

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE CASA NEIGHBORHOOD?

Welcome new staff member, Denorah Torres. Denorah is our new Recruitment and Volunteer Coordinator. She began her volunteer work with our program in January and has served on two cases and done a remarkable job. She previously worked for the Farm Bureau for 7 1/2 years.

She will be one of our CASA faces in the community and filling the shoes of JoDe Rickard in promoting CASA and recruiting new volunteers.



Thank you, JoDe for your hard work and best of luck to you as you transition back into the role of Advocate Supervisor. We are simply blessed at Big Country CASA to have staff members who are passionate and willing to change children's lives and empower others to do the same.

CHANGES AT CPS REGARDING REMOVALS

The department is participating in a pilot project that focuses on children who are eligible for removal remaining in the home with their parents while the parents participate in services. These cases are like FBSS cases but have greater court involvement. CASA is not allowed to be appointed in these cases though the courts. This is the beginning process of implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act which is federal legislation impacting children and families involved in the foster care system. There are many provisions but the main ones are prevention and funding streams for congregate care (group homes & facilities). As a result, it is likely there will be fewer removals of children. 21Ngage will be the contractor responsible for providing the more intense services the families will need to remain intact.

Did you know?

Since January 1, 2022, we have seen 51 children/youth to permanency. 12 were adopted, 7 aged out, 4 were placed with fictive kin, 1 was in a foster home, 10 were placed with relatives and 17 were returned home. Congratulations on changing lives!



WHO COUNTS ON US?

We know the children and families do but Texas CASA does as well. In December, Texas CASA will be performing our Quality Assurance Review, checking to see if we are following standards. This includes a review of our policies and the reading of our cases that are randomly selected. Ask your supervisor for more details. No pressure but last time there were no findings, and we received an excellent review. This is where the quarterly reviews really come into play making sure contact with children, parents and parties are made timely. If you would like a case score sheet, ask your supervisor.

NEW VOLUNTEERS SWORN IN ON JUNE 28TH

Courtney Gilmore
Tavy Davenport

Liberty Bland
Ricardo Gutierrez

Abbi Harmon

Please give them a big welcome and if you see them in court, make sure they know they are part of something bigger.

NEW MEMBERS BEING VOTED ONTO THE BOARD

Kirk Canada
Veronica Fuentes
Celina Gamez
PJ Martinez

Christy Biebighauser

Carolyn Beckham (Returning from Advisory Council)