

88th Legislative Session Wrap-Up Training

You are invited to join Texas CASA and Big Country CASA to participate in an in-person 88th Legislative Session Wrap-Up Training. You do not have to be a member of a LAT team, nor does your local CASA program have to have a LAT team to attend. This information is applicable to all local CASA programs.

- When: September 27, 2023, 11am-2pm
- Where: 400 Oak Street, STE 217, Abilene, TX 79602
- What: Join us have a candid, interactive discussion about our key takeaways from session and how the new laws will impact CASA advocacy. Lunch will be provided for all attendees.
- Who: Please feel free to invite anyone from your program who may be interested in understanding new child welfare law and/or participating in legislative advocacy. RSVP is required.

Please send any questions as well as the name and CASA program of the person who will be attending to publicpolicy@texascasa.org. RSVP by September 20, 2023.

A BIG Thank You!

Day 1 Bags has generously provided backpacks for our CASA kiddos! Please feel free to grab one for each of your CASA children when you come in some time this month!



Pathways to Hope

a NAMI FaithNet Event
August 25-26, 2023
317 N Willis
Abilene TX 79603



Register today!

www.nami.org/pathwaystohope

Spotlight!

Kim Cummings began her tenure with Big Country CASA as an advocate in October of 2018. She joined the CASA Staff as an Advocate Supervisor in 2020.



Kim's calm, organized, and meticulous demeanor are the skills she relies on as she supervises 20 volunteers, with 29 cases serving a total of 55 children. Kim also has 4 cases with 10 kids she herself advocates for. Kim makes managing all her cases and advocates look easy in her organized, serene office. Kim is very professional in dealing with those she encounters along the way and her volunteers enjoy working alongside her.

Sandra Surratt says, "I could not have been assigned a better supervisor and cheerleader than Kim Cummings! Not only is she always available to answer any questions, but she is also always there when you need a sounding board for your frustrations. I am grateful for all her support and guidance. Her dedication enables her advocates to do the very best they can for the children."

Congratulations Kim on being recognized by your peers!

CFE Tool of the Month

The three houses template enables Permanency Case Manager and Advocate to discuss a child's likes, hobbies, strengths, protective factors, dislikes, worries, risks related to the child's



dreams, hopes, and wishes. The PCM/Advocate can either ask a child to draw or write things to each house or assist them in doing so. For additional CFE information/tools please visit the Texas's CASA resources site. For print outs and 3Ds models, feel free to stop by, Program Specialist, Alex Garcia's office #231.

Don't forget to like, share, and comment on our social media posts!



Info Meet Thursdays!

In Person:

August 3rd 9-10am @Moose Mountain
 August 10th 10-11am @Starbucks on Buffalo Gap
 August 17th 2-3pm @Bahama Bucks
 August 24th 5:15-6:15 @Mad Coffee and More
 August 31st 9-10am @Monks Coffee Shop

Virtual Info Meet:

August 16th, 7-8pm
 Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89911924344?pwd=ejhTVjBKWkVGNtVSbTBCdUtjWkdWUT09>

Other Important Dates:

August 2023 New Volunteer Training

Mon Aug 7th @9am-10:30am-Orientation
 Thurs Aug 10th @9am-12:00pm
 Mon Aug 14th @9am-12:00pm
 Thurs Aug 17th @9am-12:00pm
 Mon Aug 21st @9am-12:00pm
 Tues Aug 22nd @8:00am Swearing In

Other CEU Opportunities

Aug 1 CFE Tools Training @ 2INgage from 9:30 - 12
 Aug 14 CASA Café 5:45-9:00 Anger Management in Times of Crisis
 Sept 21, 7-9pm-Book Club-Demon Copperhead

Next Volunteer Advocate Class

September 7 - 28th
 Mondays and Thursdays, 5:45 - 9

CASA Connection Dates

July 31st-August 1st AISD New Teacher Orientation

Other Dates:

August 15th-Volunteer Training on obtaining an ID (9-10am) or Clinic for ID Assistance (10-1pm)



Please reach out to staff and supervisors if you are feeling overwhelmed or in need of assistance!

Fall is for Football!

ACU has generously provided 30 tickets to Big Country CASA for select home games! If you would like tickets for a game, please contact Dana Ward at danaward@bigcountrycasa.org.

First come, first serve! Limit 4 per advocate, board member, or staff member.

Game Calendar:

VS. Northern Colorado Aug 31st 7pm
 VS. UIW Sep 9 TBA
 VS. North Alabama Oct 14 3pm
 VS. Utah Tech Nov 4 2pm
 VS. Tarleton Nov 11 2pm

Hope needs a helping hand

ID Training & Assistance Clinic

As an advocate, many times we are a resource to our children's families more than we expect. One resource that is available for our families that may not cross our minds, is assistance with obtaining an ID.

August 15th there will be an ID training for any Social Service Workers to learn the basics of obtaining a Texas ID, Texas Driver's License, Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, and Proof of Residency. Following this training is an OPEN to the public ID assistance clinic to help those in need navigate the barriers of obtaining certain forms of identification.

This event will be held at the MVPN Veteran Services Building, 765 Orange St., Abilene, TX, 79601. The ID volunteer training will be held from 9-10am and the clinic will be from 10-1pm. Feel free to distribute this information with any one you feel would benefit.

Contact bigcountryreentrycoalition@gmail.com with any questions.

Quote of the month:

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
 -Mahatma Gandhi