



**MONDAY MORNING MEMO**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2007 ~ VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3**

**THE A-TRAIN**

***FAMILY TREATMENT COURT CONFERENCE CALL TODAY AT 2 P.M.***

Today’s conference call for CASA Program Directors on participation in Family Treatment Court begins at 2 p.m. Call toll-free 1-888-795-5787, and reference Meeting ID 7249, meeting name “Darlene Ward”. Feel free to join in with your thoughts, questions and comments. An agenda was emailed out last week; if you need another copy, drop me an email at [daward@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:daward@courts.state.ny.us)

***ADOLESCENT ADVOCACY AND FEBRUARY REGIONAL CASA MEETINGS***

At our regional meetings, we will have the pleasure of viewing a DVD of children in foster care, produced by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services Foster Care Youth Leadership Team, “Youth in Progress.” The group’s mission is to enhance and advance the lives of today's and tomorrow's foster care youth by giving them a sense of self responsibility.



***“Youth in Progress”***

To do this, YIP pledges to educate everyone involved in the foster care system about the realities of this experience. Their goals are: developing publications and presentations on the experience of youth in foster care, and their rights and responsibilities; recruiting additional youth leaders; planning and facilitating regional Youth Speakouts; and hosting events to gather input from all youth in care within the regions. For more information, go to <http://nysiln.hunter.cuny.edu/yip/>. The video can be downloaded at that site.

We also will hear from Robin Robinson, Executive Director of CASANYS, about her impressive adolescent advocacy efforts while director of CASA of Oneida and Herkimer Counties, as well as from other local directors at each meeting about their successes with youth in care. We will discuss how best to utilize CASA’s advocacies for older youth, and what resources might facilitate that activity.

The meetings are slated for: Thursday, February 8 (Albany); Tuesday, February 13 (Buffalo); and Tuesday, February 27 (New York City). Meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day at the offices of the local CASA program. Directors may attend any of the three meetings they choose.



# CASA ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND COURT IMPROVEMENT

## WHAT'S NEW AT OCA?

### ***PRESENTATION ON PERMANENCY AT PREVENTION CONFERENCE***

**Christine Sabino Kiesel** will present on “Best Practices in Achieving Permanency for Children” at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual New York State Child Abuse Prevention Conference in April. Ms. Kiesel is Statewide Project Manager of the Child Welfare Court Improvement Project at the NYS Office of Court Administration. Her workshop, to be held on Monday afternoon April 16<sup>th</sup>, will focus on best practices including CASA, permanency mediation, collaborative stakeholder’s groups, and problem-solving courts. She will review current initiatives of the Court Improvement Project and highlight successes in the Oneida County Best Practices Court.

The conference, entitled “Investing in Children, Investing in Our Future,” will be held at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center from April 16-18. The conference begins with a plenary by **Dr. Robert Anda**, Scientific Consultant to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who will speak on the health and social consequences of adverse childhood experiences.

For more information on the conference, contact Prevent Child Abuse at 518-445-1273 or register online at [www.preventchildabuseny.org/conf07/registration.shtml](http://www.preventchildabuseny.org/conf07/registration.shtml)

## RESOURCES

### ***ARTICLE ON NORTH COUNTRY INTEGRATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT***

Attached is an interesting article from the *Watertown Times* on the St. Lawrence County Integrated Domestic Violence Court, titled “Dis-Orders of Protection.”

### ***STUDY ON CHILD WELFARE EFFORTS WITH NONRESIDENT DADS***

Last issue’s information on putative fathers elicited the link to a 2006 report by the Urban Institute for the US Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Bureau. “What About the Dads?” is a study that examined the extent to which child welfare agencies involve nonresident fathers in casework and permanency planning; described the methods used to identify and locate nonresident fathers and establish paternity; identified challenges to involvement of fathers; and identified practices and initiatives that may increase father involvement. Visit online at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/06/CW-involve-dads/>.

### ***TPR AND THE RIGHTS OF INCARCERATED PARENTS***

Attached is a handout from Fordham University’s Graduate School of Social Service Children FIRST Project on termination of parental rights for incarcerated parents in New York State. For more information on Children FIRST, go to <http://www.childrenfirstfordham.org/>



There's a great report entitled "When 'Free' Means Losing Your Mother: The Collision of Child Welfare and the Incarceration of Women in New York State" by the Women in Prison Project of the Correctional Association of New York. You can download the report at:

[http://www.correctionalassociation.org/WIPP/publications/Incarcerated\\_Mothers\\_report.pdf](http://www.correctionalassociation.org/WIPP/publications/Incarcerated_Mothers_report.pdf).

### ***MAPS TREND DATA FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES***

The 2005 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles (MAPS data) for Child Protective Services, Preventive Services, Foster Care and Adoption are posted on the NYS Office of Children and Families website, <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/reports/>. The data packages provide information on the major child welfare services provided by county Departments of Social Services (DSS), and include selected trend data for 2001-2005. We'll distribute 2006 data as soon as it becomes available.

### **CASA SUCCESSES**

#### ***NYC CASA PROGRAM'S JUNIOR BOARD CELEBRATES A YEAR OF SUCCESS***

An energetic and committed group of young people has formed The CASA Junior Board to bring resources and awareness to New York City CASA.

The board, formed a year ago and averaging around 20 individuals, was the brainchild of Jessica Aaron, a student intern from the Columbia University Graduate School of Social Work. Prior to enrolling in graduate school, Ms. Aaron had been a CASA advocate in New York for three years and in Charleston, SC, for two years before that. The idea for a Junior Board came about as a result of a conversation Ms. Aaron had with CASA Executive Director Amy Feldman regarding a change project she had to complete during her second year of studies.

"During my conversation with Amy, she said that a Junior Board would be a great boost to CASA's work, not only through the members' financial support and fundraising, but also in serving as 'goodwill ambassadors' to raise awareness of CASA and its work among their friends," said Ms. Aaron. "Starting a Junior Board seemed to be an excellent opportunity for me to support an organization that has supported me. It is a pleasure to introduce CASA to young professionals who will, in turn, tell the CASA story to even more people."

To date, the diverse group of 20- and 30-year-olds has raised more than \$40,000 for the program. Their first event, "Bringing Down the House for CASA", was held last spring and alone brought in more than \$20,000. Held at the trendy G-Spa & Lounge in the Hotel Gansevoort in the Meatpacking District, the space -- a spa by day and lounge by night -- provided a festive setting. The night featured a DJ, food, cocktails and silent auction prizes. Junior Board members had 19 silent auction items donated, ranging from sports and entertainment tickets to unique dinners and specialty gifts. Some of the most coveted items were a Jackson Hole getaway, New York museum passes and a yoga class.





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In addition to the annual event, the Junior Board participated in the program’s annual appeal and brought information about CASA to many of their friends and professional colleagues. The board has no governance or fiduciary responsibilities, but is being considered as a potential “feeder board” to the Board of Directors for the program. New members are assigned a charter member as a mentor as part of the orientation and training, and the board members are encouraged to learn more about CASA, child welfare and court proceedings. The Junior Board meets periodically to hear presentations on CASA’s work and discuss activities to undertake to help promote CASA. The Junior Board recently invited Darlene Ward, Program Manager of the UCS CASA Assistance Program, to present last month.

Board members represent a variety of professional and personal affiliations; they include lawyers, public relations professionals, a stay-at-home mom, officers of Fortune 500 companies, an actor/screenwriter, an official at an animal shelter and a florist. While each brings unique talents to the group, they share one common purpose -- to play a role in improving the lives of foster children in New York City.

For more information on the Junior Board, contact Phil Burgess at New York City CASA, [pburgess@casa-nyc.org](mailto:pburgess@casa-nyc.org).

~~~~~ **QUOTE OF THE WEEK** ~~~~~

A plug for strategic planning from *Lewis Carroll*:

One day Alice came to a fork in the road and saw a Cheshire cat in a tree. “Which road do I take?” she asked.

“Where do you want to go?” was his response.

“I don’t know,” Alice answered.

“Then,” said the cat, “it doesn’t matter.”

~~~~~ **NEXT ISSUE** ~~~~~

The next issue of Monday Morning Memo would fall on the President’s Day holiday, so will be postponed until **March 5<sup>th</sup>**.

Past issues of the Monday Morning Memo are now posted on our website, [www.nycourts.gov/ip/casa/](http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/casa/). We welcome linking to our website from yours, and please check our site for any necessary corrections to the information on your program.

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