

Okanogan County CASA Program Newsletter

Vol IX. No.1

Spring 2007



Calendar:

National CASA Conference – June 9-12, 2007 Caribe Royale Resort, Orlando, Florida – register at <http://www.casenet.org>

Children's Justice Conference – March 26-27 – Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, Washington. Register online at <http://www.dshscjc.com>. (\$225 through March 16, \$250 on site)

Beginner Level – Understanding Psychological Diagnoses – April 26, 2007 – Noon to 1pm – Susan Mitchell, LMHC, Clinical Director, OBHC, Okanogan Juvenile Conference Room

Resource Focus: *Parent to Parent of Okanogan County* offers emotional support and information about disabilities and community resources to parents who are just learning about or seeking new information on their child's disability, illness or special health care need. Through implementation of the Parent to Parent model, using trained veteran parents of children with disabilities and/or special health care needs. PO Box 3208, Omak WA 98841 (509) 826-8496

New Web site! The Children's Bureau opened Child Welfare Information Gateway which consolidates and expands on services formerly provided by the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information and the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse. The new site provides access to programs, research, statistics, laws, policies and training resources all in one place. Information is available on child abuse prevention, family preservation and support, domestic and intercountry adoption, search and reunion. The online library supports over 48,000 documents. The site offers 130 Information Gateway publications and free subscription services. Check it out at <http://www.childwelfare.gov>

Logan Magazine: The mission of *Logan Magazine* is to inspire, encourage and inform young women with disabilities about how to lead a lifestyle that is productive, purposeful and pleasurable. Our goal is to motivate young women to live, work, play, dream big and look great experiencing all life has to offer. See <http://www.loganmagazine.com> for subscription information.



Door Prize Winner – Child Abuse Legislation Training – Kirsten Williams, CASA

Door Prize Winner – Racial and Ethnic Identity Training – Rhonda Christmann, Court Services Officer



Some Suggestions for Keeping Native Children Connected..

Developed for Foster parent & CASA Volunteer Training by Diane Payne, Children's Justice Specialist,
Tribal Law & Policy Institute, 2002

- Develop a relationship with the child's parents: learn about their foods, religious beliefs and practices, about family cultural activity
- Develop relationships with other adult Native people who can provide information about Native culture generally and, preferably, about the child's culture;
- Socialize with Native families – most cultural and social activities in Native communities are intended for family participation (all ages are welcome);
- Ask Tribal workers to assist with the child's needs, whether it be services or social interactions;
- Learn about the child's family and community history and make information available to the child's caretakers, service providers, and keep important information for the child to have when older (i.e. Tribal newsletters, articles about elders, family members and Tribal issues);
- Learn about the child's cultural practices and belief systems through videos or articles recommended by the National Indian Child Welfare Association and Tribal workers (do not assume all "historical" information is accurate – check with a reputable source recommended by Tribe or Tribal organizations);
- Make an effort to become connected to the child's Tribe – get on mailing list for events, ask for appropriate event to become acquainted, meet with Tribal workers coming through town, etc (in-person contact is always the best!;
- Learn about child's entitlements through the Tribe, i.e. make sure child gets enrolled or listed as a Tribal member; gather information about the child's ancestry, etc.;
- Develop resources for child within the community – school programs for Natives (Indian Education & JOM), dance/drum groups, Native Youth Olympics, Native Church, Native basketball team, culture camps, native youth leadership events, Native Head Start, etc.
- Use Tribal Court to handle adoptions.
- See if there is a Tribal college in your area and find out what is offered regarding Tribal culture and history; see what instructors are used at the local college on these issues and invite them to do a presentation for CASA or Foster Parent training sessions
- Ask the Tribe for, or contact a local museum or historical society for videos on Tribal history and language.
- Contact the local museum (near the child's Tribe) about artists, storytellers and other culture-bearers that you could put in touch with the child. Encourage foster parents to bring child to see these people at performances or exhibits.
- Tribal Head Start and Infant Learning Programs often have cultural information and teaching tools that they will share with foster parents and CASAs.
- High Schools often have "culture clubs" where you may locate a "big brother or big sister" for the Native child, or you may find out about events that would benefit the child.
- Indian Health Service funded clinics and hospitals have information about the Tribal heritage of beneficiaries.
- To identify appropriate cultural events for the child and foster parents to attend, ask if there is a Tribal non-profit agency in the area that provides job training, social services, elder services or other consumer-type programs and get on their mailing list.
- Make sure court orders preserve the child's right to receive per capita payments, inherit land or other Tribal benefits.



CASA HONOREE

Spring Quarterly honors go to Rose Clements:

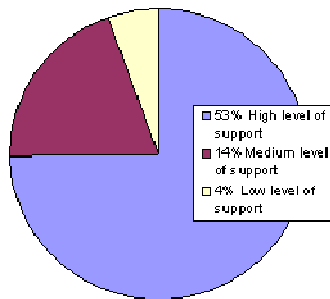
Representing Okanogan CASA Program, Rose drove wintry roads in the early morning to join fellow legislative advocates in Olympia on Advocacy Day to talk with the district 12 legislators about how important it is to fund CASA programs so that all children have a volunteer advocate. Rose met with Mike Armstrong early in the morning. She said that Mike was very receptive, already well versed on the CASA Program, and on a subcommittee that had approved the budget as it stands and then some. After lunch, eight legislative advocates (including Rose) met with Linda Parlette and Cary Condotta. Rose said that Cary was very gracious and very receptive to the request for funding. Linda also knew of the CASA program and its importance. Besides volunteering to be a legislative advocate for CASA, Rose is a CASA volunteer extraordinaire. She has been assigned to nine children in less than two years, given 152 hours in direct services, and added 22 hours of advanced training to her basic 40 hours of initial CASA training. Her first case, with two children, ended on a successful note after their mother's successful substance abuse treatment and their return to her care. Then Rose was assigned as CASA for a baby whose parents have substance abuse problems. He is placed with his grandparent who will give him a safe, stable, and permanent home. Two more children were assigned to Rose, one of whom is now living with her father and no longer dependent. The remaining school age child is in relative care away from the guardians who were unable to safely parent because of substance abuse and family conflict. Finally, four school age siblings needed advocacy as they entered the dependency system because of parental substance abuse issues and they have been reunited with their mother who has engaged in substance abuse treatment. Roses' passion for children, willingness to be involved, and dedication for advocacy has been a valuable resource for our community!



Advocacy Day - Lara Rogers, Washington State CASA

Washington State CASA Legislative Partners- many of them CASA volunteers-- made substantial progress in ensuring that Washington's under represented children in Dependency might someday have a CASA volunteer. Just look at the support that CASA volunteers asked for - and received - from our legislators on one Friday:

91 CASA volunteers and staff met with 80 legislators and 19 legislative aides in 38 (of 49) districts! 69% of legislators said they were supportive of new funding for CASA programs and 41 legislators agreed to write a letter or speak to the appropriate committee chair to voice that support! When asked to gauge their legislator's support of CASA as "High, Medium or Low", here's what volunteers



reported:



Thank you!

100 Hour Club Members

- Ayn-Marie Bahr
- Geri Bartleson
- Mary Beaton
- Sandy Bessire
- Peg Burchard
- Melinda Carrieri
- Rosemary Clements
- Katie Davis
- David DeLano
- Sandy Ervin
- Laura Field
- Glenda Freel
- Ruth Healy
- Linda Keeling
- Noble Kelly
- Katie Ledgerwood
- Esther Payne
- Celeste Pugsley
- Rebecca Shoup

Active CASAs – Direct Hours Served

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ayn-Marie Bahr – 213 ½ | Mary Beaton – 269 ¾ |
| Geri Bartleson – 246 ¾ | Rose Clements – 152 |
| Karol Colby – 26 | Alicia Connell – 48 ¾ |
| Katie Davis – 315 | David DeLano – 202 ¼ |
| Laura Field – 117 | Glenda Freel – 106 |
| Linda Keeling – 110 ½ | Esther Payne – 157 ¾ |
| Carol Plughoff – 33 ¾ | Celeste Pugsley – 144 ¼ |
| Rebecca Shoup – 159 ¼ | Kirsten Williams – 72 ½ |

August 1998 to Current:

Total #Children served – 302	Current # children served – 31
Initial Training hours completed – 3312	In-service Training hours completed – 2095.75

4903 hours direct services for the best interests of children in Okanogan!!



Spring Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| April 5 – Stefani Lynch | April 27 – Ayn-Marie Bahr |
| April 30 – Geri Bartleson | May 24 – David DeLano |
| June 14 – Rose Clements | |

“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal”.. Albert Pike (1809-1891) American Lawyer, Journalist and Soldier