



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

FAMILY AND JUVENILE LAW
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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FAMILY AND JUVENILE LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

September 18, 2014

4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Advisory Body
Members Present:**

Hon. Jerilyn L. Borack, Co-Chair, Mr. Robert J. Bayer, Hon. Carol D. Codrington, Hon. Michael J. Convey, Ms. Denise L. Cummings, Hon. Michael Gassner, Hon. Kathleen Kelly, Ms. Sharon Lawrence, Hon. Jaime R. Román

**Advisory Body
Members Absent:**

Hon. Kimberly J. Nystrom-Geist, Co-Chair, Hon. Louise Bayles-Fightmaster, Hon. C. Todd Bottke, Hon. Carolyn M. Caietti, Ms. Christine N. Donovan, Frank Dougherty, J.D., Ph.D., Hon. Scott M. Gordon, Ms. Cathi Grams, Mr. José Octavio Guillén
Ms. Leslie Heimov, Ms. Kathleen L. Hrepich, Hon. Susan D. Huguenor, Hon. Mark A. Juhas, , Ms. Patricia Lee, Hon. Thomas Trent Lewis, Hon. Susan J. Matcham, Hon. Cindee F. Mayfield, Hon. Amy M. Pellman, Ms. Rebecca L. Ross, Ms. Julie Saffren,
Mr. James Salio, Hon. Patrick Tondreau, Ms. Alicia Valdez Wright

Others Present:

Ms. Charlene Depner, Ms. Audrey Fancy, Ms. Amy Nuñez, Ms. Diane Nunn, Ms. Carly Thomas, Ms. Julia Weber, Mr. Don Will

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m., and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes requiring approval.

Item 1 Juvenile Dependency: Proposed Allocation for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 for Court Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance & Potential Modifications to the Methodology

a. Discussion of previously approved methodology (Don Will)

Each year the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends to the Judicial Council allocations for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs. This funding is allocated to county-based programs that have been designated by the superior court and that meet the criteria in rule 5.655 and the program standards of the National CASA Association. On the recommendation of this committee, the Judicial Council at its August 23, 2013 meeting adopted a new methodology for allocations with the intention of applying that methodology in fiscal year

2013-2014 and in subsequent years. Allocations are typically considered by the Judicial Council at the October meeting

b. A discussion of a situation not foreseen in the funding methodology. Although a program was funded in the prior year to serve Riverside county, it is no longer the court's designated CASA program. The court expects to have a new CASA program designated within a few months;

Effective September 1, 2014, the Superior Court of California, Riverside County elected not to enter into a new memorandum of understanding with the program "CASA for Riverside". The court expects to be able to designate a new program to provide CASA services within the next 2-5 months. The funding methodology does not include a way to reserve funds to restore service to youth in a county that had a CASA program in the previous funding cycle but which does not have a program at the time allocations are made. The only option under the current methodology is to add the funds previously allocated to that program into the overall statewide base and distribute it to all current programs.

Advisory Committee Members posed questions related to whether operational funds are useable or restricted, the impact of the CASA not being in operation, and if there is a neighboring county that is considering absorbing the recently closed CASA. Members considered an email communication from Mr. Guillen proposing that operational funds be pro rated based on the number of months a new program is in operation.

c. An update on organizational changes in CASA programs designated to receive funding since the FY 2013-2014 funding allocation;

Staff updated the committee on two operational changes:

- The Superior Court of California, Amador County has elected to designate a different non-profit organization, Amador County Foundation (ACF) as its CASA provider for FY 2014-2015. The incentive allocations for Amador will be based on data provided by the program which operated as the CASA in Amador in FY 2012-2013, Amador-Tuolumne Community Actions Agency (ATCAA).
- The CASA program in Shasta, lead by the non-profit organization called Northern Valley Catholic Social Service (NVCSS), has expanded its program to include services in Tehama county, creating a new dual county program. The CASA funding methodology has a method for determining how two county programs should be awarded.

d. Two proposed tables of grant allocations arrived at by applying the methodology

Staff presented two tables showing allocations. One table included funds for Riverside, the other did not.

Action:

Note: Ms. Lawrence abstained from voting.

a. No action needed.

b. The committee recommended a change to CASA grants allocation methodology to reserve operations funding including:

1. Recommend that funding can be reserved only when a CASA program received funding to serve the county in the prior allocation cycle;
2. Recommend that the amount of funding be set at the base allocation received in the prior cycle (no incentive funds would be reserved);
3. Recommend a time limit of 6 months from the date of the funding allocation (April 1, 2015 in this fiscal year) for an eligible program to be designated by the superior court as the CASA program and receive the reserved funding;
4. Recommend that reserved funding not awarded be distributed to programs pro-rata, after 6 months (each program receives a percentage of reserved funding equal to the percentage they receive of total funding).

c. No action needed.

d. The committee voted to recommend the table “Proposed Allocation Alternatives for FY 2014–2015 Judicial Council Local Assistance, Including Riverside to the Judicial Council.”

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on October 9, 2014.