

FY11  
Court Appointed Special Advocate  
(CASA) Programs Report

Programs Funded: 15  
Counties Served: 19

Department of Family Administration  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judiciary

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## I. Children Served During the Year: 1524 (1121 Families)

Children Being Served by a Volunteer Advocate on the last day of the fiscal year: 1084 (+ 42 over FY10)

### A. Children Served Breakdown

CINAs: 1415 (93%)

Post-CINAs\*: 109

(\*includes Guardianships & Pending TPR Cases)

#### 1. Demographics

Birth to 5	287	18.8%
6 to 11	318	20.9%
12 to 17	601	39.4%
18+	318	20.9%
Male	772	50.7%
Female	752	49.3%
African American, Black, African	746	48.95%
Asian American	6	.39%
Caucasian	530	34.78%
Latino	95	6.23%
Native American	0	0
Biracial	138	9.06%
Other	9	.59%

#### 2. Reason for Entering Care

<i>Physical Abuse</i>	211	13.85%
<i>Sexual Abuse</i>	95	6.23%
<i>Mental Injury</i>	8	.5%
<i>Neglect*</i>	847	55.58%
<i>Extraordinary Needs of Child/Voluntary</i>	64	4.2%
<i>Secondary Victim</i>	28	1.84%
<i>Multiple Allegations</i>	259	17%
<i>Other</i>	12	.79%

\*Neglect includes abandonment, and educational/medical/physical neglect.

## B. Case Closures

### 1. Cases Closed During FY11: 353

98 cases were closed by the programs, but remained open in court

### 2. Average Months Spent in Foster Care: 37.5 (3.1 years)

Breakdown by Program (from most to least time spent in care):

Baltimore City	82
Prince George's	51.65
Baltimore County	48
Montgomery	42.96
Howard	40.1
Talbot/Dorchester	39.95
Harford	37.57
Anne Arundel	35.91
S.MD (Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's)	35.06
Frederick	34.35
Carroll	31.5
Caroline	24
Lower Shore (Worcester)	20
Washington	20
Queen Anne's/Kent	18.8

### 3. Placement at Closure

90.18% of children were in a permanent placement at closure

Those placements include:

40.73%	Returned to Biological Parents/Guardians
20.06%	Placed with Relative (Not for Adoption)
16.72%	Placed with Non-Relative (For Adoption)
12.77%	Child Living Independently (No DSS involvement)
7.6%	Placed with Relative (For Adoption)
2.13%	Other (Placed w/ relative for guardianship; Placed with non-relative for guardianship; etc.)

Of the 24 Non-Permanent closures, 16 children were either living independently in an unstable placement or on runaway.

### C. Impact of the Stage of CASA Appointment on Outcomes

#### 1. FY11 New Cases Referred to CASA

46.12% Referred Pre-Review Stage

53.88% Referred During Review\* or Permanency Planning

\*Includes Guardianship Review

#### 2. FY11 Closed Cases Served by CASA

When case was referred to the program:	Months Spent as a Foster Child	Months Assigned to a CASA Volunteer	# of Placements Prior to CASA Vol. Assignment	# of Placements after Vol. Assignment	Placement at Closure		Totals*
					Permanent	Non-Permanent	
Shelter Care 5.76%	52.2	45.4	1.76	1.43	20	1	21
					95.00%	5.00%	
Adjudication &/or Disposition 34.87%	27.31	24.93	1.18	1.64	113	8	121
					93.39%	6.61%	
<b>Combined Adjudication /Disposition &amp; Shelter 40.63%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>141</b>
					<b>93.66%</b>	<b>6.38%</b>	
Review 57.93%	45.71	28.72	1.98	1.91	185	16	201
					92.04%	7.96%	
Guardianship Review 1.44%	82.8	30.2	5.6	2.4	5	0	5
					100%		
<b>Combined Post Adjudication Assignments 59.37%</b>	<b>69.24</b>	<b>42.98</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>2.87</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>206</b>
					<b>92.23%</b>	<b>7.77%</b>	

\*5 cases had stage of assignment listed as "other" and were not included in this analysis

#### 3. Conclusions

a.) Children who are assigned to CASA before their case reaches the review stage (generally within 6 months of entering care) spend an average of **29.24 months less in care** than children who are assigned to CASA during CINA or Guardianship review. **This is 2.44 years.**

b.) Children who are assigned to CASA before their case reaches the review stage (generally within 6 months of entering care) have **fewer placement changes** than children who are assigned to CASA during CINA or Guardianship review. (1.27 vs. 3.04)

## II. Volunteers

### A. Recruitment

**1. Volunteer Inquiries Received:** 3,395

*Top Sources of volunteer referrals:*

- Internet (Program's Website, VolunteerMatch, etc.): 23.45%
- National CASA Association: 22.47%
- Volunteer Fairs, Exhibit Tables at Conferences, etc.: 12.93%
- Free Print Media: 12.34%
- Word of Mouth: 7.84%
- Maryland CASA Association: 5.15%

**2. Prospective Volunteers Interviewed:** 815

### B. Training

**1. Pre-Service Training:** 480 new volunteers were trained

**2. In-Service Training:** 424 hours of training were offered  
145.5 hours of that training (34.32%) were trainings to increase the cultural competence of volunteers

**3. Volunteers who met 12 hour annual in-service requirement:** 57%

### C. Advocacy

**1. Court Report Submitted & Accepted by the Court:** 2048

**2. CASA Recommendations Ordered by the Court:** 77.69% (8,278 of 10,655)

**3. Orders Implemented:** 81.29% of the Court's Orders were implemented (or partially implemented) by the next hearing.

**4. Volunteer Attendance at Court:** 78.61%\* of CASA volunteers attended hearing for which they prepared a report

*\*This number is often impacted by continuances; a volunteer may appear for the hearing, but be unavailable to attend on the rescheduled date.*

### D. Service

**1. Volunteers Serving Children:** 1225 (+ 58 over FY10)

**2. Average Length of Service:** 52.59 months

**3. Average Volunteer to Child Ratio:** 1:3\*

*\*National CASA Best Practices encourages a 1:1 ratio, but prohibits a volunteer to serve more than two children without written justification.*

## E. Demographics

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
a) Black/African/African American	345	27.82%
b) Asian American	10	.81%
c) Caucasian	819	66.05%
d) Latino	24	1.94%
e) Native American	0	0
f) Bi-racial	27	2.18%
g) Other:	15	1.21%
<b>Gender</b>		
a) Male	273	22.09%
b) Female	963	77.91%
<b>Age</b>		
a) 21-29	140	11.28%
b) 30-39	162	13.05%
c) 40-49	246	19.82%
d) 50-59	339	27.32%
e) 60 + above	354	28.53%
<b>Education</b>		
a) High School	112	9.04%
b) Some College	226	18.24%
c) College	449	36.24%
d) Post-Grad	452	36.48%
<b>Employment Status</b>		
a) Full-time	523	42.69%
b) Part-time	170	13.88%
c) Retired	250	20.41%
d) Unemployed	130	10.61%
e) Other ( <i>includes stay-at-home parents</i> )	152	12.41%
<b>Student Status</b>		
a) Full-time	19	4.62%
b) Part-time	23	5.6%
c) Not a Student	369	89.78%

**F. Retention/Attrition**

**1. Volunteers who Left their Program:** 309

**2. Average Months of Service:** 18.4\*

*\*Volunteers are required to commit to one year of service.*

**3. Reasons for Leaving:**

Time Commitment	74	24.03%
Employment Situation	49	15.91%
Other	37	12.01%
Family Needs	32	10.39%
Lost interest or pursuing other volunteer work	32	10.39%
Moved from area	31	10.06%
Involuntary	23	7.47%
Health Needs	17	5.52%
Burnout/Stress	13	4.22%

### III. Programs

#### A. Performance Breakdown

	<b>Children Served</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Active Volunteers</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Montgomery County	288.00	18.90%	254.00	20.73%
Baltimore City	199.00	13.06%	195.00	15.92%
Baltimore County	199.00	13.06%	151.00	12.33%
Prince George's County, Inc.	119.00	7.81%	115.00	9.39%
Anne Arundel County	112.00	7.35%	96.00	7.84%
Voices for Children (Howard)	69.00	4.53%	54.00	4.41%
Talbot County (& Dorchester)	57.00	3.74%	48.00	3.92%
Southern Maryland	102.00	6.69%	62.00	5.06%
Harford County	88.00	5.77%	53.00	4.33%
Frederick County	85.00	5.58%	55.00	4.49%
Queen Anne & Kent Counties	27.00	1.77%	21.00	1.71%
Lower Shore	85.00	5.58%	47.00	3.84%
Caroline County	25.00	1.64%	18.00	1.47%
Carroll County	30.00	1.97%	24.00	1.96%
Washington County	39.00	2.56%	32.00	2.61%
	<b>1,524</b>		<b>1,225</b>	

## **B. Statewide Snapshot**

### **1. Funding**

- a.) Program Funding from Public Sources: **51.5%**
  - 67.3% AOC-DFA CASA Grants
  - 16.5% GOCCP (Victims of Crime Assistance Act)
  - 13.7% County/City
  - 2.5% Other
  
- b.) Program Funding from Private Sources: **48.5%**
  - 30.3% Foundations/Grants
  - 21.3% Special Events
  - 13% National CASA
  - 13% Individual Contributions
  - 6.2% United Way/CFC/MD Charity Campaign, etc.
  - 16.2% Other (2.5% Corporate, 1.9% Groups & Organizations, 1% Product Sales, etc.)*

### **2. Staffing**

Total Positions: 71  
Full Time: 29  
Part Time: 42