



Administrator's Monthly Musings

Watch for the new National CASA Branding Campaign

An exciting new CASA branding and marketing campaign was unveiled to participants in the National CASA Annual Conference on June 10. The campaign will be launched on June 17. It will feature advertisements on national television, print media, social media and movie theater outlets. The campaign intends to promote awareness of the CASA brand nationally and locally. It is expected to drive interest in volunteering to become a CASA Advocate and to donate funds to support CASA programs everywhere. Persons interested in volunteering or contributing to CASA will be directed to state and local CASA web pages. In Iowa, work is underway to prepare a new "landing page" to receive the inquiries and accept the applications of new volunteers who are attracted by the campaign.

In addition, the National CASA Association will provide grants to individual states to develop cascading media campaigns that will broaden and intensify the national campaign at the local level. The Iowa CASA program's marketing team, which includes both staff and volunteers from throughout the state, is currently developing our plan and proposal for the use of these newly available funds. We will expand the reach of the national campaign through use of print ads in newspapers throughout Iowa and through the purchase of paid social media. This is the first time in many years that our CASA program is able to be part of a well-planned marketing campaign.

The marketing team will develop plans and guidance for all of us to use as we implement this campaign. All of us, board members, CASA and FCRB volunteers and staff will be able to contribute to the effectiveness of the campaign by "liking" posts we see on social media, writing letters to the editor of our local newspapers and by sharing what we see with our friends, neighbors and co-workers. We hope to see many new CASA program applicants – and eventually volunteers - throughout the state. This will allow our program to advocate for many more children among the thousands who need and deserve the support our CASA program volunteers provide.

Watch for the ads! More information to come within the next month.

Jim Hennessey



**During Reunification Month and beyond,
ICAB volunteers strive to help families
have the support they need to
ensure their children can safely
return home.**

Thank you for all you do!

From your ICAB Staff



June 2019

ICAB Book Nook



In recognition of and respect for the critical importance of fathers in children's lives, we're offering [*A Guide for Father Involvement in the Systems of Care*](#). This 53-page guide shares information about the importance of fathers in the lives of their children, and it identifies potential consequences if they are not involved. It also offers strategies for systems and families, especially those who are involved in systems of care, to help fathers become more involved. Section I discusses statistics about the presence and absence of fathers in families. Section II describes effects of fathers' absence or presence in the lives of their children, and explains why children need an active father in their lives. Section III outlines ways in which systems of care can best support the involvement of fathers in individual and family service plans. Section IV explains how systems of care can involve fathers in all core dimensions of development (including family-driven, youth-guided services/ supports, cultural and linguistic competence, clinical services and structure, governance, social marketing, evaluation, logic model development, strategic planning, the technical assistance plan, and continuous quality improvement). Section V discusses three different cultural perspectives of fatherhood. Section VI focuses on the important role of young fathers in the growth and development of their children. Section VII, recognizing the increasing number of grandparents raising grandchildren, considers how best to involve grandfathers; and Section VIII explores the important role of fathers in the child welfare system. The Guide concludes in Section IX with a collection of national, state, and other resources, gathered to help readers learn more about the critical role of fathers in the lives of their children.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



Welcome to Our New Volunteers!

Michelle Arneson Havenstrite, Chickasaw CASA
Lisa Cohen, Jefferson FCRB
Nicole Dreckman, Polk CASA
Kathleen Erickson, Polk CASA
Jay Fifield, Polk CASA
Susan Fortune, Jasper CASA
Luana Harman, Pottawattamie CASA
William Loyd, Johnson, CASA
Ashley O'Neill, Allamakee CASA

Sarah Pridemore, Hardin CASA
Teresa Richard, Cass CASA
John Schmidt, Polk CASA
Phyllis Schwechel, Hardin CASA
Teresa Severson, Allamakee CASA
Stacey Shafer, Polk CASA
Jacqueline Short, Pottawattamie CASA
Audry Taylor, Scott CASA

Trainer's Corner

For FCRB Members & CASA Advocates: Engaging Fathers and Paternal Family Members

Fathers have a critical role to play in children's physical, emotional, and social development and are essential partners in the prevention of maltreatment and achievement of timely permanence. Father's Day is a time in which we recognize fathers and father figures and their contributions to their children, as well as society overall. There are tremendous advantages that are afforded to children who have active, involved fathers during childhood and adolescence.

Casey Family Programs outline in their 2019 [Strong Families Engaging Fathers Issues Brief](#) the essential role of fathers and studies which highlight the myriad of benefits of father involvement for child safety and well-being.



Ameliorate circumstances that led to abuse

Non-residential fathers may play a role in ameliorating the circumstances that led to abuse.

Higher likelihood of a reunification outcome

Non-resident fathers' involvement with their children is associated with a higher likelihood of a reunification outcome and a lower likelihood of an adoption outcome.



Discharged from foster care more quickly

Children with highly involved non-resident fathers are discharged from foster care more quickly than those whose fathers have less or no involvement.

Lower likelihood of subsequent maltreatment allegations

For children who are reunited with a parent, usually their mother, higher levels of non-resident father involvement are associated with a substantially lower likelihood of subsequent maltreatment allegations.



The Issue Brief outlines that having an involved father:

- Lets a child know that he/she is loved
- Helps a child learn important life skills
- Provides a child with greater financial resources
- Lowers a child's chances for early sexual activity
- Provides a child with a positive male role model
- Lowers a child's chances for school failure
- Provides a child with emotional support
- Lowers a child's chances for juvenile delinquency
- Enhances a child's self-esteem
- Lowers a child's chances for adult criminality
- Enhances a child's intellectual development
- Provides a child with a sense of physical & emotional security
- Provides a child with guidance & discipline
- Facilitates a child's moral development
- Gives a child someone to play with
- Promotes a healthy gender identity
- Provides a child with someone to talk to when he/she has questions
- Provides a child with an alternative perspective on life

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Children's Bureau (2018) provides a resource **A Father's Impact on Child Development** which examines the specific impacts of father engagement on childhood development, lists 10 important facts related to fatherhood and children and outlines the negative effects of father absence. Some of the facts included about father engagement are:

- Fathers and infants can be equally as attached as mothers and infants. When both parents are involved with the child, infants are attached to both parents from the beginning of life.
- Father involvement is related to positive child health outcomes in infants, such as improved weight gain in preterm infants and improved breastfeeding rates.
- Children who feel a closeness to their father are: twice as likely as those who do not to enter college or find stable employment after high school, 75% less likely to have a teen birth, 80% less likely to spend time in jail, and half as likely to experience multiple depression symptoms.
- High levels of father involvement are correlated with higher levels of sociability, confidence, and self-control in children. Children with involved fathers are less likely to act out in school or engage in risky behaviors in adolescence.
- Children with actively involved fathers are: 43% more likely to earn A's in school and 33% less likely to repeat a grade than those without engaged dads.
- Father engagement reduces the frequency of behavioral problems in boys while also decreasing delinquency and economic disadvantage in low-income families.
- Father engagement reduces psychological problems and rates of depression in young women.

FCRB and CASA Advocacy in Action

- Inquire about the father, his past involvement in the child's life, and current plan to include the father in court hearings and case planning.
- Recommend paternity testing to establish legal paternity, if necessary.
- Ask questions to identify paternal extended family members and consider as possible placement options, if necessary.
- If appropriate, recommend visitation between father and/or paternal relatives and the child.
- Encourage the father to participate in community-based services to meet the father's needs, such as parenting classes.

For CASA Advocates: In-Service Training Credit

To build upon your advocacy knowledge and skills for working with parents, we offer an independent study *Working with Parents Involved in the Child Welfare System* as part of our trauma informed advocacy series. CASA Advocates can request this training from their Local Coordinator.



Please print off and use to recruit a new volunteer!

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

School's out for the summer and buses are parked.



Could you find 10 hrs a month to become a strong voice and consistent presence in a vulnerable child's life?

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS MAKE AN IMPACT EVERY DAY IN THE LIFE OF CHILDREN

First and foremost, school bus drivers care about the safety of children. They have great people skills, enjoy working with kids and often remind those kids just how special they are. A school bus driver is a steady presence in the daily life of a child, remains calm under pressure, and has a flexible schedule. They see a lot, hear a lot, and wish they could do something for each child who appears to be struggling. AND they can – YOU can.

You already have many of the skills and characteristics of a CASA volunteer. As a Court Appointed Special Advocate you will first and foremost keep an abused and neglected child's safety your priority. As you advocate for a child in need of a permanent home where they can thrive, you will be a consistent presence in their lives and join other professionals in the driver's seat as they travel through the maze of the child welfare system. You will impact the life of a child every day.

Please volunteer at **1-866-469-2522** or visit **iamforthechildiowa.com**



Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children

Iowa Child Advocacy Board
321 East 12th Street
4th Floor Lucas Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

childadvocacy@dia.iowa.gov