

Date of Meeting: February 16, 2024

## Roll Call

### *Members Present*

Katie Hall, Rich Kosmala, Joann Price, Lee Anne Owens, Kurt Kiefer, Therese Miller, Brenda Matuszkiewicz, Karen Bowen, Judge Ryan King, Judge Stephanie Campbell, Magistrate Virginia Lawrence, Magistrate Matt Gruett, Annette Craycraft

### *Ex Officio Members Present*

State GAL/CASA Director Rae Feller, Teresa Lyles, Tara Rochford, Stan Piercefield

### *Members Absent*

Emily Shaw, Leslie Hendricks (Chair), Magistrate Shawna Webster, Judge Holly Harvey, Kristin Bishay

### *Guests/Committee Chairs Present*

Annette Craycraft, Public Relations, and Legislative Committee; Katie Hall, State Conference and Training Committee

## Welcome and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Alternate Chair Katie Hall called the virtual meeting to order at 10:00 AM (Eastern). Minutes from the November 2023 meeting were brought before the members for review. Annette Craycraft motioned that the minutes be accepted as written, and Kurt Kiefer seconded the motion. All members voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

## Chair's Items for Discussion

There were no items from the Chair for discussion.

## Committee Reports

### *State Conference/Training Committee*

Chair Katie Hall reminded those in attendance that the 2024 Spring Directors' Meeting would be held April 15-17 at the Renaissance Hotel in Carmel, Indiana. The 2024 annual conference will be held on September 12-14 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne. This Committee had a meeting scheduled for later in the day on 2/16/2023.

### *Public Relations and Legislative Committee*

Chair Annette Craycraft stated that CASA Day 2024 will be held on February 27, 2024, at the State House. The Committee is excited about the agenda for the day, and anticipates a large crowd.

### *Certification, Standards, and Best Practices Committee*

State Director Rae Feller shared that the Committee had met recently to review the current status of the Cass County CASA Program and recommended the potential suspension of state program certification for Cass County. Rae will be reaching out to the program director and judge to schedule a meeting.

## Other Reports

### *Judge Reports*

Judge Stephanie Campbell reported that the IJA has been going over bills related to child welfare, and that GAL/CASA will potentially be an area of higher focus in the next legislative session.

### *State Director Report*

State Director Rae Feller reported on the current status of the National CASA/GAL Association. National CASA/GAL was deemed as high risk by the OJJDP, and has been under intense review for some time now. The result has been a delay of funding from OJJDP, furlough of their employees, lack of support to the network, etc. State GAL/CASA Directors from across the country have been meeting to make plans to stay ahead of the challenge as it unfolds.

The first half of the 2024 Matching and Capacity Grants have been released to all qualifying counties and deposits should be arriving via EFT with county auditors soon. Rae also reminded those in attendance that all 2023 Financial Reports were due to the State Office soon. The State Office is focusing on quality assurance for all certified programs. Kelly Bray has been pulling programs as random "Spotlight 20" programs, running Optima reports, and reviewing statistics on children being served, monitored, and/or unserved. Rae asked the judges for guidance as to whether a report on the data reviewed would be of benefit to them. Judicial officers present agreed that this is something judges would want to know about, and that more information is always better.

It was reported that both State Director Rae Feller and Judge Stephanie Campbell are currently assigned to a subcommittee on Collaboration with the Courts as part of the PIP for DCS following the review of the CFSR. Rae also reported that Stan Piercefield has been carrying on with the special project Coleen Connor had been working on with nine different programs that asked for help with volunteer recruitment.

### *Program Coordinator Report*

Teresa Lyles reported that three new local program directors (Kris Donahue, Fountain/Warren CASA; Tabatha McClain, Washington County CASA; and Jessica Westfall, Hancock County CASA) are currently participating in a virtual New Director Cohort with the State Office. Teresa also reported on the CASA Training Academy sessions that have been held since the last quarterly meeting.

### *Adjournment*

Lee Ann Owens motioned that the meeting be adjourned, and Kurt Kiefer seconded the motion; all members voted in favor. Meetings for the upcoming year are:

- May 17
- August 16
- November 15