

CASA Critical

Critical Information for CASAs

[#18—July-August 2018](#)

It's Time to Register—Texas CASA Conference—October 18-20, 2018



Join us in **Denton** from **Oct. 18-20** for three days of inspirational speakers, networking opportunities and more! You do not want to miss this year's conference! Copy and paste the link into your browser to register—attendance will provide enough CEU's for an entire year.

<https://texascasa.org/2018-texas-casa-conference/sessions/>

Benefits for Teens in Foster Care

Jennifer Conn, a specialist for the Education and Training Voucher program, led a Lunch and Learn at Big Country CASA on August 2. She presented valuable information about the ETV, a federally-funded scholarship for students aging out of foster care to pursue post-secondary education. She shared with the group of CASA volunteers about college benefits for students who have been in foster care. If you would like to access this information (in the form of two Power Point presentations), e-mail Sandra for the presentations to be sent to you.



Sue Barr-Deike is presented as Volunteer of the Quarter for Spring 2018 by BCC Executive Director Angela Sharp at the June Board meeting.

In her “previous life,” Sue Barr-Deike was a probation officer for 33 years, 25 of those as Deputy Director, in Taylor County. Because of her background, this lady is never intimidated by parents in her cases who may be less than willing to cooperate after CPS has removed their children. Sue recently closed one of the two cases that she has worked since becoming a CASA two years ago. In her active case, she is breaking new ground as she is tirelessly working to help her 17-year-old transition into after-care with CPS so that she can access extensive benefits offered for college or training.

[A Great Local Resource for Advocates](#)

Copy and paste this link into your browser to access resources for your role as a Court Appointed Special Advocate in the Big Country:

<https://bigcountrycasa.org/volunteer/advocate-resources/>

You’ll find CEU ideas and links, including book and movie titles; local and on-line resources to help as you advocate for your CASA kids; and a host of other links and information. If you have other resources you would like added, contact Stephanie Ellison at the BCC office.

TRAUMA—How to Deal with Traumatized Children

Over the past decade or so, we have come to understand the ways in which adversity, stress and trauma early in life can have a major impact throughout one's life. We know that it makes changes to the brain and even to the ways that genes function. This affects how we react to stress, how we feel, think and interact with others, as well as how healthy we will be and even how long we will live.

Several of you have completed the on-line TBRI (Trust-Based Relational Intervention) introductory lesson from Dr. Karyn Purvis, TCU. *We are asking that ALL of you at some point be trained in this evidenced-based intervention which connects caregivers to the heart of a child.* This link will take you to the 1:06 introductory video which will be a great lead-in for the 8-hour training being offered to our volunteers. Watch this video, then write a one-page reflective about your reaction to the video and how it can affect your CASA work, and e-mail or bring the reflective to your supervisor for 2 hours of CEU credit:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=TBRI+video+with+Karen+Purvis&view=detail&mid=FF110FDD1F6AFA961D51FF110FDD1F6AFA961D51&FORM=VIRE>

Megan Harbin, from Methodist Children's Home, will lead this training at our CASA offices on a Saturday during both September and October. Each training will be four hours for a total of 8.5 hours of CEU credit, but more importantly, the intervention strategies for traumatized children will be invaluable as you deal with your CASA children. Training dates:

Saturday, September 8, 2018, 9-1

Saturday, October 13, 2018, 9-1

Our plan is to offer this training at least once a year. Call the office if you have questions. We'll send out an e-mail notice at the first of September to ask for responses to attend.

Self-Sabotaging Behaviors

Do you have a case where the child (particularly a teen) seems determined to NOT be successful? When it seems that things are moving toward good events...and the child does something like running away? These are called self-sabotaging behaviors. If you'd like to read more about this, here are some links to articles to read; if you read and write a reflective, you may earn 2 CEUs:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/286930762_Self-sabotage_in_foster_care_placements

<https://www.eatsleepbe.com/2013/02/22/handling-self-sabotage-anxiety-in-children/>

https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/ken-rabow/children-success_b_1706935.html

Advocate Training Calendar

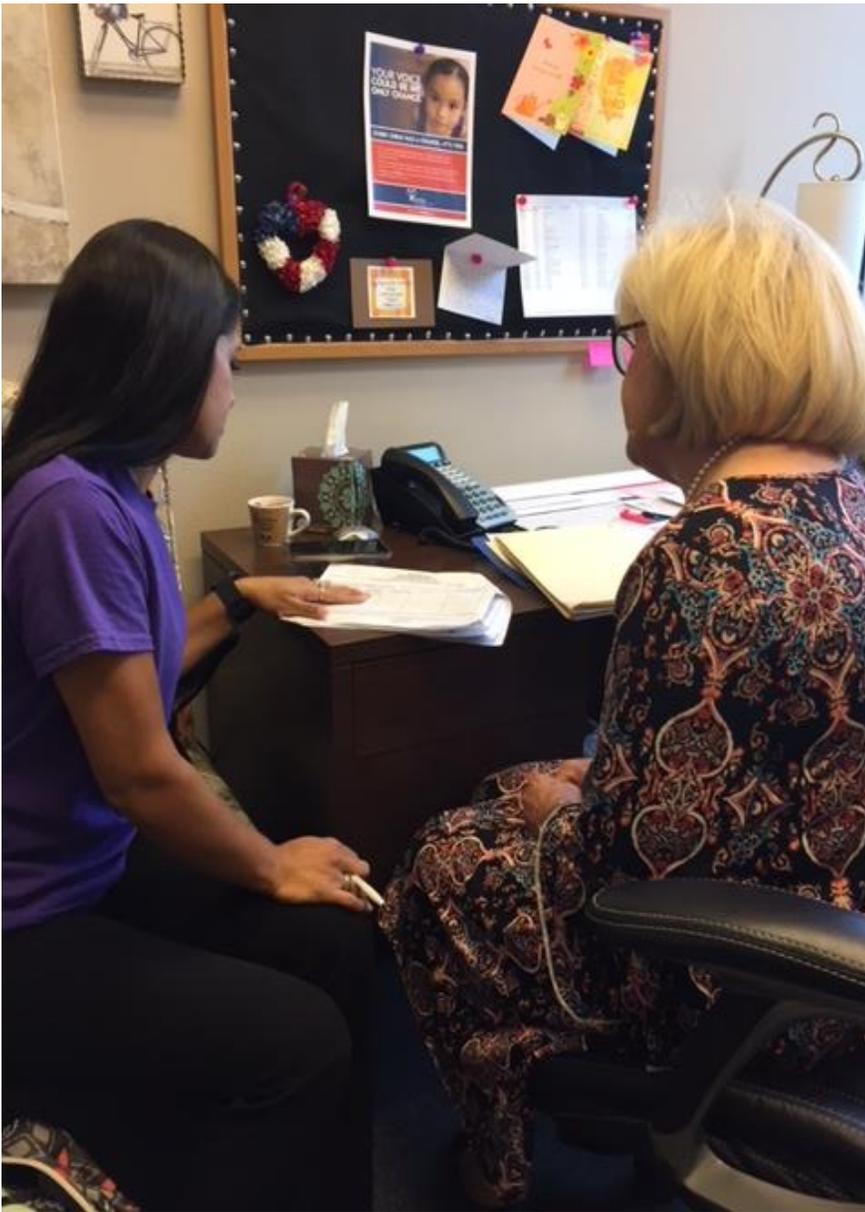
- **Fall 2018 - September**

- Monday Sept 10 5:45 – 9:00pm
- Thursday Sept 13 5:45 – 9:00pm
- Monday Sept 17 5:45 – 9:00pm
- Thursday Sept 20 5:45 – 9:00pm
- Monday Sept 24 5:45 – 9:00pm
- Thursday Sept 27 5:45 – 9:00pm
- Saturday Sept 29 9:00am – 3:00pm

If you know of someone who would make a great advocate for children in the CPS system, share this calendar.



Ashley Hart, taking her first CASA case, prepares to make a visit to her CASA kids. Handmade quilts from the Sew 'n Sews at Southern Hills as well as books donated by Wanda Craig and Joanna Fortner, are available for CASA volunteers to pick up at our office to share with your CASA kids.



Selma Lee, BCC supervisor, assists Victoria Rangel, an adoptive kinship placement for a CASA case, with completing forms for CVC assistance. CASA supervisors Selma Lee, Kathy Giebler and Rob Marcelain attended CVC training in Dallas last month. Helping with CVC applications is a service offered by CASA volunteers to permanent placements of children who have been in a case where a police report was filed on the parents.