



Judicial Council of California

Family & Juvenile Law Advisory
Committee

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FAMILY AND JUVENILE LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION

April 29, 2024

4:30-5:30 pm

Virtual

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Stephanie E. Hulsey (Chair), Hon. Charles F. Adams, Hon. Sue Alexander (Ret.), Hon. Craig E. Arthur, Hon. Brooke A. Blecher, Hon. Tari L. Cody, Ms. Risé A. Donlon, Hon. Ana L. España, Hon. Katherine Fogarty, Hon. Suzanne Gazzaniga, Hon. Susan M. Gill, Hon. Jennifer L. Giuliani, Ms. Julia Hanagan, Ms. Leslie Heimov, Mx. Cory Hernandez, Ms. Rose Klein, Ms. Selis Koker, Mr. Joseph Koller, Mr. Jonathan Laba, Ms. Sharon M. Lawrence, Hon. Frank J. Menetrez, Hon. Laura H. Miller, Mr. Joe Navarro, Ms. Sherry Peterson, Ms. Melissa J. Poulos, Mr. Brian J. Richart, Hon. Lawrence P. Riff, and Ms. Susan Thrall.

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. Bunmi O. Awoniyi, Hon. Brett Bianco, Ms. Diane Iglesias, Hon. Mary Kreber Varipapa, Hon. B. Scott Thomsen, Hon. Rubén A. Villalobos, and Hon. Monica F. Wiley.

Others Present: Mr. Tony Cheng, Ms. Charli Depner, Ms. Audrey Fancy, Ms. Diana Glick, Ms. Tracy Kenny, Ms. Stephanie Lacambra, Ms. Kelly Meehleib, Ms. Ella Miles-Urdan, Ms. Amanda Morris, Ms. Melissa Rodgers, Hon. Amy Pellman (Ret.), Hon. Cheri Pham, Ms. Sarah Saria, Ms. Gabrielle Selden, Ms. Christy Simons, and Ms. Marina Soto.

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the open session of the April 8, 2024, Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee meeting.

ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 2)

Item 1

Juvenile Law: FY 2024-25 Funding Allocations for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

Local Assistance

Presenter: Kelly Meehleib, Supervising Analyst, Center for Families, Children & the Courts

The judicial branch budget for Judicial Council Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grants for fiscal year (FY) 2024–25 is \$2.713 million, which as of FY 2018–19 includes an ongoing \$500,000 funding augmentation to support efforts to increase the number of foster children served and reduce backlogs of youth in local courts waiting for a volunteer assignment. The committee reviewed the proposed funding methodology and agreed to recommend that the Judicial Council amend its funding methodology to include an ongoing allocation of the

\$500,000 funding augmentation with the following parameters: (1) the augmentation will be allocated as a separate growth-based incentive, (2) this growth-based incentive will be allocated to a total of 30 eligible local CASA programs, comprised of 15 large and 15 small programs, based on the current methodology for determining incentive funding eligibility for large and small programs; and (3) this funding will be allocated equally among the 30 eligible local CASA programs. The committee further recommends that the allocation of \$2.713 million for FY 2024–25 for the CASA Local Assistance program be based on the amended funding methodology. The allocations would fund 45 CASA programs serving 52 counties.

Action: *The committee reviewed and approved the proposed recommendations to the Judicial Council for the CASA Local Assistance funding allocations for fiscal year 2024-25 without objection.*

Item 2

Report to the Legislature: Report on California Court Appointed Special Advocate Association Funding Allocations and Program Development for FY 2023-24

Presenter: Kelly Meehleib, Supervising Analyst, Center for Families, Children & the Courts

The Budget Act of 2022 appropriated a \$60 million one-time General Fund to the California CASA Association for support of local CASA programs, including \$20 million in FY 2022-23, \$20 million in FY 2023-24, and \$20 million in FY 2024-25. The Budget Act requires that the Judicial Council report annually to the Legislature on CASA program implementation and outcomes. The year-two report is due on July 1, 2024, and must describe funding allocations and program development.

Action: *The committee reviewed and approved the draft report for FY 2023-24 without objection.*

C L O S E D S E S S I O N (R U L E 1 0 . 7 5 (C) (3))

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the closed session of the April 8, 2024, Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee meeting.

Item 1

Legislative Review

Presenter: Tracy Kenny, Supervising Attorney, Office of Governmental Affairs

Staff reviewed upcoming bills for the 2024-2025 legislative cycle that bear on family and juvenile law issues.

The next meeting will be held on May 13, 2024.

Adjourned closed session at 5:21pm.

Approved by the advisory body on April 28, 2025.