

Older Youth – Their Dreams Not Ours

WV CASA
11th Annual Conference
September 2, 2010
Bridgeport Conference Center



*Working to keep children happy and safe
for a Lifetime*

Who Should Attend...

CASA Volunteers, staff and board members, domestic violence victim advocates, social workers, nurses, attorneys, law enforcement officers, probation and parole officers, teachers, clergy, counselors, psychologists, judges, magistrates and victim advocates.



West Virginia CASA Association
2442 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25311
304-343-4306
866-498-2272
www.wvcasa.org







West Virginia CASA is a member of the National CASA Association

Conference Agenda

- 9:00 - 9:15 Welcome
- 9:15 - 10:15 Adoption: My Personal Journey ~ Michele Bush
- 10:15 - 10:30 Break
- 10:30 - 12:00 Amp it Up! Strengthening Youth Voices in Planning for Permanence ~ Michael Estrella
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (Volunteer of the Year Award Presentation)
- 1:00 - 2:45 Youth Transitioning ~ Alicia McIntire
- 2:45 - 3:00 Break
- 3:00 - 4:45 Making Contacts Count ~ Chadwick Sapenter
- 4:45 - 5:00 Conference Closing and Door Prizes

Training Goals and Objectives

-  Raise awareness of the unique challenges faced by adoptees.
-  Understand the importance of giving youth a voice in permanency planning.
-  Increase knowledge of the Chafee program and tools available to assist youth in transition.
-  Develop a better understanding of the value of meaningful contacts with children in foster care through the eyes of a foster care alumnus.

Continuing Education

CEUs will be provided through the WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence for:
Domestic Violence, Nursing and Social Work

Applications are being submitted by WV CASA Association for:
Counseling, Law Enforcement, Legal Education and Psychology



Presenters:

Michele Bush

Michele Bush is the Executive Director for the West Virginia CASA Association, where she has been employed since 2007. In her capacity as the Executive Director, Michele coordinates with local CASA program directors to enhance their collective knowledge concerning available victim/witness resources and information, and to establish a bridge between local, state and federal agencies regarding victim issues.

Michele received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management from Virginia Tech and a Master of Science Degree in Health Care Administration from Marshall University Graduate College where she was inducted into the International Honor Society, Beta Gamma Sigma.

Michele is a member of the WV Supreme Court's Court Improvement Program Oversight Board, the Secretary/Treasurer of the WV Foster Caregiving Association, and a member of multiple other committees working to improve the lives of victims. In 2007, she was awarded the U.S. Department of Justice Award for Public Service from the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Southern District of WV. She is also a member of the Cambridge Who's Who Registry of Executives, Professionals, and Entrepreneurs.

Michael Estrella

Michael Estrella, from Providence Rhode Island, is an alumnus of the Rhode Island foster care system. He graduated from the University of Tampa with degrees in Business Management, Finance, and Economics. As a foster youth he lived in over two dozen state placements. Once his case was transferred to a private organization (Casey Family Services), he had one placement for the final 7 years of his experience in the foster care system.

As an alumnus of the system he co-founded the United Foster Alumni Association (UFAA) which is an alumni social network for former foster youth. As the president of UFAA he has worked to grow the Association from its conception two years ago to representation in every New England state. UFAA is also in the final stages of filing for 501(c)3 status to become an recognized non-profit organization. The UFAA is a program that provides mentors and advocates to foster youth, as well as offering workshops and trainings.

As the president of UFAA Michaels's last two years of working within the child welfare system included one year direct care services working in a semi-independent program in a residential setting and two national conferences for CASA providing workshops to strengthening youth voices in planning for permanency. Additionally, he co-facilitated the annual Casey Family Services youth conference at University of Connecticut, hosted an Alumni weekend conference for the Casey Family Service Alumni and he provided six foster parent trainings for new foster parents in Rhode Island. Most importantly he has a life time of hands on experience being a foster youth, now an alumnus putting positive change forward for all youth across the country.

Alicia McIntire

Alicia McIntire is a Workshop/Training Coordinator & Program Administrative Assistant at the West Virginia University, Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center, Center for Excellence in Disabilities, Chafee Community Support Services Program, Charleston, West Virginia. She is responsible for planning the annual Statewide Transitional Living Conference for youth between the ages of 16 and 21 including coordination of the attendees travel, their room reservations, meals, workshops and activities. She works with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Training Coordinator to document the Continuing Education Units awarded to Social Workers who attend the Staff-Only Workshops.

Alicia graduated with an Associates Degree in Applied Sciences CTC at WVU Tech. She has been awarded the Mail-Well Team Player for 2001 and presented at the WV Volunteer Conference 2008.

Chadwick Sapenter

Motivational speaker Chadwick Sapenter moves his audience through the success and failures of his life to help each audience see that adversity is universal. Born in San Antonio, Texas during the reign of serial killer Nurse Genene Jones, Chadwick survived his first bout of adversity. The first ten years of life were not kind to Chadwick. Living in poverty with two brothers and a sister, Chadwick's mother had her own mental issues living with an undiagnosed bi-polar illness. At age 7, Chadwick watched his father die due to a Heroine addiction and HIV. Drugs, gangs, and crime were the common denominators and these were three childhood adversities for Chadwick and his siblings.

Living as a homeless family on the streets of San Antonio for two years, Chadwick and his siblings were placed into foster care when he was 15. Once in a stable environment, Chadwick found success in football and academics.

Chadwick credits much of his success to the many volunteers he came across while in foster care. He is a CASA Alumnus as well. Driven by instinct and the desire to succeed, Chadwick co-founded Onyx Real Estate Group, now Greylux Group, Inc., Movecraze.com, and Little Book of Words, LLC.

Chadwick's first book, Little Book of Words Every Foster Kid Should Know, has been both an internal and external success. Chadwick is a member of the Texas Supreme Court Judicial Committee for Youth, Families and Children, a member of the Child Welfare Boards Ready By 21 sub-committee, and serves on the executive board for Partnerships for Children.



Registration

11th Annual WV CASA Conference

September 2, 2010

Bridgeport Conference Center

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Early Registration - \$45
(Received by 8/18/2010)

Late Registration - \$55

CASA Volunteers - \$15

Fees include light refreshments at registration, lunch, break, and materials

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

I am a CASA Volunteer with _____ Program

(Name of your CASA Program)

Make checks payable to **WVCASA** and mail to:
2442 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25311

Registration forms must be accompanied by full payment in order to be processed

Credit Card payment accepted online at: www.wvcasa.org/newsandevents.html

Cancellations: No refunds will be given for “no shows” or cancellations. Registration fees are NON-REFUNDABLE, but may be transferred to another individual.

For more information

Call 304-343-4306 or
or Toll Free 1-866-498-2272
or email wvcasaa@verizon.net

Bridgeport Conference Center
www.conferencebridgeport.com
304-808-3000

Directions to Bridgeport Conference Center

Northbound: Exit 124 off I-79. Turn right at end of off-ramp. Drive uphill (east on 279) and take the first left into Charles Pointe. After entering, take your first left onto Conference Center Way. Follow and the road will lead directly to the Bridgeport Conference Center.

Southbound: Exit 124 off I-79. Turn left at end of off-ramp onto 279, east-bound. Drive up a hill and at the top, take a left into Charles Pointe. After entering, take your first left onto Conference Center Way. Follow and the road will lead directly to the Bridgeport Conference Center.

This conference is made possible by a grant from the
WV Supreme Court, Court Improvement Program. www.wvcip.com

