

Annotated Bibliography

1. Pilkay, S. &. (2015). Effects of court appointed special advocate. *Intervention on Permanency Outcomes of Children in Foster Care. Journal of Social Service Research*. (41), 1-9.

Even though the court-appointed special advocate (CASA) intervention is a popular program little is known about its effects on permanency outcomes of children in foster care. A foster child's permanency is closely associated with outcomes. Children that remain in the system are at greater risk for developing emotional and behavioral problems, homelessness, criminal activity, and early pregnancies. This article explores foster-care children's permanency outcomes as a proxy for the effects of CASA intervention. This study is intended to examine to what extent CASA intervention was associated with permanency outcomes of children in foster care. A systematic random sample of 304 children was drawn from all closed case files referred for CASA intervention from 1995 to 2012 in a rural community in Tennessee. I believe that the research included in this article can help me evaluate whether having a CASA representative results in a better outcome for the children, therefore evaluating the program's effectiveness.

2. Felix, Agnich, & Schueths. (2017). An evaluation of a court appointed special advocates (CASA) program in the rural south. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 83, 48-56.

This is a journal article about a study conducted to fill in the gaps of the existing literature on the CASA program. This was done by providing a fidelity assessment of a CASA program located in the rural south. This study is the first to use the empirical application of the JPFS (Justice Program Fidelity Scale) to a youth services program. The study used a combination of interviews with current and former CASA volunteers and CASA leadership, along with descriptive information about the local CASA program and local program guidelines.

This study seeks to address the gaps in literature in two ways. First, this research adds to and updates the limited literature on the CASA program. Second, it seeks to apply a strict fidelity scale to CASA program. The purpose of the present study is to ascertain the program fidelity for a CASA program located in a rural area in the Southeastern U.S. This study will give me a unique insight into the volunteers through 11 in depth interviews that were conducted for the study.

3. Weisz., V. T. (2003). The court appointed special advocate program: Bringing information to child abuse & neglect cases, 3(8), 204-210.

The Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program has been rapidly expanding in its 25-year history, although there has been little sound, empirical data assessing its value. This study compared 21 judicial hearings regarding children who had a CASA with 20 hearings for children who were on a waiting list for a CASA. This is important because it is often noted that only the most difficult cases are assigned a CASA representative as compared to those without a CASA. Judges, CASAs, and guardian's ad litem provided the data for the study. The findings indicated that CASA involvement improves the breadth and quality of information provided to the courts. Unfortunately, CASA involvement also appears to decrease the involvement of the guardian ad litem. Implications of these findings are discussed. This article discusses the purpose of the CASA program and contrasts it with the outcome. This research also looks at whether the CASA program weakens or strengthens other parts of child protection system. This research article will provide me with some of the research I need to determine if the CASA program is helping children as intended.

4. Justin, R. G. (2002). Court appointed volunteers for abused and neglected children. *Primary Care Companion to the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, 1(4), 17-19.

This journal article will provide me with the background knowledge that I need in order to understand the CASA program. The article defines the role of a CASA volunteer as a trained citizen who is appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of an abused and neglected child in court. An independent voice, the volunteer gathers information and reports to the court. It discusses how the CASA volunteer fits in with other professionals by working in close cooperation with, physicians, lawyers, social workers, and teachers to find the most suitable permanent placement for a victimized child. The article goes into detail about decisions for placement that the CASA volunteer may consider; foster home, parental home, or adoptive home. One function for CASA volunteers that is not discussed enough is to be supportive to the child during a time of uncertainty in his or her life and to help the child adjust to new and changing situations; the CASA volunteer may be the only consistent adult presence during this difficult period of transition. It is imperative, in order to evaluate the CASA organization, that I gain proper knowledge of the program and all of its functions.

5. Gershun, M. &. (2018). Child welfare system interventions on behalf of children and families: Highlighting the role of court appointed special advocates. *Current Problems in Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care*, 48(9), 215-231.

The authors document how outcomes for child victims of abuse and neglect are greatly improved when their representation includes the appointment of a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA Volunteer) to advocate for their best interests. The history of the CASA model is out- lined, and the structure of the current program, which includes a description of over 76,000 volunteers in nearly 1000 local programs in 49 states. This article explains the CASA methodology and how this intervention improves outcomes for abused and neglected children.

The authors argue that greater public and private support would provide more local CASA agencies with the resources to recruit, train, and support more CASA Volunteers to help more child victims of abuse and neglect. This article goes into detail about the staggering number of cases of child abuse and neglect. The article discusses CPS and how the family court system operates. I believe that it is important to have an understanding of the bigger problems within our system in order to evaluate importance of the services provided by a CASA volunteer.