



Iowa Child Advocacy Board



Recommendations to the Iowa General Assembly

- 1. DHS Child Welfare Staff:** Provide additional funding for more DHS child welfare caseworkers and supervisors.
- 2. Children Aging Out Of Iowa's Child Welfare System:** Continue to strengthen and expand programs that provide supports to youth who have aged out of the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.
- 3. Substance Abuse Services To Parents:** Establish the highest possible priority to the availability of substance abuse treatment for court-involved parents with children at risk of placement or continued placement.
- 4. Relative Placements:** Provide additional funding for DHS efforts to assess initial and ongoing appropriateness of placing children with relatives not licensed as foster parents.
- 5. Children's Mental Health Services:** Support proposals of the newly formed Division of Mental Health and Disability Services to develop and strengthen services administered by that Division's new Bureau of Children and Youth Services.
- 6. Children's Justice Initiative (CJI):** Endorse and support the Judicial Branch's Children's Justice Initiative (CJI) through appropriations and responses to policy change recommendations.

February, 2008

Last year, over 1,000 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) & Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers spent over 55,000 hours working within Iowa's child welfare system to assess the situations of thousands of abused and neglected children and to advocate for these children's best interests. With input from these caring and committed people from across the state, the Iowa Child Advocacy Board offers the above recommendations to improve the welfare of children in Iowa.

The Iowa Child Advocacy Board (ICAB) is an independent board composed of nine members appointed by the Governor of Iowa and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. ICAB establishes policies and procedures for two volunteer child advocacy programs: the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and the Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Boards programs. Along with establishing these programs to support the work of citizen volunteers helping abused and neglected children, Iowa Code Chapter 237, Division II also requires ICAB to report annually on issues affecting the best interests of children in Iowa's child welfare system and to offer recommendations for improvements. This hand-out is one part of the ICAB's 2007 annual reporting. Please contact ICAB (see below) to request a copy of "2007 Iowa Child Advocacy Board Findings" and other hand-outs with ICAB's 2007 recommendations to the Iowa Judicial Branch and the Iowa Department of Human Services.

ICAB is an attached unit within the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals and can be contacted at:
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