be looking at board term limits, training requirements, reporting requirements and revision of the FCRB pre-service training.

We will be exploring the start of citizen reviews in Jasper and Floyd county. These two counties are being added to existing boards. Hoefler states that we are exploring the start of pilot citizen review boards in Polk County. Dr. Stokes asked if we are looking at FCRB in Woodbury County. Hoefler states that Woodbury County is on our list, but we need more resources and staffing before this can happen.

Budget Report, Steffani Simbric

Handout 5. Simbric states we feel pretty confident about our budget. The only wildcard is our IT costs. We have not received final costs yet. We have a mandated website update coming up that will cost approximately \$16,000. The priority for grant writing is the Polk County FCRB Pilot. The group of volunteers that is willing to help with the pilot are willing to help fundraise. Sustainability for the Polk County board is a concern. Myers would like to see a yearly comparison of revenue. Simbric states we will have that information once DIA closes out FY20.

Strategic Plan Update, Steffani Simbric

Goal 1: Funding Update. Strategy 3: ICAB's funding is pretty consistent this year. Simbric states that for a 5% increase per year it totals approximately \$950,000 over five years. Five million at the end of five years would be a total of \$1,500,000. Simbric has set goals for our grant writer, Jennifer Slife, based on this goal. We feel we have a plan and are on track for this year. She points out that we were halfway into the first year before the strategic plan was adopted and did not have an increase in the first year. We are currently operating on about \$233,000 in grant funding. We should not have a budget shortfall this year due to grant and foundation money. \$145,000 is renewal money, a little more than \$111,000 in new funding that goes toward our 5% goal. We have approximately \$168,000 in pending applications. Simbric feels like we are on track to meet this goal. We are looking for additional funding, focusing on Polk County. Myers says she can help us with the Junior League funding, because she is familiar with it and it's different than other grants.

Strategy 1: Legislative Advocacy. We have been struggling to find a date that works. We asked to partner with JCS, but they declined due to social distancing issues. The board discussed a March 2nd or 9th date, before the first funnel. Simbric will work on getting one of those dates locked in and will email the board once that happens.

Goal 3: Training Update. Carpenter, Hoefer and Simbric have looked at the strategic plan, trying to figure out our goals. For training we have done a complete overhaul with our pre-service. We are figuring out how to be compliant with national standards on in-service hours and staff training.

On some of the other goals they are trying to process through them. Simbric would like some context for the goals. Judge Owens will e-mail Simbric a document that was sent to him with the goals, proposed goaltenders, action steps, etc. Myers also suggested a Google Meet for questions Simbric has on the Strategic Plan.

New Business

The FY20 Annual Report is almost finished. The financials need added. Judge Owens moves and Steele seconds a motion to approve the FY20 ICAB Annual Report draft. Motion passed unanimously.

We currently have a Board vacancy. The Governor's office asked that we recruit people to apply. The new board member needs to be a Democrat or Independent. We would like to have statewide coverage.

Half of our board members' terms are expiring April 2021. Please email Sherri Ripperger whether you plan to renew your term or not.

Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting scheduled for December 11, 2020 and March 12, 2021.
from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Lucas Building Rooms 319 & 320.

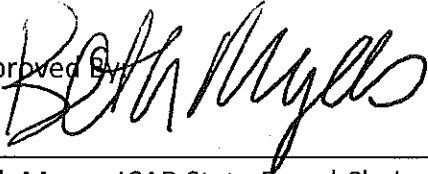
Judge Owens motions and Cadena seconds the meeting adjourned. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourns 1:35 p.m.

ICAB Minutes Prepared By: 
Sherri Ripperger

ICAB Minutes Approved On: 12-11-20

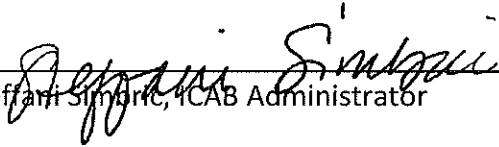
CAB Minutes Approved by Child Advocacy Board Vote

Approved By



Beth Myers, ICAB State Board Chair

Steffani Simburi, ICAB Administrator



Handout 1: June 2020 Board Minutes

Handout 2: CASA Program Report

Handout 3: 2020 CASA Volunteer Survey

Handout 4: FCRB Program Report

Handout 5: ICAB FY21 Budget

Handout 6: FY20 Annual Report

