

WHAT'S NEW-S?

Court Appointed Special Advocate Quarterly Newsletter

July—September 2018

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“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

- Nelson Mandela

In This Quarter’s Issue :

- Featured book of the quarter, “Healing the Scars of Childhood Abuse: Moving beyond the past into a healthy future” by Gregory L. Jantz, PHD
- Article: Louisiana Children and Family Services agency completes roll-out of new initiative aimed to improve foster care system.
- Article, Negative Cycles broken
- Article, Damaged Experiences



Check Out this new Book!

In an effort to give you access to continued education on topics relevant to the work you do day in and day out as a CASA volunteer, our staff will be adding a new book every quarter to our CASA library for all volunteers to check out as they wish.

This Quarter our book of choice is.....
"Healing the Scars of Childhood Abuse: Moving beyond the past into a healthy future" by Gregory L. Jantz, PhD with Ann McMurray.

"This book takes on the lasting implications of childhood trauma with

Louisiana Children and Family Services agency completes roll-out of new initiative aimed to improve foster care system.

[BY GRACE TOOHEY | GTOOHEY@THEADVOCATE.COM](mailto:GTOOHEY@THEADVOCATE.COM)

JUL 16, 2017 - 7:11 PM

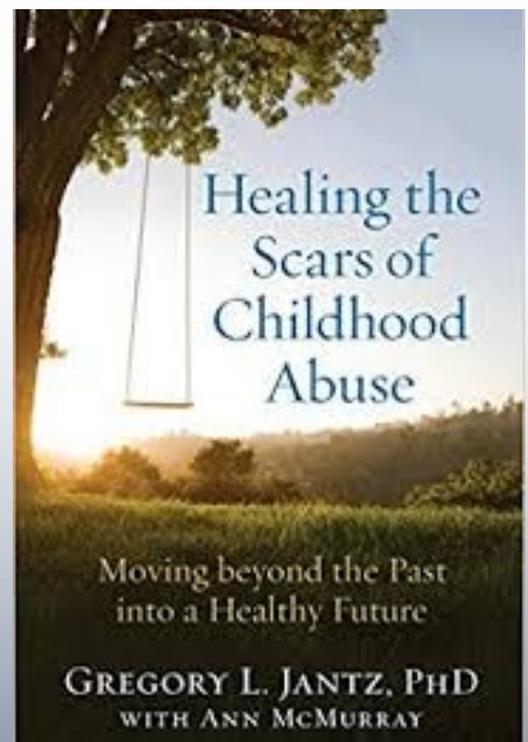
-This article discusses the Quality Parenting Initiative and describes the regions that piloted the program, communication between foster parents and biological parents, and issues that brought about the QPI change.

Link: https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/article_a9d467f8-67d0-11e7-83d8-c3f7375f5577.html

How is this relevant to CASA?

While working a case as a CASA volunteer, you will come into contact with Biological Parents, as well as, foster parents of the children you are assigned to give the best recommendations to the court for the best interest of the child. This article offers information on cooperation between the caretaker and parents involved for the best interest and safety of the children we serve.

****Please don't forget to turn in your paragraph review for In-Service Training credit after you have read the article.***





Foster Parents Often Struggle To Find Doctors To Treat The Kids In Their Care.

Article written by Phil Galewitz 7:20pm Aug 22, 2018

This article discusses the issued that foster parents run into finding providers for normal doctor visits, as well as, other needed services for children are in foster care. Children that are in foster care are provided with Medicaid health insurance which is not accepted by all providers in our community. Children that are in foster care often can be diagnosed with a mental health disorder where treatment may be needed and necessary for the child to function properly in daily life. These children may also suffer from developmental disabilities or learning delays that would also need assistance from providers in our community.

Link: <https://www.wfdd.org/story/foster-parents-often-struggle-find-doctors-treat-kids-their-care>

How is this relevant to CASA?

-As a CASA volunteer, it is part of our duty to make recommendations to the court for the needs and wishes of the child. If specific services have not been provided to a child in foster care and we are aware of the need then it is a CASA's duty to inform the court.

****Please don't forget to turn in your paragraph review for In-Service Training credit after you have read the article.***

The State of America's Foster Care Students: How Every Student Succeeds Act is Designed to Better Understand and Support These 430,000 Kids.

Article by Kate Stringer, The 74

This article discusses the issues with children in foster care and their education. 1/3rd of foster care students change schools at least five times before they reach adulthood, and for each school change, they tend to fall four to six months behind. Meanwhile they are coping with the trauma of being separated from their families. The Every Child Succeeds Act was developed to require state departments of education to collaborate with child welfare agencies so education leaders can begin tracking which student are in the foster care system and how they are doing.

Link: <https://www.the74million.org/article/the-state-of-americas-foster-care-students-how-the-every-student-succeeds-act-is-designed-to-better-understand-and-support-these-430000-kids/>

How is this relevant to CASA?

Most of the children we serve in CASA are of school age and it happens too often that when a child is moved to a new placement they can get behind in school. As CASA, it is our duties to advocate effectively for these children to the best of our abilities so that they receive the education that every child deserves and needs.

****Please don't forget to turn in your paragraph review for In-Service Training credit after you have***

To Battle Addiction, Doctors Shift Focus to Trauma, Mental Illness

By Carol Thompson and Binghui Huang, Contact reporters of The Morning Call

This article discusses the ongoing battle with addiction and how doctors are now shifting their focus to gain a deeper knowledge into a patients history and what , if any, childhood trauma possibly led to the use of drugs resulting in their addiction. This method is referred to in this article as "trauma-informed care".

Link: <http://www.mcall.com/news/opioids/mc-nws-roundtable-opioid-addiction-trauma-20180820-story.html>

How is this relevant to CASA?

Many families that we come into contact as CASA volunteers have been effected by the use of illegal substances and issues of dependency which resulted in those families being separated and the children taken into the custody of the State of Louisiana. As CASA's we are involved with these families through-out the court proceedings and advocate for the best interest of these children. Expanding our knowledge on the ongoing issues of substance abuse and treatment is key in the advocacy work as a CASA.

****Please don't forget to turn in your paragraph review for In-Service Training credit after you have read the article.***