



# NATIONAL CASA/GAL ASSOCIATION URBAN AFFINITY GROUP CALLS

Thursday, March 26, 2020

\*This call is being recorded.

- The Webinar is being recorded
- All lines are automatically muted
- We will offer time for your questions, comments and ideas
- Please use the **Q&A** box or **Raise Your Hand** options at any time during the webinar to share your questions, comments or ideas
- **Remember to unmute yourself**

# Welcome

**Tara Perry**  
Chief Executive Officer  
National CASA/GAL Association for Children



Urban Leadership Council Co-chairs  
Meaghan Henry & Jane P. Novick  
[ulc@nationalcasagal.org](mailto:ulc@nationalcasagal.org)





# Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Guidance for Child Visitation**
- **New/Existing Resources at a Glance**
- **Training Offerings**
- **How Can We Support You?**
- **Questions and Wrap Up**

# Guidance for Visiting Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Sally Erny**

Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
National CASA/GAL Association for Children

**Russell Jacobs**

General Counsel & Chief Legal Affairs Officer  
National CASA/GAL Association for Children



# Guidance for Child Visitation

## **Encourage Volunteers to Stay in Touch:**

While volunteers are not able to meet in person with children at this time, consider advising them to replace visits with texts and phone calls, so that the communication with children continues, if possible. Encourage traditional activities such as handwritten letters and cards. For specific guidance, please check out this helpful information on our member portal: [National CASA/GAL Guidance for Safely Staying in Touch with Children](#)

## **Follow the Guidance of Your Local Court System:**

State government offices, court systems and other organizations you work with will likely come up with strategies to continue to support the children you serve. If offered, encourage volunteers to take advantage of options to call or video conference into permanency planning meetings and court hearings; Stay in touch with volunteers and advocates and exchange ideas about how to best support children and families during this difficult time.



# Exception to Standard on In-person Visitation

## Standards for Local CASA/GAL Programs 2012 Version

Standard 7.E.5.f.- requires the volunteer to visit in-person with the child once every 30 days at a minimum. **Allows for an exception:**

*“The CASA/GAL program assures that volunteers have regular and sufficient in-person contact with the child to enable them to have an in-depth knowledge of the case and make fact based recommendations to the court. The CASA/GAL volunteer shall meet in person with the child once every thirty (30) days at a minimum. An exception may be granted in the discretion of the CASA program staff; however, the decision to permit less frequent in person contact shall be documented as to the justification for and reasonableness of the exception.”*

Taking precautions and addressing these legitimate concerns by opting to exercise the exception due to the coronavirus is sufficient justification for documenting permission for volunteers to see children less often than that required by the Standard.



# Exchange of Ideas and Practices

# New/Existing Resources at a Glance

**Denice Hairston**

National Quality and Accountability Officer

National CASA/GAL Association for Children



# COVID-19 Emergency Planning Resources



Remember for log-in access, directors should email [memberservices@nationalcasagal.org](mailto:memberservices@nationalcasagal.org)



# Member Portal: Helpful Resources

## **Access the Wealth of Resources Available on the Member Portal:**

There are countless resources available to assist, direct and support the children and families we serve. We continuously update these resources as more information becomes available. Please visit the [member portal](#) for the latest offerings.

**For log-in access** to the member portal, state or program directors must send an email to [memberservices@nationalcasagal.org](mailto:memberservices@nationalcasagal.org) to request personal access and/or to request access for staff members; Member Services will provide a link to the form to submit to facilitate the request.

## Resources At A Glance

- **Training:** New webinars are being offered; sharing a variety of topics to support you
- **Technology Grants Available:** Funding available to help manage video-conferencing costs for virtual training and other in-person modifications
- **Emergency Grants:** Funding for unanticipated financial hardship
- **‘How to’ Resources:**
  - To help stay in touch with children; navigate alternatives to visiting with children
  - To manage your mental health during this time
  - To talk to children about COVID-19
  - To be cyber secure and much more ...

# Funding Opportunities

- **Funding is Available for Videoconferencing to Deliver Flex Training:** If you need financial assistance to cover the cost of providing video-conferencing for pre-service flex training and/or the cost of the Moodle room, including platforms such as Zoom, please complete this [application](#)
- **Emergency Grant Opportunities are Available:** If your organization or program experiences an emergency due to COVID-19, resulting in the need for financial assistance, please contact me, Denice Hairston, National Quality & Accountability Officer at [deniceh@nationalcasagal.org](mailto:deniceh@nationalcasagal.org), describing the situation and inquiring about possible support
  - In addition to the member need being urgent, the member must be current with 2019 and 2020 membership renewal activities, in good standing regarding the submission of any required surveys or current grantee activities/requirements and the expense must be allowable per federal requirements (and specifically OJJDP)
  - An application link will be sent directly to members deemed to meet these criteria



## Useful Tips and Resources

### **Be a Voice of Encouragement, Comfort and Gratitude:**

This is a great time to encourage your staff, volunteers, children and families. Thank them for their involvement with our network and support of the CASA/GAL mission.

### **Thank Our Donors:**

We can't thank enough those who give financially to support local and state organizations and National CASA/GAL. Their support affords us all the privilege and countless opportunities to serve children and families.

### **Share Your Best Practices:**

Through calls like today or hearing directly from you, we can gather the information and make it available on our member portal. Please send your helpful information

to: [safetyinsights@nationalcasagal.org](mailto:safetyinsights@nationalcasagal.org)

# Important Dates and Timelines



# Extensions

- **Local Standards Preview Period:** Extended from March 20 to April 10
- **Annual Survey Deadline:** Extended from April 3 to April 30
- **Mentoring Program Grant Applications:** currently due April 1 but advise us at [Grants@nationalcasagal.org](mailto:Grants@nationalcasagal.org) if you intend to apply and need more time
- **2020 Membership Letters and Certificates:** process for mailing out hard copy letters and certificates for those completed members temporarily suspended due to impact on our in-person operations
  - Exploring alternative electronic notification
  - Letter of Good Standing needed more urgently? Send request to [memberservices@nationalcasagal.org](mailto:memberservices@nationalcasagal.org)

# Training Offerings

**Kimberly Koch**

Training and Development Officer  
National CASA/GAL Association for Children



## Alternative Options for In-person, Pre-service Volunteer Trainings Available

National CASA/GAL made modifications to the 2018 Flex Learning Curriculum, so that it can be delivered in a totally virtual environment. **Work is currently underway to modify the traditional 30 hour in-person pre-service curriculum for virtual delivery.**

There are various [platform options](#) to facilitate an in-person experience virtually.

- **Previously Recorded Resources** - Previously recorded webinars and related collateral materials are available at [Webinars](#)
  - *As a reminder, webinars can be counted towards the 12 hours of ongoing training requirement for CASA/GAL volunteers*
  - *Share the current [Reading and Media Lists](#) of approved resources with volunteers and encourage them to use these also as options towards fulfilling their 12 hours of required annual ongoing training; the list is being updated with new and additional resources*



# Training Opportunities

**Online Volunteer Engagement Training:** For staff interested in professional development opportunities related to volunteer administration, *Everyone Ready* is available, with a National CASA/GAL membership. *Everyone Ready* is an online volunteer engagement skill-building program delivering quality online training to anyone who works for volunteers. Questions should be directed to [memberservices@nationalcasagal.org](mailto:memberservices@nationalcasagal.org).

Please visit the [Events page](#) to view the latest offerings



# Staff Training

## Facilitation Skills for Delivering Flex Pre-service Training in a Virtual Environment

- Tuesday, March 31, 1:00-2:30 pm PT/4:00-5:30 pm ET
- Wednesday, April 1, 1:00-2:30 pm PT/4:00-5:30 pm ET
- Tuesday, April 7, 11:00 am-12:30 pm PT/2:00-3:30 pm ET

## Flex Learning in a Virtual Environment: Managing the Moodle Room for New Users

- Wednesday, April 8, 1:00-2:00 pm PT/4-5:30 pm ET
- Wednesday, April 15, 1:30-3:00 pm PT/4:30-6:00 pm ET
- Thursday, April 23, 10:00-11:30 am PT/1:00-2:30 pm ET

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[Events  
Calendar](#)

latest schedule

[Webinars](#)

past session  
materials and  
recordings

For more information and to register: [Member Portal>Events Calendar](#)



# Staff Training

## Tips for Working Remotely and Safely:

- Thursday, April 9, 11:00 am-12:00 pm PT/2:00-3:00 pm ET
- Tuesday, April 14, 1:00-2:00 pm PT/4:00-5:00 pm ET
- Wednesday, April 22, 12:00-1:00 pm PT/3:00-4:00 pm ET

## Upcoming:

- Virtual Training of Facilitators: Pre-service Flex Learning Training Curriculum
- Virtual Training of Facilitators: Delivering the 30-hour In-person Training Curriculum in a Virtual Environment
- Volunteer Administration (multi-part series)

For more information and to register: [Member Portal](#)>[Events Calendar](#)

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# Upcoming Webinars



# Upcoming CASA/GAL Volunteer Training

## **Substance Abuse: A Family-Centered Approach to Understanding Impact**

- Wednesday, April 22, 10:00-11:00 am PT/1:00-2:00 pm ET

## **Substance Abuse: SUD, Child Welfare and Achieving Permanency**

- Wednesday, June 24, 10:00-11:00 am PT/1:00-2:00 pm ET

## **The following webinars are being scheduled:**

- Cultural competence
- Working with children of incarcerated parents
- Human trafficking

**For more information and to register: [Member Portal](#)>[Events Calendar](#)**

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## 2020 Webinars Recently Added:

- **Tips for Working Remotely and Safely**
- **Using the Flex Learning Curriculum in a Totally Virtual Environment**
- **Advocating for Indian Children: Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the Role of CASA/GALs** (CASA/GAL Volunteer In-service training hours: 2)
- **Substance Abuse: An Introduction to Substance Abuse as a Disorder** (CASA/GAL Volunteer In-service training hours: 1)

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To access archived programs, please go to: [Member Portal](#)>[Training](#)>[Webinars](#)

# How Can We Support You?



# Questions and Wrap Up

*Thank you for your leadership and service!*

