

A photograph of a young girl with long brown hair and a woman with dark hair, both smiling at the camera. They appear to be in an office or hallway setting. The girl is wearing a purple shirt and a grey cardigan, while the woman is wearing a green top.

NATIONAL CASA/GAL ASSOCIATION RURAL AND TRIBAL AFFINITY GROUP CALLS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

*This call is being recorded.





Raise Your Hand

Use the **Raise Your Hand Button** and we will unmute you so that you may present your question to the group.

Welcome

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



Rural Leadership Council Co-chairs
Cara Galloway & Matthew Evans
rlc@nationalcasagal.org

Tribal Leadership Council Co-chairs
Willow Jim & KJ Brant
tlc@nationalcasagal.org



A photograph of a young Black boy with short, dark hair, wearing a grey hoodie, looking up at a woman with long, wavy brown hair who is wearing a blue jacket. They appear to be in a modern, multi-story building with large windows and architectural details in the background.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Guidance for Visitation Meetings
- New/Existing Resources at a Glance
- New Training Offerings
 - Upcoming Webinars
- 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 Visitation and Other In-Person Meetings

- Balancing the safety and well-being of children with the health and safety of our volunteers and staff
- Following the lead of your court and governing authority and being aware of your child welfare agency policy
- Assuring that confidentiality is protected during visitation in any forum
- Considering Visitation at a Distance
 - Talking with the children from a distance
 - Talking with the children through a window or door
- Alternatives to Face-to-Face Visits with Children
 - Texting
 - Video Conferencing
 - Phone Calls

Guidance for Visitation and Other In-Person Meetings

Special Considerations for Children in Congregate Care ...

- Consider the same suggestions as above
(visiting by text or video conferencing or at a distance)
- Make sure the youth has an understanding of the key steps to protect themselves and others
 - Handwashing
 - Social distancing
 - Cleaning and Disinfecting
 - Stay Home if Sick
 - Cover Mouth when Cough or Sneeze



Guidance for Visitation and Other In-Person Meetings

Additional Special Considerations for Youth Transitioning and Youth with Children

Help Identify Community Resources ...

- Food Assistance
- Housing
- Health Care
- Child Care
- Resources for Virtual Learning
- Employment



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.

Court Hearings and Child Welfare Meetings

- Many courts are currently closed for all but emergency meetings
- Many child welfare offices are currently closed
- If there is a meeting or hearing that staff or a volunteer must attend; seek to attend telephonically or by on-line video conference
- Follow the lead of your court and be aware of your child welfare agency policy

New/Existing Resources at a Glance

Denice Hairston

National Quality and Accountability Officer

National CASA/GAL Association for Children



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 ...



Training Opportunities

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

National CASA/GAL is currently making modifications to the 2018 Flex Learning Curriculum, so that it can be delivered in a totally virtual environment ... More details coming soon.

Here are [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
- **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.

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 Still 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, describing the situation and inquiring about possible support



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
- **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](#)

Useful Tips and Resources

- **Stay Informed:** Seek out the latest information about COVID -19 and how you can stay healthy and safe by going to your local health department website and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- **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



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.



COVID-19 Emergency Planning Resources

← → C member.nationalcasagal.org/covid-19-emergency-planning-resources/ ⋮

COVID-19: Emergency Planning Resources

Network News

Network Directory

Post a Job

Your Membership

Denice Hairston

Log Out



Search



Events



Contact



COVID-19:
Emergency Planning
Resources

- 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 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

New Training Offerings

Kimberly Koch

Training and Development Officer
National CASA/GAL Association for Children





Upcoming 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, 11am-12:30 pm PT/2:00-3:30 pm ET

Note: This training is offered three different times; please visit the [Events Calendar](#) for registration information

Substance Abuse: A Family-Centered Approach to Understanding Impact

- Wednesday, April 22, 10:00-11:00 am PT/1:00-2:00 pm ET - [Register](#)

Substance Abuse: SUD, Child Welfare and Achieving Permanency

- Wednesday, June 24, 10:00-11:00 am PT/1:00-2:00 pm ET - [Register](#)

Visit the Member Portal

[Events Calendar](#)

latest schedule

[Webinars](#)

past session materials and recordings

Upcoming Webinars



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](#)

Visit the Member Portal
[Events Calendar](#)
latest schedule
[Webinars](#)
past session materials and recordings



Upcoming Webinars

The Following Webinars are Being Scheduled:

- **Flex Learning in a Virtual Environment:** Managing the Moodle Room for New Users (will be offered multiple times)
- **Cultural Competence**
- **Multi-part series for volunteer administration staff**
- **Working with children of incarcerated parents**
- **Human trafficking**

Visit the
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Archived Webinars

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?

Blondean Jones

State-Administered State Development Officer
National CASA/GAL Association for Children



Questions and Wrap Up

Thank you for your leadership and service!

