

YAMHILL COUNTY CASA NEWSLETTER



503-434-6668 YCCASA.ORG
638 NE 5th Street McMinnville

YAMHILL COUNTY CASA BY THE NUMBERS

CHILDREN IN CARE
88

CHILDREN WHO HAVE A CASA
56

ACTIVE CASA ADVOCATES
32

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**Report child abuse
1-855-503-SAFE (7233)
Keep Oregon's children safe**

Stepping into Summer **with a New CASA Cohort** by Sarah Johnson

On June 24th, 2022 three new CASAs, our summer interns, and Angela Hannan, our volunteer Supervisor, were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Chapman in front of friends and family.

These new advocates represent something very special: new voices in our 30th year of impact in Yamhill County. Judge Collins swore in our first CASAs in the summer of 1992. Over the last 30 years, nearly 250 volunteers have given a voice to just over one thousand children. So, who are these new voices?

Kara Mills is a passionate, fun, and a true lover of life. She currently works with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and is married to a zoologist. She has been passionate about becoming a foster parent her whole life, in fact it is written into her marriage vows. She has spent countless hours volunteering both at a youth homeless shelter and doing education outreach at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.

Stepping into Summer

continued...

Auna Aaberg is full of grace and compassion. Her faith provides a solid foundation and guiding lens for all her work. She has volunteered in many capacities as a youth leader at her church. Auna recently graduated with a BSN/RN from George Fox and is well on her way into a solid career in nursing as a powerful patient advocate.

Willow Muhr commits with her whole heart. She recently retired as a peer support specialist, prior to that she was a massage therapist. She, alongside her husband Steve, raised a blended family with five children and are now enjoying being grandparents to thirteen children. I was moved when she told me "my life has a long history of abuse; I made a choice to be different." I am very proud to have had the opportunity to train this amazing group! I invite you to join me in welcoming three more amazing volunteers to your ranks.



LEND YOUR VOICE TO CASA!

Have you done research on a Child Welfare related topic?

Would you like to share what you found?

Would you be interested in penning an editorial?

If you are interested in participating, let us know! As a CASA, composing an article can count toward your continuing education credit. Email office@yccasa.org with your topics and ideas.

A MEASURE OF SAFETY

by Sarah Johnson



In the world of child welfare, everything comes down to safety. In our role as CASAs, it is important to understand what measures are used to determine that safety. How do child welfare professionals decide if a child is safe? Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Child Welfare caseworkers use the Oregon Safety Model

to assess if a family needs intervention. The model outlines five safety threshold criteria ODHS caseworkers use to assess safety: severity, imminence, out of control, vulnerable child, and observable. If all safety threshold criteria are met, ODHS is obligated to intervene.

- 1. Severity: The likelihood that, without intervention, the child will suffer severe harm**
- 2. Imminence: The likelihood that, without intervention, the child is in imminent risk of harm**
- 3. Out of Control: There is no adult in the home that can stop, prevent, or otherwise control the family condition or threat**
- 4. Vulnerable Child: The child's ability to protect themselves; age is a factor as is cognitive ability, mental health, and preexisting trauma**
- 5. Observable: The caseworker must be able to articulate the specific behavior or condition that is making the child unsafe**

The Oregon Safety Model also outlines sixteen specific behaviors or circumstances which capture every scenario commonly seen in child welfare, referred to as Safety Threats. In each scenario, the safety threshold criteria must be met before intervention happens. It is from these sixteen scenarios that allegations are built and written into petitions to establish the legal grounds for intervention.

1) The family situation is such that no adult in the home is routinely performing parenting duties and responsibilities that assure child safety.

In this situation, there is no adult in the home that can provide food, clothing, shelter, and supervision at a minimally sufficient level. Examples include: a parent or caregiver being in a state that incapacitates them, either through substance use or mental disability, rendering them incapable of providing basic care; a parent or caregiver leaving the child home alone for extended periods of time or allowing them to wander the community unsupervised at an age younger than appropriate; parents' whereabouts are unknown; or a parent or caregiver ignores basic care.

2) One or both parents' or caregivers' behavior is violent and/or they are acting (behaving) dangerously.

In this situation, there is evidence of ongoing patterns of violence in the home. Examples include: a parent or caregiver physically or verbally assaulting a child, a spouse, or other family member; a parent or caregiver acting dangerously toward a child or others, including throwing things, brandishing weapons, aggressively intimidating and terrorizing, a parent or caregiver;



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making believable threats of homicide or suicide; or a child is harmed trying to intervene in violence or accidentally injured as a bystander.

3) One or both parents' or caregivers' behavior is impulsive, or they will not/cannot control their behavior.

In this situation, a parent lacks self-control to such a degree and the child is at risk of harm. Examples include: a parent or caregiver actively using substances and experiencing the impulsivity that comes with substance use; a parent or caregiver experiencing severe mental crisis and is unable to control their emotions or behaviors or is hallucinating or delusional; a parent or caregiver making impulsive decisions that leave the child in precarious situations; parent or caretaker cannot or will not control sexual offending behavior.

4) Parents' or Caregivers' perceptions of a child are extremely negative

In this situation, the parent's perception of the child is so negative that they are likely to react in a severe and harmful manner. Examples include: believing the child is possessed; the child is believed to be punishing or torturing the parent or caregiver; believing the child stands in their way of happiness

5) A family situation or behavior is such that the family does not have or use resources necessary to assure a child's safety.

“Basic needs” refers to the family’s lack of minimal resources to provide shelter, food, and clothing or the capacity to use resources if they were available. It is important to remember, being houseless is not by itself grounds for intervention. This situation is when parents or caregivers fall well below the commonly accepted, minimally adequate, level of care. Examples include: family has insufficient food, clothing, or shelter affecting child safety; Parents or caregivers lack life management skills to properly use resources when they are available; the child’s basic needs exceed normal expectations because of unusual conditions such as a disability and the family is unable to adequately address the needs.

6) One or both parents' or caregivers' attitudes, emotions and behaviors are such that they are threatening to severely harm a child or are fearful they will abuse or neglect the child and/or request placement.

In this situation, parents are directly threatening to hurt the child or are reaching out for help out of fear that they might hurt the child. Examples include: parents or caregivers using specific threatening terms; parent or caregiver talking about being worried about,



fearful of, or preoccupied with maltreating the child; there are disciplinary practices that are become out of control; or one parent/caregiver is expressing concerns about what the other parent/caregiver is capable of or may be doing.

7) One or both parents' or caregivers' attitudes or emotions are such that they intend(ed) to seriously hurt the child.

This does sound similar to number six, but it is the word "intent" that carries the weight in this safety threat. It is much

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more malicious. Parents show no remorse or admit any wrongdoing for the injuries they deliberately caused; they may feel the child deserved it.

8) A situation, attitudes and/or behavior is such that one or both parents or caregivers lack parenting knowledge, skills, and motivation necessary to assure a child's safety.

This situation is one of the more common that we see, and it comes down to a parent or caregiver unable to fulfill their role. Examples include: the parent's or caregiver's intellectual capacities affect their judgment and/or knowledge in ways that prevent them from providing basic care; young or intellectually limited parents having little or no knowledge of what the child's needs are; the parent's or caregiver's expectations of the child far exceed the child's capacity thereby placing the child in unsafe situations; the parent or caregiver does not want to be a parent and may place their needs above the needs of the child.

9) Parents' or Caregivers' attitudes and behavior result in overtly rejecting CPS intervention, refusing access to a child, and/or there is some indication that the caregivers will flee.

In this situation parents actively hide from investigators or deny access to their children. Sometimes in these instances the family is highly transient and may be trying to avoid other criminal charges.

10) Parents' or Caregivers' attitude, behavior, perception result in the refusal and/or failure to meet a child's exceptional needs that affect his/her safety.

In this situation, parents are not meeting the high level of needs of their child which may be a developmental disability, blindness, physical disability, or special medical needs. Examples include: the child being in danger if their condition is not treated; the parent or caregiver refuses to obtain treatment for the child who threatens suicide, attempts suicide, or appears to be having suicidal thoughts; the parent's or caregiver's expectations of the child are totally unrealistic in view of the child's condition; or the parent or caregiver allows the child to live or be placed in situations in which harm is increased by virtue of the child's condition.



11) The family situation is such that living arrangements seriously endanger the child's physical health.

In this situation, the environment the family is living in is unsafe. Examples include: people discharging firearms without regard to who might be harmed; the lack of hygiene is so dramatic as to cause or potentially cause serious illness; there is drug production in the home or consumption by people coming into the home; the home itself is unsafe due to structural damage, exposed wiring, etc.; the home is unsafe/unsanitary due to hoarding.

12) The situation is such that a child has serious physical injuries or serious physical symptoms from abuse or neglect.

In this situation, the key word is "serious," and suggests that the child's condition has immediate implications for



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intervention. The child may have multiple injuries or injuries requiring immediate or ongoing medical treatment. This also includes children who are malnourished, or the child appears to be suffering from failure to thrive.

13) The situation is such that a child shows serious emotional symptoms and/or lacks behavioral control that result in provoking dangerous reactions in parents or caregivers.

The child may be seriously disturbed and self-destructive or behaves in ways that others will be a danger to him or her. The results could be suicide, self-mutilation, or being physically abused.

14) The situation is such that a child is fearful of the home situation or people within the home.

In this situation, the child demonstrates emotional and/or physical responses indicating fear of the living situation or of people within the home (e.g., crying, inability to focus, nervousness, withdrawal). Examples include: the child expresses fear and describes people and circumstances which are reasonably threatening; the child recounts previous experiences which form the basis for fear; the child's fearful response escalates at the mention of home, people, or circumstances associated with reported incidents; the child describes personal threats which seem reasonable and believable.

15) Because of perception, attitude or emotion, parents or caregivers cannot, will not, or do not explain a child's injuries or threatening family conditions.

In this situation parents may intentionally concealing the truth or may not be able to explain injuries or the family condition due to their own mental health. Examples include: parent's or caregivers claiming to have no idea how a serious injury happened or their explanation doesn't match the injury; sexual abuse has occurred in which the child discloses and either the family circumstances, including opportunity, may or may not be consistent with sexual abuse or the parents/primary caregivers deny the abuse, blame the child, or offer no explanation or an explanation that is unbelievable; "Battered Child Syndrome" case circumstances are present and the parents/primary caregivers appear to be competent, but the child's symptoms do not match the parents'/primary caregivers' appearance, and there is no explanation for the child's symptoms.

16) One or both parents or caregivers has a child out of his/her care due to child abuse or neglect, or has lost a child due to termination of parental rights.

This situation is a unique circumstance added to the Oregon Child Welfare Safety Model and adds historical context to evolving situations.

Nearly every situation Child Protective Services encounters can be categorized into one of these 16 Safety Threats. Once the CPS worker identifies a threat, notes that it meets the safety threshold criteria, they initiate the process of intervention.



A SIGN!

Yamhill County CASA has a new sign going in!

Construction started mid-July in the front of our office building. We are installing a sign by the back door as well to increase visibility. The sign board in front will have four signs: our logo, a sign indicating parking and an accessible entrance in the back of the building, a sign for our upstairs neighbors, and a copy of the Star Thrower story. Once Yamhill Enrichment Society hangs their sign, the front will be trimmed up and all the wood will be stained and sealed.



The Starfish

One sunny morning, after an incredible storm, an old man went out for his routine sunrise walk on the beach.

Shortly down his path, he stopped in his tracks, struck with curiosity as he watched a young boy gently pick up a starfish, cradle it in his hands, wade into the surf, throw it into the sea, then skip back to pick up another.

"What are you doing?" he asked the boy.

"The tide is going out and the sun is up. If they stay on the beach they'll die" he explained.

The old man laughed, "But there must be thousands and thousands of starfish and miles and miles of beach. How can you possibly make any difference?"

The boy looked down at the starfish in his hands, waded out into the surf, and as he threw it to safety into the sea, he said, "I made a difference to that one."



- adapted from the Star Thrower by Loren Eiseley

**Parking & Accessible
Entrance
Located off of
Galloway Street,
Behind the Building**



Committee Engagement

Yamhill County CASA is forming two committees to help build the foundation for our program growth and stability.

YC CASA Fundraising Committee

The goal of the Yamhill County CASA Fundraising Committee is to create and maintain a path to long-term financial stability for the Yamhill County CASA program through creative events and positive donor stewardship. The Committee will create, develop and execute fundraising events and activities, as well as develop and implement a donor stewardship plan. Participation level is up to the member. Membership is open to staff, volunteers, and community members. The committee will meet once a month beginning August 22nd at 5pm; future dates/times to be determined at the meeting.



CASA For All

Yamhill County CASA is committed to inclusivity and anti-oppressive work across the landscape of child welfare, including within our own organization. The goal of CASA for ALL (CFA) is to inspire and help maintain a program that is equally accessible, inclusive, and mirrors the diversity of our community while actively working to interrupt the structures of oppression that create disproportionality and disparity within child welfare and related systems in our community. Membership is open to staff, volunteers, and community members. The committee will meet once a month beginning September 26th at 5pm; future dates/times to be determined at the meeting.



Interested in learning more? Email Sarah at executivedirector@yccasa.org

BOTTLE DRIVE: CANS FOR CASA

Yamhill County CASA has an ongoing fundraiser with Bottle Drop of Oregon. Last fiscal year, we raised more than \$6500. Drop by the CASA office on the corner of 5th & Galloway to pick up a blue Bottle Drop bag and bring it back full of your recyclable bottles and cans. We can also arrange pick-up of bottles and cans anywhere in Yamhill County. THANK YOU to our CASA volunteers and community partners at Northwest UAV for collecting, sorting, and depositing all those blue bags!

We do ask the following:

- Glass, plastic & aluminum can be mixed, but a bag cannot weigh more than 40lbs
- When possible, please rinse your recyclables
- Please do not donate any cans or bottles used as disposals for tobacco products
- Wine bottles are not accepted at this time
- Please do not put any cardboard in the bluebags

Community Resources:

Mental Health:

Yamhill County Health & Human Services Crisis Line: 1-844-842-8200

Newberg Crisis: 503-554-7825 / Yamhill Crisis: 503-662-4233

Suicide Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 or text 237TALK to 839863

Lutheran Family Services: McMinnville: 503-472-4020

Chehalem Youth and Family Services: Newberg: 503-538-4874

Domestic Violence:

Crisis Line: 503-623-4033

Grand Ronde Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Program: 503-879-1660

Henderson House: 503-472-1503

Substance Abuse:

Yamhill County Chemical Dependency: McMinnville 503-434-7527 / Newberg 503-538-8970

Alcohol & Drug Helpline 1-800-923-4357 or text Recovery Now to 839863

Provoking Hope (971) 261-2259 provokinghope.com

Goforth Inspired (503) 857-0394

LGBTQ+ Resources:

Newberg PFLAG pflagnewberg.org

[McMinnville Teen LGBTQ+ Group](#)

Trevor Project Hotline: 1-866-488-7386

Other Resources:

A Family Place: 503-472-4020 familyplacere Relief.org

YCAP: 503-472-0457

YOOP Youth Opportunity Program: Newberg 503-554-1461 / McMinnville 503-883-9768

UNIDOS McMinnville 503-447-3408 unidosyamhillcounty.org

Yamhill County Sheriff Non-Emergency Line: 503-434-6500

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

12 hours of continuing education is required by National CASA annually

CASA CONTINUING EDUCATION SESSIONS

July – no training

August 23rd 5:30 to 7:00pm – Early Childhood Education

We will watch the documentary Brain Matters documentary Early Childhood Development, followed by a presentation by Camille La Rocca Carrillo, the Outreach & Referral Specialist for YCCO's Early Learning Hub. Camille will discuss Family Core, Yamhill County's Home Visiting Referral Exchange that can connect families with kids under six and pregnant moms to personalized, local resources. This is a program CASAs can make referrals to for the children they advocate for.

Sept 27th 5:00pm to 7:00pm - What is SOC?

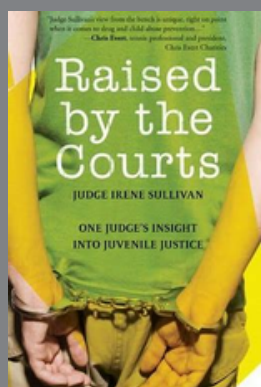
This 2-hour session in person at Juliette's House will be presented by Carole Joa. The training was written by nationally recognized Darkness to Light (d2l) that helps all adults to better Prevent, Recognize and React Responsibly to child sexual abuse as well as all abuse of children. This training includes a video of interviews with adult survivors, question/answer/discussion time, a video including professionals bringing hope for victims of child sexual abuse, and showing how adults can protect themselves while working with children.

Not a CASA, but interested in attending a training or event?

Let us know at office@yccasa.org

YCCASA Book Club: Next Meeting is August 17th

Yamhill County CASA Book Club meets virtually the third Wednesday of every month for a "lunch break" hour starting at noon. We are wrapping up our current book, *Raised by the Courts*, by Judge Irene Sullivan.



Email us at office@yccasa.org to pick up a book and join!

"Judge Irene Sullivan presided over family and juvenile court for twelve years in Clearwater, Florida. In 2010, she wrote a non-fiction book, 'Raised by the Courts: One Judge's Insight into Juvenile Justice.' Her most recent book, 'Traffic Stop' was co-written with Dr. Adele Solazzo and published in 2020. Irene has spoken all over the country on child abuse and delinquency matters and has received several awards for her work in the field. The most personally significant piece of recognition for Irene would be the adoption award in her name that's presented every year in the 6th Circuit Court on National Adoption Day. Even in her retirement, Irene remains committed to family mediation cases, working to resolve family law situations in the best interest of the child." - Amazon

National CASA Trainings

Previous Webinars available to watch:

- [Substance Abuse: An introduction to substance abuse as a disorder](#)
- [Substance Abuse: A family-centered approach to understanding impact](#)
- [Child Trafficking: Recognizing the risks and signs](#)

VIRTUAL TRAINING OUTSIDE OF CASA

- [Full Episode: “Children of the System” \(Ep. 405\) | Our America with Lisa Ling | OWN](#)
- ODHS Child Welfare Foster Parent Orientation:
[Part 1](#) [Part 2](#) [Part 3](#) [Part 4](#) [Part 5](#)
- ODHS Child Welfare coordinates a variety of live/online trainings that CASAs can take advantage of. Sessions range between 1-3 hours long and will be hosted on Zoom. [Click Here](#) to view upcoming sessions. You can register for the session by clicking the link within the class synopsis to attend.
- [National Child Advocacy Center](#) has an extensive list of online trainings with topics ranging from what you could encounter in court to the foundations of Parent Child Interaction Therapy
- [Victim Assistance](#) is a foundational web-based victim assistance training program that offers victim service providers and allied professionals the opportunity to acquire the essential skills and knowledge they need to more effectively assist victims of crime

**YAMHILL COUNTY CASAS, AS ALWAYS, WE ARE HONORED
TO SUPPORT YOU IN THE WORK YOU DO FOR THE
CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

THANK YOU.

SARAH, ANGIE & CINDY

The work we do is made possible in part by support from...

The
Bladine
Family



SPIRIT MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY FUND



The Confederated Tribes
of Grand Ronde



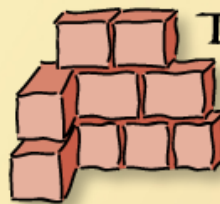
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TRUST



First Federal



THE
KINSMAN
FOUNDATION

... and the generosity of our Sustaining Circle Members.

Thank you.