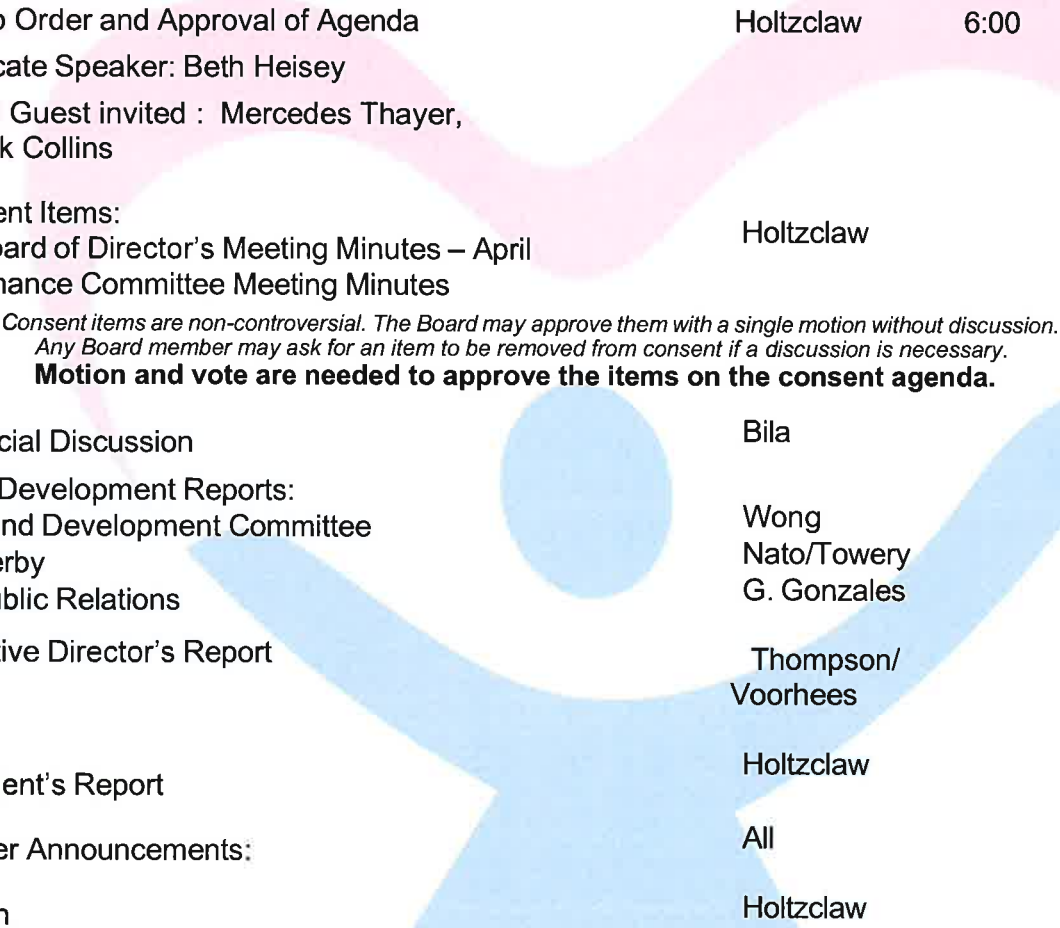


# CASA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Zoom Meeting

May 16, 2023

- 
1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda Holtzclaw 6:00
  2. Advocate Speaker: Beth Heisey
  3. Board Guest invited : Mercedes Thayer,  
Patrick Collins
  4. Consent Items:
    - Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – April Holtzclaw
    - Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
    - *Consent items are non-controversial. The Board may approve them with a single motion without discussion. Any Board member may ask for an item to be removed from consent if a discussion is necessary.*  
**Motion and vote are needed to approve the items on the consent agenda.**
  5. Financial Discussion Bila
  6. Fund Development Reports:
    - Fund Development Committee Wong
    - Derby Nato/Towery
    - Public Relations G. Gonzales
  7. Executive Director's Report Thompson/  
Voorhees
  8. President's Report Holtzclaw
  9. Member Announcements: All
  10. Adjourn Holtzclaw

All persons who plan to attend the June 6 meeting at 9:00 am with Cynthia Lake's Trust are asked to remain for a short meeting.

**Calendar:** (meetings held via zoom, unless noted)

Next Board meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, **May 16, 2023, 6:00 pm** in person at CASA Office

Finance Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7:30 am @ Zoom - Exec Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 7:30 am @Zoom

PR Committee: 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs 7:30 am - Event CommitteesTBA

**Board Vision Statement:** "To meet the needs of CASA, ensuring it will continue to serve as an economically effective organization, for the abused children of Kern County."

**CASA of Kern County**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**April 18, 2023**

Board Vision Statement: "To meet the needs of CASA ensuring it will continue to serve as an economically effective organization for the abused children of Kern County."

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda:

Board President Joyce Holtzclaw called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. Collins and Lucas moved and seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Board members present: McCort, Roche, Holtzclaw, Bila, Collins, Towery, Lucas, Harper, Natto, McCaslin, Shaw

Board members not present: Tomono, Wong, J. Gonzalez, Eberhardt, Keller, G. Gonzalez

Advocate Speaker present: Jim George discussed his impressive history with CASA including being an advocate from the 2nd class to complete orientation. He has had several cases in different stages of dependency. Mr. George detailed his current case which is a 13 year old male who is having significant placement and behavioral disruptions. The Board thanked Mr. George for his dedication.

CASA staff present: Ashley Thompson

Consent Items:

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes from March 2023 and consent agenda items were discussed. McCort and Collins moved and seconded a motion to approve. The motion passed.

Financial Discussion:

Billa indicated the finances remain strong and there are no particularities on this set. He did indicate that they are looking for new members of the finance committee, if anyone has interest.

Fund Development:

Roche discussed two grants that were submitted to B of A and Lyons Club. He updated that in lieu of pinwheels this year, there would be an effort to do yard signs. Diana Ramiirez has been contracted with CASA to provide Heaven support and guidance.

Towery discussed the Derby and reported that we are making budget on sponsorships, however ticket sales remain low. They will be doing another email blast and calling past participants.

There was no public relations report.

**Executive Directors Report:**

Interim ED, Ashley Thompson, reviewed the list that was submitted with the board packet for the month of April 2023.

**Presidents Report:**

Holtzclaw discussed several new potential applicants for Board Members. She will meet with some and also wait for Ashley Voorhees, newly selected ED to interview them as well. She asked the Board to approve a new Board application. Billa and Lucas moved and seconded a motion to approve. The motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Minutes of Fund Development Meeting  
April 17, 2023 scheduled for 4:30-5:30 pm

Attendees: CASA staff Heaven Vasquez, Ashley Thompson, Karlee Cain  
Board Members Vincent Roche, Joyce Holtzclaw, Nate Wong. Joyce to take minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Vince at 4:37 pm due to some confusion over multiple Zoom emails.

Heaven gave an update on several initiatives:

An advocate has asked if they might provide some funds to create an "Advocate Corner" where they could look at files and work. Moving the extra dividers we will have some space for this back by where the doors are that go to the back. A \$2000 request was submitted to Bakersfield Breakfast Lions for this purpose.

Jordan was able to get us the application for a Bank of America grant that could be up to \$50,000 paid over 2 years. We will know if we win in October.

Pinwheel signs are going well. We have sold about \$400 worth. Thirty-one signs have been placed around town. Soak Car Wash's owner's grandmother used to be a CASA so they wanted a sign. 23 News and the Bakersfield Pageant winners went to the Soak Car wash with Heaven, Karlee, and Jordan on April 14. They did a story with the owner and interviewed Heaven. The report is to be on television later in the week. The owner is also going to provide some car wash gift cards for Derby. The news channel is also going to visit Locale Farm to Table Restaurant, Rosemary's Creamery, and Lettuce Eats this week. Vince is to contact the property management of the Market Place to see if we could do the regular pinwheels their next year. We may also want to have some signs too.

Derby is going well with sponsorships over \$92,000 and CBIZ is also going to be the "Wall of Wine" sponsor.

Nate asked how it was going with Diana and if we needed to extend her contract. Heaven said they still have 14 more hours and are having her help put together a schedule of what she should be doing certain things like starting the Super Hero Run swag bag effort right after Derby. It was brought up that we may want to bring Ashley on first before extending the contract as it might be good for her to also learn what Diana is sharing or she may not want to spend the extra funds.

Heaven would like to get some CASA mugs and put Dewars candy in them and take them as little gifts when they make calls on some of the donors. She is going to try and get Dewars to donate the items.

The meeting ended at 5:17.

## Memorandum

**To:** Ashley Thompson, Interim Executive Director  
**From:** Natalie Sullivan, Program Manager  
**Re:** Program Update to the Board of Directors  
**Date:** 05/09/2023

### **TRAINING & RECRUITING:**

On 04/13/2023 we began our Spring 2023 training class. We have a total of 6 people in attendance, 2 of which are employees. Prior to their graduation 05/24/2023 we will have met with them to start case matching in hopes of removing at least 4 children off the waitlist.

Community Outreach Coordinator, Jordan Glatt, is currently attending the class and is working side by side with the trainees. Jordan continues to recruit for our Summer 2023 class and is also getting ready to go through the Facilitator training beginning the week of 05/14/2023. We are trying to get more people trained in hopes of providing the Advocate training more often.

### **PROGRAM UPDATE:**

As the Program Manager, I can honestly say the last month has been a whirlwind of learning and doing. In our effort to build collaborative relationships with other agencies we have participated in several events. The Great American Cleanup was one of the events that staff, myself included, took full advantage of cleaning up Chester Avenue and then setting up a vendor booth at Yokuts Park to collaborate with partners in the community. We also participated in "Comfort Case" packing with DHS and other partners and received several of the comfort cases for our children. These include items that a child would need when moving from place to place such as pajamas, toothbrush/toothpaste, soap, shampoo, book, and blanket. It is an effort to send children having placement changes with an actual bag that is not a black trash bag. The founder Rob Scheer, Founder and President of Comfort Cases, was present with his message and it was a powerful one for the team to hear and helps to maintain focus on why CASA is here to support Advocates in the work they do.

Advocate Retention is our focus and we are working to repair their trust in CASA as an organization. When we train new advocates we impress upon them that they will be supported. Advocate Supervisors are refocusing their attention to what they can do to help the Advocate with their contacts, court reports, relationships with social workers and resource parents. With five Advocate Supervisors and that many different styles of leadership, my goal is to continue to work with the supervisors and more clearly define what that exactly looks like not only to them, but the advocates they are working with. There has been a culture of negativity that has been allowed to continue and they have been told it will not be tolerated further. CASA is a place of employment and we are here to help our advocates work with the children we are appointed to and this is to be the focus moving forward.

### **PSYCHIATRIC & MENTAL HEALTH GRANT:**

We are currently serving 109 children on mental health medications. We have been struggling the first two quarters of the current fiscal year 2022-2023 to complete the Essential History's for the mental health grant as our Advocate Supervisor specializing in this grant was out for 5 months and there was not a Program Manager during that time, so none of the cases were addressed. The Advocate Supervisor has been working hard at catching up and therefore, cases were assigned to the other 4 Advocate Supervisors to help out. We are still trying to achieve our goal of 50 cases for this grant by 06/30/2023. Moving forward we have shifted the way we do things and all Advocate Supervisors are trained and will be responsible for these cases moving forward. We currently have

**Traditional CASA:**

CASA Statistics	May 8, 2023		
Children served to date	3568		
Children currently being served (point in time)	288		
Children on the waiting list	94		
Total number of active cases	167		
Advocates currently assigned	125		
Total CASA's Graduated	1,678		

**Family Connections:**

FC CASA Statistics	May 9, 2023		
FC Children served to date			
FC Children currently being served (point in time)	42		
FC Children on the wait list	13		
Total number of active cases	30		
Advocates currently assigned	19		
Total FC CASA's Graduated	158		

**Strategic Plan Goals: Year 2023-2024/ WORK IN PROGRESS**

Mission Driven Goals: Strategic Plan	Actual	Fiscal Year to Date	# of Advocates reinstated FY	2023-2024 Goal
New trained CASAs				
# of CASAs served on a case				
# of children served by CASA Volunteers				

**VOCA Grant July 1, 2022, thru June 2023**

As to recruiting there was not a Community Outreach Coordinator employed until 02/27/2023 and the Fall 2022 training session was cancelled. We will continue to make this a priority goal.

**12/75 Advocates Recruited**

**12/65 Advocates Assigned (graduated)**

**Goals:** 75 Advocates recruited  
65 Advocates Assigned

## Community Outreach Coordinator Report April 2023

On the 22nd we did The Great American clean up.

Attended 2 workshops with Kern Alliance Network

4-5 workshops/events with Give Big Kern.

I reached out to numerous businesses and attended events with KGET and ABC23 for our pinwheels event.

I've also had a 13-member meeting with ADK which is a Bakersfield City School sorority

meeting with Pastor Nate Coleman at The Bridge Church, he is going to see how he can fit me in for a presentation for their congregation.

Also, did comfort cases with DHS last week

Coming up, I'm in communication with Four Seasons, a 55 and older HOA community past city in the hills and I am on the calendar for June 6th with Margaret DeArmond(a long time/well known advocate) in collaboration with her committee "Neighbor-to-Neighbor" which is a group of people in the community that collect supplies to donate to Dream Center. I will be going to her big fundraiser on May 20th and passing out flyers to invite the community to come and learn more about CASA on 6/6 to see if they're interested in becoming advocates or getting involved. The community will also send out email blasts and put my invitation in their newsletter.

I'm also talking with the Director, Paul Johnson, with Panama Buena Vista Union School District, who has been a longtime supporter of CASA, he is looking in to breaking up the teachers into smaller groups for me to come and present.

Next, I have the CASA presentation with DHS @ 8:30 on 5/10