

Hallmarks of an Effective Board of Directors

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Presentation Goals

- Describe the Board of Directors role
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of being a Board member
- Recognize the difference between Board maintenance and Board governance
- Recognize the hallmarks of an effective Board



NAME



**HOW LONG YOU HAVE BEEN
ON THE BOARD?**



**WHAT SKILLS, EXPERTISE, OR
PASSION DO YOU BRING TO
YOUR CASA BOARD SERVICE?**



**WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING
ON TELEVISION OR READING?**

Introductions

What is CASA?



**CASA is an acronym for
Court Appointed Special Advocates**



It was a judge's idea

Inspiration came to Seattle juvenile court judge David W. Soukup in 1976.

Judge Soukup had insufficient information to make a life-changing decision for a 3-year-old girl who had suffered from child abuse.

These children, who had experienced abuse or neglect, needed trained volunteers speaking up in the courtroom for their best interests.

"It terrified me to make decisions about kids when I didn't have anybody there."

Judge David W. Soukup

CASA Programs

Recruit, Screen, Train and
Coordinate Volunteers

Provide 30 hours of pre-service training
with the National CASA curriculum

Offer volunteers monthly in-service
trainings

Support volunteers as they advocate

Raise the revenue to support the work



National CASA/GAL Core Model

*National CASA/GAL Board of
Trustees Approved Oct. 11, 2016*



The National CASA/GAL for Children Association core model identifies the foundational elements of CASA/GAL best interest advocacy. This includes our guiding principle, the types of cases served, the primary activities performed by CASA/GAL volunteers, parameters for staff serving cases and the screening, training and supervision requirements. National CASA/GAL assistance and support is limited to core model activities.

THE NATIONAL CASA/GAL CORE MODEL:

The CASA/GAL program provides screened, trained, and qualified community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children and youth who are before the court as a result of abuse or neglect as defined by the state child welfare laws, living at home or in out-of-home care. State statute takes precedence if it provides for the CASA/GAL volunteer to take other types of cases.

CASA/GAL best interest advocacy is driven by the guiding principle that children grow and develop best with their family of origin if that can be safely achieved. CASA/GAL volunteers serve children from birth through the age defined by state statute as the limit to youth remaining in care.

Who Can Become a CASA Volunteer?



National CASA Standards and Nebraska CASA State Statute require that a volunteer must:

Be 21 years or older

Complete an application, interview, and reference check

Agree to a comprehensive background check (includes criminal record & abuse registry)

Complete 30 hours of pre-service training

Complete at least 12 hours of continuing education each year

A CASA Volunteer



Submits report to the Court with information and recommendations for the child

Sees the child at least once per month

Attends court hearings

Advocates for the child until the child is returned home or placed in a permanent placement or adopted



A CASA Volunteer

Provides information to the judge for every court hearing on the child

Advocates for the best interests of an abused or neglected child in court

Visits the child frequently

Meets with all people involved; foster parents, parents, social workers, teachers, doctors, therapists

National CASA/GAL's Guiding Principles



Integrate the following into all aspects of program practices, policies and procedures

Recognize the importance of family preservation and/or reunification

Recognize the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion

Recognize the importance of collaboration



The CASA Network

946 CASA volunteers served 2,070 abused and neglected children in Nebraska during 2022

Volunteers donated 32,609 hours of their time

Volunteers traveled 78,943 miles

Nationwide more than 85,000 CASA volunteers help change the lives of more than 260,000 children

A group of people, including a woman with a dog, looking at a laptop screen. The image is dimmed and serves as a background for the text.

Your CASA Program

**TELL ME ABOUT CASA...WHAT IS
YOUR ELEVATOR SPEECH?**

Your CASA Program

Information you may want to know about your program:

- **# of cases of abuse and neglect filed involving # of children**
- **# of CASA volunteers assigned a case**
- **# of children served**

CASA for Lancaster County

Information you may want to know about our program:

- **414 of cases of abuse and neglect filed in 2022. We had 127 volunteers assigned to 191 cases, 296 children, in 2022**
- **So far in 2023, 115 CASA for Lancaster County volunteers assigned a case**
- **291 children served (as of 8/7)**

Board Orientations

What Makes a Good Board Member?





Important Reading

Bylaws

Board policies

Most recent audit/review

Annual report

Personnel policies

Volunteer policies

Current budget

Strategic Plan

FAQ on being a CASA volunteer

The Nonprofit Board



A Nonprofit board has the obligation to fulfill its public service mission –

Serve not Profit.

Be Good Stewards

What are the roles and responsibilities of the board?



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Basic Board Responsibilities

1. Determines the CASA program mission and purpose

2. Selects, supports and evaluates the executive director

3. Approves and monitors the CASA program's services

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Basic Board Responsibilities

4. Engages in strategic planning

5. Selects and orients new board members

6. Ensures adequate resources

7. Enhances the public image of the CASA program

10

Basic Board Responsibilities


8. Organizes itself so it operates efficiently

9. Ensures effective financial management and oversight

10. Ensures legal and ethical integrity and risk management and maintains accountability

The Board Ensures Effective Financial Management and Oversight...

Do you know how to read a financial document?



Do you know what questions to ask?



What should you be looking for?

Productive Board Meetings



SHORT AGENDAS

NO REHASHING THE PAST

DISCUSS OR NOTIFY @ ONE MEETING, VOTE @
THE NEXT

ONLY NECESSARY COMMITTEES

DECISIONS VS. POLICIES

BOARD GOVERNS/ STAFF MANAGES

Let's Talk Fundraising



Fundraising is a process –
churches do it weekly!



Average large university has 250
to 300 on their development staff



Do you have a development or
fundraising plan?



What is your commitment to
fundraising as a board member?



THANK YOU!