

FY12
Court Appointed Special Advocate
(CASA) Programs Report

Programs Funded: 14
Counties Served: 19

Department of Family Administration
Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Judiciary

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I. Children Served During the Year: 1516 (1093 Families)

Children Being Served by a Volunteer Advocate on the last day of the fiscal year: 1084 (Total served is + 8 over FY11)

A. Children Served Breakdown

CINAs: 1549 (91.33%)

Post-CINAs*: 147 (8.67%)

(*includes Guardianships & Pending TPR Cases)

1. Demographics

Birth to 5	319	20.53%
6 to 11	326	20.98%
12 to 17	577	37.13%
18+	332	21.36%
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Male	757	48.71%
Female	797	51.29%
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African American, Black, African	758	48.78%
Asian American	111	7.14%
Caucasian	158	10.17%
Latino	412	26.51%
Native American	82	5.28%
Biracial	27	1.74%
Other	6	0.39%

2. Reason for Entering Care

<i>Physical Abuse</i>	144	10.79%
<i>Sexual Abuse</i>	74	5.54%
<i>Mental Injury</i>	4	0.30%
<i>Neglect*</i>	732	54.83%
<i>Extraordinary Needs of Child/Voluntary</i>	51	3.82%
<i>Secondary Victim</i>	37	2.77%
<i>Multiple Allegations</i>	290	21.72%
<i>Other</i>	3	0.22%

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

B. Case Closures

1. Cases Closed in Court during FY12: 360 (+ 7 over FY11)

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

2. Average Months Spent in Foster Care: 38.34 (3.2 years)

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

Baltimore City	63.18
Prince George's	60.73
Baltimore County	55.64
Anne Arundel	54.52
Howard	51.3
Frederick & Carroll	36.74
Queen Anne's/Kent	34.5
Montgomery	33.21
Talbot/Dorchester	33.21
Harford	23.48
Washington	23.29
Caroline	23
Lower Shore (Worcester)	22.92
S.MD (Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's)	21.11

3. Placement at Closure

91.90% of children were in a permanent placement at closure

Those placements include:

- 37.71% Returned to Biological Parents/Guardians
- 17.60% Placed with Relative (Not for Adoption)
- 14.25% Placed with Non-Relative (For Adoption)
- 12.01% Child Living Independently (No DSS involvement)
- 3.35% Placed with Relative (For Adoption)
- 6.98% Other (*Placed w/ relative for guardianship; Placed with non-relative for guardianship; etc.*)

Of the 29 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. FY12 New Cases Referred to CASA

48% Referred Pre-Review Stage

48% Referred During Review* or Permanency Planning

**Includes Guardianship Review*

2. FY12 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 5.17%	30.00	27.39	1.28	0.50	18	0	18
					100%	0%	
Adjudication &/or Disposition 38.79%	28.45	24.70	1.34	1.45	129	6	135
					95.56%	4.44%	
Combined Adjudication /Disposition & Shelter 43.97%	28.63	25.02	1.33	1.34	147.00	6.00	153.00
					96.08%	3.92%	
Review 55.17%	51.25	25.63	2.08	2.24	171.00	21.00	192
					89.06%	10.94%	
Guardianship Review .86%	98.33	72.67	2.00	6.33	3.00	0.00	3
					100%		

*9 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 **22.62 months less in care** than children who are assigned to CASA during CINA review. **This is 1.89 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. (1.34 vs. 2.31)

II. Volunteers

A. Recruitment

1. Volunteer Inquiries Received: 2,576

Top Sources of volunteer referrals:

- Internet (Program's Website, VolunteerMatch, etc.): 25.89%
- National CASA Association: 20.69%
- Volunteer Fairs, Exhibit Tables at Conferences, etc.: 11.49%
- Free Print Media: 11.3%
- Word of Mouth: 8.58%
- Maryland CASA Association: 7.18%

2. Volunteer Applications Received: 795

30.9% of total volunteer inquiries resulted in an application being submitted

3. Prospective Volunteers Interviewed: 705

- 27.4% of total volunteer inquiries resulted in an interview
- 88.7% of total volunteer applications resulted in an interview

B. Training

1. Pre-Service Training: 409 new volunteers were trained

2. In-Service Training: 499 hours of training were offered
163 hours of that training (32.67%) were trainings to increase the cultural competence of volunteers

3. Volunteers who met 12 hour annual in-service requirement:
56.7%

C. Advocacy

1. Court Report Submitted & Accepted by the Court: 2135

2. CASA Recommendations Ordered by the Court: 77.65% (8,667 of 11,162)

3. Orders Implemented: 79.72% of the Court's Orders were implemented (or partially implemented) by the next hearing.

4. Volunteer Attendance at Court: 78.69%* 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: 1282 (+ 57 over FY11)

2. Average Length of Service: 34.84 months

3. Average Volunteer to Child Ratio: 1:1.2

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

E. Demographics

Race/Ethnicity		
a) Black/African/African American	340	26.21%
b) Asian American	22	1.70%
c) Caucasian	835	64.38%
d) Latino	33	2.54%
e) Native American	0	0.00%
f) Bi-racial	32	2.47%
g) Other:	35	2.70%
Gender		
a) Male	351	27.21%
b) Female	939	72.79%
Age		
a) 21-29	141	11.10%
b) 30-39	173	13.62%
c) 40-49	259	20.39%
d) 50-59	337	26.54%
e) 60 + above	360	28.35%
Education		
a) High School	112	9.17%
b) Some College	210	17.20%
c) College	441	36.12%
d) Post-Grad	458	37.51%
Employment Status		
a) Full-time	519	42.96%
b) Part-time	189	15.65%
c) Retired	256	21.19%
d) Unemployed	152	12.58%
e) Other (includes stay-at-home parents)	92	7.62%
Student Status		
a) Full-time	17	4.63%
b) Part-time	23	6.27%
c) Not a Student	327	89.10%

F. Retention/Attrition

1. Volunteers who Left their Program: 334

2. Average Months of Service*: 493.52**

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

***This number includes 6 CASA programs that each reported more than 700 "Total months of service of CASA volunteers who left the program".*

3. Reasons for Leaving:

Time Commitment	109	32.63%
Employment Situation	15	4.49%
Other	32	9.58%
Family Needs	21	6.29%
Lost interest or pursuing other volunteer work	29	8.68%
Moved from area	32	9.58%
Involuntary	37	11.08%
Health Needs	26	7.78%
Burnout/Stress	33	9.88%

III. Programs

A. Performance Breakdown

	Children Served	% of Total	Active Volunteers	% of Total
Anne Arundel	122	8.05%	96	7.49%
Baltimore City	197	12.99%	189	14.74%
Baltimore County	185	12.20%	164	12.79%
Washington County	64	4.22%	48	3.74%
Prince George's	126	8.31%	121	9.44%
Voices for Children (Howard County)	71	4.68%	66	5.15%
Caroline	18	1.19%	11	0.86%
Talbot & Dorchester	54	3.56%	51	3.98%
Montgomery	287	18.93%	256	19.97%
Harford	90	5.94%	57	4.45%
Queen Anne's & Kent	21	1.39%	20	1.56%
Frederick & Carroll	105	6.93%	83	6.47%
Lower Shore (Worcester)	80	5.28%	48	3.74%
Southern Maryland (Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's)	96	6.33%	72	5.62%
	1,516		1,282	

B. Statewide Snapshot

1. Funding**

- a.) Program Funding from Public Sources: **38.92%**
 - 69.36% AOC-DFA CASA Grants
 - 18.75% GOCCP (Victims of Crime Assistance Act)
 - 13.94% County/City
 - 4.69% Other

- b.) Program Funding from Private Sources: **61.08%**
 - 44.58% Foundations/Grants
 - 9.64% Special Events
 - 6.34% National CASA
 - 6.57% Individual Contributions
 - 3.40% United Way/CFC/MD Charity Campaign, etc.
 - 21.18% Other (12.49% Corporate, 1.95% Groups & Organizations, 6.74% Product Sales, etc.)

***Funding breakdown omits CASA of Harford County data, which was not submitted.*

2. Staffing

Total Positions: 70
Full Time: 31
Part Time: 39