

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

State Board Members Present:

Rachel Cadena  
Courtney Clarke - Phone  
Mark Elcock - Phone  
Alison Guernsey - Phone  
Beth Myers - Phone  
Judge Owens - Phone  
Michael Steele - Phone  
Dr. Angela Stokes - Phone  
Wayne Schellhammer - Phone

Staff Present:

Amy Carpenter  
Shirley Hoefer - Phone  
Sherri Ripperger  
Steffani Simbric

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 2020 Iowa Child Advocacy Board meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

CASA Program Report, Shirley Hoefler & Steffani Simbric

Handout 2. Simbric states that we continue to do a lot of data cleanup. We are working on updating advocate miles and hours.

Handouts 2a and 2b. Hoefler reports the Local Program Policy Manual has been reorganized to align with the 11 National CASA Local Program Standards. The Board discussed the General Request of ICAB; CASA of Iowa recommends written acknowledgement by staff upon new hire or by volunteers at acceptance into the program and upon any new release of the policy manual thereafter, at least every three (3) years rather than annually as noted by National CASA/GAL. Schellhammer moves and Owens seconds a motion to approve the General Request. Motion passed unanimously.

Standard 1. Mission and Core Model. Request of ICAB: modify and adopt the following as ICAB's core values: advocacy, collaboration, quality, integrity, respect and equity. Schellhammer moves and Clarke seconds a motion to approve the recommendations in Standard 1. Motion passed unanimously.

Standards 2 through 7. Hoefler reviewed items in blue. There is nothing new added, just some clarifications.

Standard 8. Volunteer Administration. Request of ICAB: Affirm the minimum age of Iowa CASA advocates as 19 year with the understanding that this does not align with National CASA/GAL standards as noted above. The minimum age requirement of 19 years is in the current Administrative Rules. After a short discussion a vote is not required due to this being in our Iowa Administrative Code; the state board affirmed the minimum age requirement for CASA as 19 years of age.

Standards 9 through 11. Hoefler reviewed items in blue. There is nothing new added, just some clarifications.

Owens moves and Steele seconds a motion to approve the 2021 CASA Policy updates. Motion passed unanimously.

Simbric states we are continuing to fine tune pre-service training. We have a new pre-service committee that works on training items that need attention. Child visits have been a concern. We have asked coordinators to start tracking child visits. At this time they report that 52% of children have been seen in person. 20% have been seen virtually. 20% have not been seen. We have been struggling with volunteers getting their 12 hours of continuing education annually. Plans are being put in place to achieve a higher success rate.

The focus for the year is to implement the new training curriculum, align program policies and staff performance with NCASAA standards and expectations and prepare for the National CASA on-site visit.

FCRB Program Report, Shirley Hoefler

Handout 3. We are approximately 100 kids behind where we were last year. Family First is impacting FCRB

programming as we are seeing fewer kids being removed.

We are trying to get back to in-person reviews. Once the Governor's Proclamation suspending in-person meetings is lifted, all boards will resume in-person meetings. We are working on trying to offer an option of participating in reviews virtually once meetings are back to in-person. Local coordinators are working with our Grants Specialist, Jennifer Slife, to seek funding for technology needs.

Currently we are looking at what the future is for FCRB. Our FCRB Program Committee is tasked with going through the Iowa Code looking for changes, as well as reviewing the ICAB Administrative Rules. Meetings with stakeholders will need to occur as part of the process to determine the future of FCRB. In reviewing code section 237.15(2)(d) a judge can request involvement of a local board. Judge Owens states that he will talk to Kathy Thompson to see if this is on anyone's radar. He suggests that FCRB possibly become involved in voluntary case work that the department is doing under Family First. Simbric feels we have a big opportunity right now to decide what we want FCRB to be. The question we want to explore is, "How can we be of assistance to the child welfare system?" We need to take a look at what we want to accomplish and how to fill in the gaps. ICAB Management has a meeting with DHS in April. They anticipate discussing the role of FCRB during this meeting.

Hoefer asks the board what they would like to see from FCRB. Schellhammer suggests we decide what we want to be then tell the Department of Human Services, "This is the job we are willing to take on." He challenges management to come up with some recommendations on how we can do different things, yet work within the regulatory structure. Steele states that we should work with the Judges and also look at relative placements. Judge Owens states that the benefit of a local FCRB is that the board is local. They know the resources and circumstances of where the families are living. Hoefer states that management will come up with some recommendations and bring it to the board during the June meeting. Simbric and Hoefer are meeting next week to discuss FCRB. Board members who volunteered for the FCRB workgroup are Cadena, Guernsey, Steele and Stokes. Judge Owens will also be a resource for this workgroup. Dr. Stokes asks if there will be any data for the group in terms of relative placement and family first failed and successful outcome data. Judge Owens states that it is on DHS's website. Website url was shared with the board.

Floyd and Jasper Counties have started citizen reviews January and February 2021.

Citizens of Polk County continue to be interested in the development of a Polk County FCRB. ICAB does have the staff to support this pilot. Cadena moves and Stokes seconds a motion to move forward with a one-year Polk County pilot FCRB. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Budget Report, Steffani Simbric

Handout 4. Simbric states our budget is looking good for FY21. Our IV-E so far has been lower than expected. We will be keeping a close eye on it for the remainder of the year. The Governor put through our request for

\$350,000 in technology funds. This money would be used to get our FCRB database updated.

Strategic Plan Update, Steffani Simbric

Myers reports that the Legislative Day went very well. Staff and volunteers talked to a lot of people, making them aware of our programs and what we do. There will be an after action report from the committee.

New Business

We would like to recognize volunteer Carol Bamford, for her work on the annual report and the logo. ICAB had leftover grant money so an ICAB logo was created by Webspec.

Reminder for those coming up for reappointment to get their Oath turned in to the Governor.

Future Meeting Dates

Next meetings are scheduled for June 11, September 10 and December 10, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Lucas Building Rooms 319 & 320. Upcoming dates for 2022 are March 10 and June 10.

Schellhammer motions and Judge Owens seconds the meeting adjourned. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourns 2:40 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

Handout 1: December 2020 Board Minutes

Handout 2: CASA Program Report

Handout 2a: 2021 State Board Summary of Policy Revisions

Handout 2b: CASA Program Manual Draft

Handout 3: FCRB Program Report

Handout 4: FY21 Budget Report

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