



State Board Meeting - March 2021 CASA Program Status Report

1. CASA Data

FY2021 CASA Dashboard

Month	Assigned Advocates (Actual)	Assigned Advocate (Goal)	Cases with assigned advocate	Children with assigned advocate	Active Coaches (Actual)	Coach Floor (Goal)	Cases coached	Advs with a coach	Advs sworn in	CASA applications submitted	Advs Exited
July	338	405	410	816	64	61	189	168	12	10	17
August	333	405	401	807	63	61	192	172	13	31	13
September	323	405	369	760	61	61	194	171	8	22	11
October	330	405	394	756	61	61	191	167	21	24	16
November	318	405	362	741	59	61	181	162	10	7	3
December	337	405	386	786	59	61	190	169	17	14	11
January	336	405	411	748	60	61	188	165	1	23	20

Hours and Miles donated to the CASA Program FY2021

Month	Hours Contributed	Mileage Contributed
July	1,183	7,697
August	1,137	8,977
September	884	7,271
October	1,079	8,174
November	1,040	6,144
December	1,110	6,964
January	1,040	6,144

2. CASA Policy and Procedures review

The focus of policy and procedure review in this fiscal year continues. The National CASA/GAL Association Local Program Standards were released late December 2020. Using this new guidance as well as the 2018 state standards, we are making recommended changes to the program and advocate policy and procedure manuals.

Approval of the updated Local Program Policy Manual is requested at the March 2021 ICAB meeting. See Handout 2a for a summary of revisions to the policy manual. Handout 2b is the draft revision for the policy manual. Note that not all of the hyperlinks are finalized for resources.

3. CASA Program Matters this quarter:

- a. **Change in Pre-Service Curriculum:** Several training sessions have now been held using the new virtual training format and curriculum. A new pre-service training committee has been established; this group will be instrumental in fine-tuning our pre-service training program to ensure a high quality experience for our volunteers.
- b. **Covid 19 impact:** We previously reported around 100 children who had not been seen for face to face visits. While we believe this stemmed from data entry errors and not that the kids haven't been seen; coordinators have been asked to start tracking this information so we can get an accurate picture of what's happening. At this time, virtual visits are considered face to face per National CASA guidelines.
- c. **Strengthening efforts to ensure all advocates and coaches receive 12 hours of continuing education annually:** Although 12 hours continuing education for CASA volunteers has been a National CASA standard and CASA of Iowa policy for decades, the new NCASA local program standards include stricter language for offering training, participation in training, documentation of volunteer training time and failure to participate in continuing education as grounds for dismissal.

In calendar year 2020, approximately 42% of CASA volunteers met the required continuing education goal. Plans are being put in place to achieve a higher success rate for CY21.

4. CASA Program Planning in FY21



The focus for the year remains on:

- implementation of the new training curriculum
- aligning program policies and staff performance with NCASAA standards and expectations
- preparing for the National CASA/GAL Association on-site visit to review our practices in 3rd to 4th quarter CY2021.
 - Several dates for the site visit have been provided to NCASAA; we are waiting to hear back from them.
 - They did indicate they would like to talk with the board at a future meeting, likely the one in September. We are to confirm meeting dates with them once they are set.