



CASA Connection

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Abuse Hotline
1-800-222-8000

February 2021

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Samantha Bignell
Lisa Cannon
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Ken Rice
Troy Ross
Shannon Vincent

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Meet Our Board of Directors

Operations keeps the lights on, strategy provides a light at the end of the tunnel, but the Board of Directors is the train engine that moves the organization forward. ~Joy Gumz



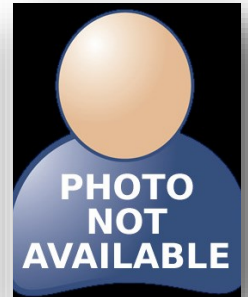
Jeffrey Pierce
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Board Treasurer



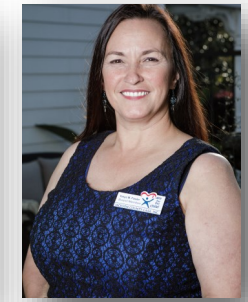
Doug Adams
Board Member



Samantha Bignell
Board Member



Lisa Cannon
Board Member



Tonya Fowler
Board Member



Left to right:
Rob Kirkland
Board Member,
Jon Mosley, Jr.
Board Member, &
Mark Riley
Board Member

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Left to right: Ken Rice, Troy Ross
and Shannon Vincent



Court Dates

Your Court date is **very important**. Your **presence is needed** at all Court hearings. However, if you are unavailable to attend, please contact the CASA office and provide an update of your case. CASA staff will present your report to the Court. **Your input is essential. Your child/children are counting on you to provide a voice in Court. Please review the schedule carefully. If you have any questions, contact any staff for assistance.**

Confidential

Information unavailable

Foster Care Review—County Conference

County Conference's are held every six months to discuss and review the permanent plan of the child/children in foster care. Your attendance and input is requested. The review is **NOT** a court hearing, however, the testimony delivered during the conference will be provided to the Court to aid in making decisions about the Child's best interest. **Please contact the CASA staff if you are not able to attend.**

Confidential

Information unavailable

Latest Program Statistics

JC CASA is a volunteer-powered organization that advocates for the abused and neglected children of our county. We have an amazing group of dedicated volunteers that provide a voice for these children throughout their court process. As of December 31, 2020, **87 Volunteers** have served **198 children** from **108 families** with **5155 donated hours of service during the 2020 calendar year.**

February Birthdays

February 1
Dawn Bradley
Jonathan Mills

February 5
Sharon Beckman

February 10
Sherita Knowles

February 15
Timmy Noble

February 16
Katie Allsup

February 21
Vicki Applewhite

February 25
Jane Hicks

February 27
Angela Lynn



In-Service Dates for Volunteers

To maintain your CASA standing you are required to complete 12 hours of In-Service training each year. Be sure to include any completed In-Service hours on your monthly reports. We would like to discuss topics that would be beneficial to you. Please contact the CASA staff if you have special requests.

February 9: May 14, *The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Quarterly Community Action Team Meeting* will be held virtually on February 9, 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. FIMR is an action-oriented community process that continually assesses, monitors and works to improve service systems and community resources for women, infants and families. This meeting will present "*The Child Protection Services (CPS): How We Can Partner to Support Family Stability*". Speakers will be Pamela Cross, Regional Director, CPS—Harrison, Pearl River and Harrison Counties. **R.S.V.P, cherylcolemandoyle@gmail.com The Zoom link will be sent to all registered participants.**

February 11: We will host our first *CASA Care and Coffee*, from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Join us for an informal meeting with the staff and other volunteers to chat about your case, kids, concerns or anything that you would like to discuss. It will also provide a format for you to share some of your successes. And, don't worry, the meeting will be held in a confidential environment, a classroom at the Jackson County Civic Center, 2902 Shortcut Road, Pascagoula. We can all learn from each other, so sign up now. **Contact Advocate Supervisor Angela Lynn, angela_lynn@co.jackson.ms.us , to register or visit our website, jccasa.net to register.**

February 23: Dr. Hope Beaver, Gulf Coast Behavioral Health System, will host a Zoom presentation to teach us some *Verbal De-Escalation Skills Webinar*, a skill set used to recognize the development of a crisis and to communicate effectively to de-escalate the crisis. The presentation will be held from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. During this power point session, we will learn the stages of crisis and how to interact during each one, and how to effectively communicate with a person during each stage of crisis both verbally and non-verbally. Also covered will be power struggles, using active listening skills, and setting limits. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn some valuable skills that can help when advocating for our children and communicating with their parents. **Contact Advocate Supervisor Angela Lynn, angela_lynn@co.jackson.ms.us or visit our website, jccasa.net to register.**

FYI

On January 14, Susie Harvill, Advocates For Freedom (AFF), came to the CASA office to present information on the Human Trafficking problem in our community. Susie was joined by Kyle Craig. Kyle trains police officers on Human Trafficking. AFF is dedicated to ending the exploitation, sale and enslavement of men, women and children. Through awareness and education, AFF has been leading the way to stop Human Trafficking throughout Mississippi and beyond. Two sessions were offered, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. The presentations were very informative and eye-opening.



On January 25, CASA held an In-Service on *"The Opioid Impact"*. John Harry, Associate Pastor at Church on the Rock in Pascagoula and counselor with Jackson County Youth Court Drug Program, was our presenter. Mr. Harry held two presentation, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. He discussed the opioid impact on our community, families and the children we serve. As you know, many of our children are in custody due to their parents' drug and alcohol addiction, which is often carried over to some of our children. His presentation was very informative.



On January 7, Bayleigh Thornton arrived at the CASA office with a donation of Scentsy Blanket Buddies. They will be a perfect friend for the younger children that we serve.

2021 volunteer training began January 11. Our first volunteers of the year will be inducted this month. Our next training session will begin April 12. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a CASA volunteer, please have them contact our office or visit our website, jccasa.net for more details.

