

ANNOUNCEMENT – February 2010 CASA TRAINING



To all CASA of Contra Costa County Volunteers and Staff

Three Saturdays in February: A Bay Area CASA Conference focusing on Children’s Mental Health and Children of Incarcerated Parents Issues

provided by California CASA, through the generous support of the Zellerbach Family Foundation

**Saturday 2/6/2010 – Children of Incarcerated Parents and CASA Advocacy
Seneca Center at 15942 Foothill Blvd, San Leandro, Lower Training Room**

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
9:30 – 10:00	Welcome and Intro.	
10:00 – 12:00	Advocating for Children of Incarcerated Parents	Bridget Ortega / SFCIPP
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 3:30	Project WHAT!	Youth Presenters
3:30 – 3:45	Break	
3:45 – 4:45	Advocating for Children of Incarcerated Parents	Bridget Ortega / SFCIPP
4:45 – 5:00	Wrap up	

10:00 – 4:45pm ***Advocating for Children of Incarcerated Parents, featuring Project WHAT!***
 Bridgett Ortega and the youth of Project WHAT! will educate and inspire CASA practice as it relates to the needs of children who have parents in jail or prison. Combining the youth perspective with an in-depth understanding of the literature and practice behind Children of Incarcerate Parents will certainly improve your child’s outcomes.

**Saturday 2/20/2010 – CASA Mental Health Advocacy
Fort Mason Center in San Francisco, Room C370**

(Follow the link for directions: <http://www.fortmason.org/aboutus/visitor-information/directions>)

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
9:30 – 10:00	Welcome and Intro.	
10:00 – 11:00	Be a Better Mental Health Advocate	Libby Coleman, PhD and Phil Ladew, Esq.
11:00 – 12:00	Working with Local Mental Health Providers: What You Need to Know	Panel Discussion
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:15	Mental Health Advocacy Building Blocks 1 – <i>TBS Services, Wrap-Around Mental Health and Services Post Emancipation</i>	Disability Rights Advocates (Suzanne Gee)
2:15 – 3:00	Mental Health Advocacy Building Blocks 2 – <i>Supporting Student with Disabilities in School and Manifestation Determinations</i>	Disability Rights Advocates (Barbara Ransom, Will Schell)
3:00 – 3:15	Break	
3:15 – 4:45	Mental Health Advocacy Building Blocks 3 – <i>Putting Training into Practice, More on Manifestation Determinations and Role Plays To Solidify Today’s Learning</i>	Disability Rights Advocates (Suzanne Gee, Barbara Ransom, Will Schell)
4:45 – 5:00	Wrap up	

Hurry, space is limited, so please RSVP to Janel Brown at: jbrown@californiacasa.org or (800) 214-CASA.

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- 10:00 – 11:00am ***Be a Better Mental Health Advocate***
 Libby Coleman, PhD has years of experience working with CASA advocates and children and she will set the stage for how to be a better CASA when your child needs mental health services. Topics will include ways to help older youth buy into therapy, CASA volunteer rights and roles, and best practices around working with therapists and other mental health providers. We will also touch on the common question of “What Mental Health records does a CASAs have access to, and when can they have it?”
- 11:00 – 12:00pm ***Working with Local Mental Health Providers: What You Need to Know***
 This diverse panel of child welfare practitioners will address how CASAs can work more seamlessly with a child’s mental health care provider. CASAs will learn about some of the ethical rules providers must follow, barriers to services, how to improve a child’s experience, and other issues that can improve your working relationships.
- 1:00 – 4:45pm ***Mental Health Advocacy Building Blocks 1, 2, and 3***
 Attorneys from DRA prepare you with a solid understanding and real world tools to become a better advocate. This session will help you support youth by maximizing school mental health services, understanding manifestation determination hearings, accessing Therapeutic Behavioral Health Services, and what EPSDT funded mental health services exist after emancipation.

Saturday 2/27/2010 – CASA Mental Health Advocacy

Preservation Park at 660 13th Street Oakland, Niles Hall in the Ginn House,

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
9:30 – 10:00	Welcome and Intro.	
10:00 – 12:00	Youth in Mind: Hearing from the Youth Themselves	Youth Presenters
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 3:00	Finally Understanding Psych Meds	George Stewart, MD
3:00 – 4:00	How Children Cope: Grief and Loss and Suicide Prevention	Robin Allen and George Stewart, M.D.
4:00 – 4:15	Break	
4:15 – 5:15	How Children Cope: Grief and Loss and Suicide Prevention (<i>cont.</i>)	Robin Allen and George Stewart, M.D.
5:15 – 5:30	Wrap up	

- 10:00 – 12:00pm ***Youth in Mind: Hearing from the Youth Themselves***
 Youth in Mind, a statewide organization made up of young people affected by the mental health system seeking to promote positive change through leadership and advocacy, will set the stage for understanding how to advocate for your child. They will address issues that run the gamut: from personal experience to administration of psychotropic medications.
- 1:30 – 3:30pm ***Finally Understanding Psych Meds***
 CASA staff and volunteers can finally hear from a psychiatrist about medicating our youth. CASAs will learn about the types of medications and their administration, issues that doctors consider, and barriers to success. Special attention will be paid to understanding the JV220/court approval process and other issues that affect youth in care.
- 3:00 – 5:15pm ***How Children Cope: Grief and Loss and Suicide Prevention***
 Our youth deal with huge amounts of stress, grief, and loss and understanding these emotions will certainly make you a better advocate. This session will discuss how grief and loss affects children, why they act out, and how they adapt. Also, speakers will discuss suicide prevention techniques that can save your child’s life. These are must-learn topics.

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ATTENTION: All CASA of Contra Costa County Volunteers and Staff!

You are cordially invited to attend one, two, or all three of these FREE training sessions. Lunch will be provided, and training is FREE, thanks to the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

****Space is limited, so please RSVP to Janel Brown at jbrown@californiacasa.org or (800) 214-CASA. The last day to RSVP is 4 days before the training or until we fill up.**

RSVP

Because space will be limited, and lunch needs to be ordered in advance, we ask that you RSVP as soon as possible to Janel Brown at jbrown@californiacasa.org or (800) 214-CASA.

Questions:

Please call Janel Brown at (800) 214-CASA or email her at jbrown@californiacasa.org

Lunch

A simple lunch will be provided free of charge for each day.

Parking

2/6 Seneca Center – parking is free

2/20 Fort Mason – parking is available for \$8 all day

2/27 Preservation Park – parking is available for \$12 all day if in before 9:30am



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