



Critical Information for CASAs

#17 May-June 2018

Kids in Care Share a Major Element—Trauma!

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 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.

A Great New 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.



2018 - 2019 Advocate Training Calendar

- **Summer 2018 – August** Daytime Flex Training *
 - Monday July 30 9:00am – 11am (books & instructions)
 - Wednesday Aug 1 9:00am – 12:00pm
 - Friday Aug 3 9:00am -- 12:00pm
 - Monday Aug 6 9:00am – 12:00pm
 - Wednesday Aug 8 9:00am – 12:00pm
 - Friday Aug 10 9:00am – 12:00pm
- *This class is FLEX Online Training: 15 hours classroom, 15 hours home/online*

- **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.

Just a few tips for entering Optima Contact Logs:

- We have added some more specific Activity Types (Child Placement Contact, Law Enforcement, Staffing). Please avoid “Other” as an Activity Type if possible.

- Hours—Be sure to enter in 15-minute (decimal) increments:

.25=15 minutes .50=30 minutes .75=45 minutes 1=1 hour 1.50=1 ½ hours

- Typing your notes in the box as you enter a contact is an invaluable tool in keeping up with your visits. These notes can be printed out to use when writing your Court Report.
- When logging in a court hearing, you can click on multiple people in the boxes since the ACTIVITY TYPE is *Court Hearing* and not a specific person.
- When visiting multiple children during the same visit, you may log one entry and check all the children's names in the box to the right. Entering notes will allow your visit with each child to be considered individually as you write your court report.
- Remember minimum monthly requirements as you enter contact logs: Child, CPS workers, Attorney Ad Litem, Child Placement, and CASA Supervisor.
- "Circle of Support" is a specific type of meeting scheduled for teens in case. Check "Staffing Meeting" for other types of meetings.

Abilene Fire Department and TXU Energy is partnering with the United Way of Abilene's Basic Needs Network to help get fans into the homes of our neighbors who are struggling to stay cool, while staying in control of electricity costs, during these high temperature days.



FAN DRIVE FRIDAY

FRIDAY, JUNE 29 • 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Help local community members stay cool in the summer heat.

Drop off new 20" box fans at any Abilene Fire Department station.

- #1 – 250 Grape
- #2 – 901 E.S. 27th
- #3 – 1625 Vine
- #4 – 3750 Grape
- #5 – 1250 E.N. 16th
- #6 – 1482 S. Danville
- #7 – 431 N. Pioneer
- #8 – 5680 Buffalo Gap

In partnership:



District 326th Court Judge Paul Rotenberry swears in nine new volunteers on June 19, 2018, bringing the number of active Big Country CASA advocates to 99!



Nancy Capra utilizes the secure connection videoconferencing capability at the BC CASA offices to have a “face-to-face” visit with her CASA girl in another city. Contact Rebel Taylor at the office to schedule a visit with your CASA child.



Several **Big Country CASA advocates** attended a reception at the Abilene CPS office to tour the Rainbow Room. The event was hosted on April 12, 2018, by the Taylor County Child Welfare Board. (From left) Rhea Rodriguez, Diane Russell, Stacey Scaief, Sandra Shirey, Sharon Reeves, Kaci St. John.

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year; but *when you volunteer*, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.