



Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates

Board of Directors and Advisors Meeting – October 12, 2023 | 6:00-7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Chris Durand, *Chair*
- Paul Ronson, *Vice Chair*
- Shannon Mitchell, *Treasurer*
- Bryan Jenkins, *Secretary*
- Rutherford Ferguson
- Toney Hall
- Sarah Kurysz
- Suzanne Mathias
- Paul Shively
- Mary Jo Sisson-Vaughan
- Mel Tull
- Adam Winston

ADVISORS

- Betsy Beach
- Mike Briggs
- Nick Cooper
- Berkeley Edmunds
- Anne Preston Farmer
- Joy Jones
- Doug Nassif

STAFF

- Jeannine Panzera
- Laura Robinson

HONORARY MEMBERS

- Kevin Bruny
- Jon Ganues
- Pat Hackler

CONSULTANT

- Katherine Whitney

GUEST

- Sharon Hart, CPA

AGENDA

Welcome – Chris Durand

- Laura Robinson (*Bridge to Practice Law Fellow*)
- New Advisors
- Sharon Hart

Audit Presentation – Sharon Hart, CPA (Barcalow & Hart, LLC)

- Audit Report (FY2022-23)

Consent Agenda – Emailed Prior

- Executive Directors Report
- Financial Reports (through October 8, 2023)

Committee Updates

- Shannon Mitchell – Finance Committee
- Paul Ronson – Governance Committee
- Chris Durand – Visitation Center Committee
- Rutherford Ferguson – Fund Development Committee

Fund Development – Rutherford Ferguson + Chris Durand

- Mustaches 4 Kids (November 1 – November 30, 2023)
- Annual Campaign (November – December 2023)

Old + New Business – Jeannine Panzera

- Conference Season – Reflections/Trends
- National CASA Funding
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding
- Mandatory Training for Advocates – Join Us!
 - Date: November 15, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
 - Location: County Training Center (7701 East Parham Road)



Executive Director’s Report
October 2023

CASES / VOLUNTEERS
As of August 31, 2023

	YTD	Past YTD
Volunteer Stats		
Number of Volunteers	87	90
New Volunteers	0	0
Resigned Volunteers	0	0
Volunteer Attrition	0%	0%
Number of Cases/Children	165	137
Waiting Children	0	0
Cases Closed	40	39
Cases Opened	12	26
Volunteer Hours	1,695.75	1,412.25
Volunteer Contacts	3,145	2,972
Value to Commonwealth	\$53,925	\$43,497
Supervisors	Volunteers (Max) Active	Assignments 1 Case 2 Cases 3 Cases
Jeannine (Full-time Executive Director)	(0) 1	1 0 0
Trish (Full-time Program Manager)	(10) 8	5 3 0
Lorrie (Full-time Volunteer/Training Coordinator)	(25) 21	18 1 2
Patricia (Full-time Volunteer Coordinator)	(25) 17	14 2 1
Stacy (Full-time Volunteer Coordinator)	(25) 17	13 1 3

Activities

- September 5, 2023: Program staff held a case assignment meeting.
- September 7, 2023: Henrico CASA Board Meeting/Social was held at the home of Betsy Beach.
- September 8, 2023: Jeannine attended a State Leadership Team meeting.
- September 8, 2023: Jeannine attended a Families First Committee meeting at Henrico J+DR.
- September 9, 2023: Fall 2023 Pre-service training began at the Henrico CASA office.
- September 11, 2023: Jeannine attended a DCJS Network Support meeting.
- September 12, 2023: A CASA staff team meeting was held.
- September 13, 2023: A Legislative Committee meeting was held with DCJS.
- September 14, 2023: Jeannine spoke with The Schaberg Foundation re: CASA's accomplishments.
- September 18, 2023: VA Case Studies Review was held at Henrico CASA Office.
- September 19, 2023: Jeannine attended the McGuire Woods 20th Annual Nonprofit Seminar.
- September 19, 2023: A CASA case assignment meeting was held.
- September 19, 2023: Henrico CASA Continuing Education presentation on Kinship Care was held.
- September 21-22, 2023: Jeannine attended the Virginia Court Improvement Program Best Practice Courts Conference in Norfolk.
- September 26, 2023: A CASA staff team meeting was held.
- September 26, 2023: Jeannine taught a VCU Honors class.
- September 28, 2023: Jeannine participated in a Legislative Committee call.

Future Events

- October 2-4, 2023: Jeannine will attend the Virginia Crimes Against Children Conference in VB.
- October 3, 2023: Program staff will hold a case assignment meeting.
- October 5, 2023: A social for advocates will be hosted by CASA Ambassadors at Three Notch'd Brewing Company.
- October 6, 2023: A Henrico CASA Visitation Center Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be held.
- October 6, 2023: Jeannine will attend a Families First Committee meeting at Henrico J+DR.
- October 10, 2023: A CASA staff team meeting will be held.
- October 10, 2023: Jeannine will attend a DCJS Network Support meeting.
- October 10, 2023: Program staff will attend CASA College Best Practices in Volunteer Recognition.
- October 10, 2023: A Home for Good Builders Thank You event will be held.
- October 11, 2023: Henrico CASA New Board Member Orientation will be held at the CASA office.
- October 11, 2023: New CASA Advocates will be sworn in at the Henrico County J+DR.
- October 12, 2023: Henrico CASA Continuing Education presentation on Healthy Relationships will be held at the CASA office.
- October 12, 2023: Henrico CASA Board meeting will be held at the CASA office.
- October 16, 2023: VA Case Studies meeting will be held at the CASA Office.
- October 17, 2023: A CASA case assignment meeting will be held.
- October 20, 2023: A Henrico CASA Visitation Center Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be held.
- October 24, 2023: A CASA staff team meeting will be held.
- October 26, 2023: A Henrico CASA Governance meeting will be held.
- October 27, 2023: Jeannine will attend a mandatory CJA Advisory Committee Meeting.
- October 31, 2023: A CASA case assignment meeting will be held.

CASA Story

Meet Laura Robinson, Esq. University of Richmond School of Law – *Bridge to Practice* Fellow!

Laura's journey began at North Carolina State University, where she earned her Social Work degree. From the very start, she had a clear mission in mind: to make a difference in the world of Child Welfare and Foster Care. Her pursuit of this noble cause led her to The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she obtained her Master's in Social Work.

Laura's path eventually led her to the bustling streets of Philadelphia, where she served as a Child Advocate Social Worker at the Defenders Association of Philadelphia. In this role, she tirelessly represented children entangled in the complexities of the court system, children who deserved a voice and a helping hand during times of abuse, neglect, or dependency hearings.

But that was just the beginning. Laura's work as a Child Advocate Social Worker ignited a fire within her. In 2020, she embarked on a new adventure, pursuing her passion for justice by enrolling in law school. Fast forward to May 2023, and Laura proudly graduated from the University of Richmond School of Law, poised to embark on her public interest law career in Portland, Maine next Summer.



Why Laura Loves this Work and CASA

Ask Laura why she is so passionate about working with children and their families, and her eyes light up. For her, it's about ensuring that children can be kids without bearing the weight of adult problems. Children deserve someone to explain things to them, play with them, care about them, and fight for their rights, all while bringing smiles to their faces.

Laura firmly believes in the incredible importance of the work done by CASA. They provide a unique, bird's eye view of the entire situation, offering invaluable insights to the court. But it goes beyond that—CASA identifies the strengths in every individual and presents them to the Judge, ensuring that everyone's voice is heard.

Most importantly, CASA stands by the children, showing them they are not alone and that someone is there to listen. It is a simple act that can transform a child's life in ways words can't fully capture.

Laura's Personal Touch

Laura is more than just her professional accomplishments. She is also inspired by the wisdom of Maya Angelou, who said, "Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women." This quote resonates deeply with Laura, reflecting her commitment to advocacy.

On weekends, you will find Laura reveling in life's simple pleasures with her husband. They take leisurely strolls with their dogs along the river, indulge in spirited games, immerse themselves in football fervor, whip up delicious dishes together, and savor all the little joys life has to offer.

CASA Meeting Minutes

Meeting Type: Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Date: Sept 7, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM

Meeting Location: Betsy Beach's Home

Quorum: Yes

Present Board: Chris Durand, Paul Ronson, Bryan Jenkins, Shannon Mitchell, Rutherford Ferguson, Toney Hall, Paul Shively, Mary Jo Sisson-Vaughan

Present Advisors: Betsy Beach, Nick Cooper, Berkeley Edmunds, Anne Preston Farmer, Jon Ganues (Honorary)

Absent Board: Sarah Kursyz, Suzanne Mathias, Mell Tull,

Absent Advisors: Mike Briggs, Joy Jones, Douglas Nassif

Guests: Katherine Whitney (Warren Whitney), Barry Martin (The Idea Center), Bethanie Atkinson (Ambassador), Jason Van Beusecum (Ambassador), Thea Winston (Ambassador)

Staff: Jeannine Panzera, Trish Stewart, Kristin Blalock, Marie Gordon, Lorrie Moore, Patricia Green, Stacy Willer, Rebecca Kalman-Winston

Presiding/Leading the Meeting: Chris Durand, Chair

AGENDA ITEM 1: Hello + Welcome

Presenter: Chris Durand

- Welcome Board
- Welcome New Members
- Welcome Guests, Ambassadors, and Staff

AGENDA ITEM 2: Business

Presenter: Chris Durand

- Consent Agenda: Director's Report + May minutes
 - No changes to May 2023 minutes. Minutes are Approved.
- Committee Chairs Highlight + Look Forward
 - Governance (Paul)
 - Finance (Shannon)
 - Fund Development (Rutherford)
 - Chris (Visitation Center)

AGENDA ITEM 3: Reflections

Presenter: Jeannine Panzera

- Program
 - Welcomed new staff this fiscal year – Patricia Green + Stacy Willer
 - 10% increase in cases from FY21-22 to FY22-23, but still served all children
 - Four training classes held FY2022-23 to meet the growing need
 - Full class of advocates for fall
 - Mandatory Training in November 2023 – all volunteers and Board welcome to attend
 - Volunteer Handbook and Board packet
 - We have now served more than 4,000 children since inception in 1994
- Awareness
 - Vigilant Voices™ podcast launched
 - Digital presence
 - 3,000+ visits to website (80% new visits)
 - 429,000 impressions on Google
 - 111,000 views (56,300 hours viewed) of commercials on YouTube/NBC12
- Financial Strength
 - Audit went very well
 - \$1.4M in total assets

MEETING ADJOURNED