

Coconino Training Academy October 20-21, 2017

We will have 10 new CASA volunteers attending the Training Academy on October 20-21 in Coconino County.

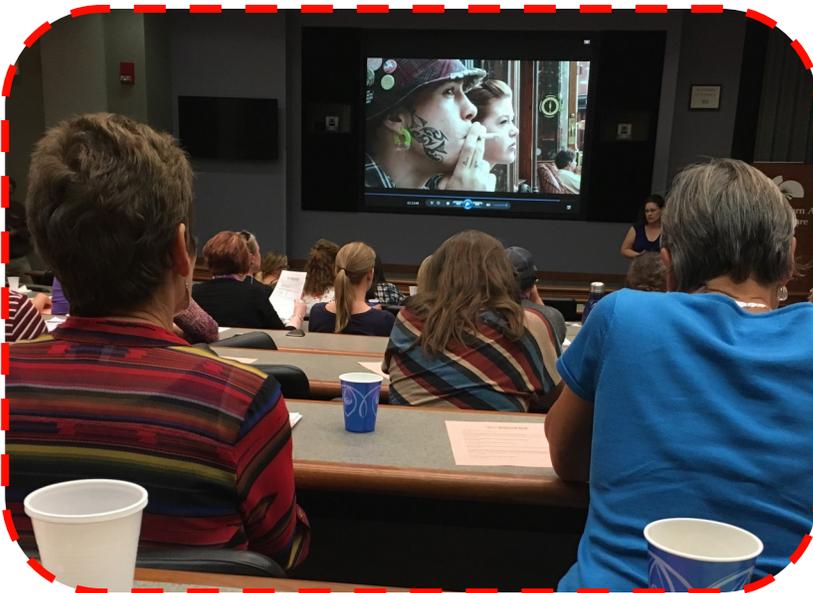
If you are interested in participating in any segments of the CASA Training Academy you are welcome to join in for a refresher.

Contact Cindy @ 226-5433 for details on the Friday and Saturday agenda and to register.

There are currently 1,079 CASA Volunteers in Arizona serving 1,873 dependent children. Only 1 out of 8 foster children in Arizona has a CASA Volunteer. The need for more CASA Volunteers is critical.

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- Meet a CASA



Ann Blue, Carol Hudenko, Laura Winkler and Kay Doggett participating in training at the Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth screening of the Kevin Campbell Finding Family preview.



Training Updates

At our Wednesday, September 13 group training session we watched an outstanding film on effects of Childhood Trauma. We strongly recommend that you watch it.

[Remembering Trauma Official Film \(2017\) - YouTube](#)

PLEASE VISIT: <http://www.REMEMBERINGTRAUMA.org> “Remembering Trauma: Connecting the Dots between Complex Trauma and Misdiagnosis in Youth” is a short film (16 minutes) that highlights the story of a traumatized youth from early childhood to older adolescence illustrating his trauma reactions and interactions with various service providers (including probation officer, school counselor, and therapist). This product was created in order to support the critical importance of using a trauma lens in our work within child-serving systems and the potentially detrimental impact of not incorporating a trauma framework. We believe this resource can serve as a powerful educational and awareness raising tool.

Doctor Nadine Burke Harris will be the keynote speaker at an ACEs Forum in Phoenix in October.

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about ACEs so we are encouraged to share the event with influencers in our communities.

Registration is filling up very quickly.

To register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/4th-annual-adverse-childhood-experiences-aces-forum-ticket-37041887282>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AMBER MARTIN OCTOBER 5

COETA HERNANDEZ OCTOBER 10

FRED MEEK OCTOBER 14

JOHN PROPSTER OCTOBER 26

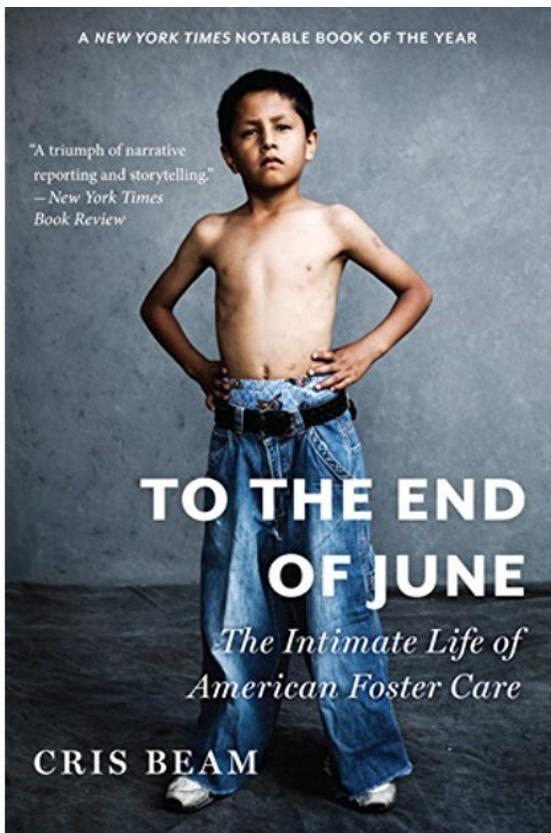


To the End of June: The Intimate Life of American Foster Care
By Cris Beam

To the End of June The Intimate Life of American Foster Care portrays the lives of several foster children from the time they enter the system to when they age out. One of the children had lived in twenty-one foster homes. She as well as the others all wanted to be adopted but found it difficult to maintain relationships with foster parents due to attachment issues early in their lives. This story is tragic in that the reader experiences the brokenness of foster children and how they sabotage the relationships they desperately need. It is also hopeful when some of them grow through the pain and form their own identities and experience some success as adults.

The author, Cris Beam, is a foster parent who details the problems facing the child welfare system. She also proposes some unique ways to correct some of these issues. This inside look into foster care made me aware of how different rules can affect the children and revealed how the system can hurt the ones it is meant to help. This book is informative and reveals how children process trauma as well. It is well worth the time I invested to read it.

**Book Review written by Lynda Ging
Coconino County CASA**



Awe and wonder...

To be like a kid again... yesterday I had the opportunity to take 2 kids to a riverside park. I'll call them Dick and Jane for anonymity. Dick is 7 and Jane is 9. Both parents are alcoholics. They have been in foster care since early 2015. Before that, a cousin rescued them several times when mom and dad were thrown in jail for public intoxication, DUI or simply too drunk to care for them. Dick and Jane have known nothing but the horrible side of alcoholism all their lives.

The kids were completely 'immersed' in the river and its surrounding. From the cicadas to the sound of the rushing river, even the ants were reasons for awe and shrieks of joy. Every lizard and grasshopper something to wonder at. No fear at trying to catch a frog or a lizard. When we crossed a foot bridge, Dick wanted to run under the bridge to look for trolls. Jane played big sister watching out for Dick, but had just as much fun as him chasing grasshoppers. Where I saw the danger of a fallen tree with loose bark, they saw a challenge to be not only overcome, but having fun while doing so. They didn't worry about mud, getting their clothes dirty or what was for dinner. Dick and Jane weren't pining over the loss of their families, or to a large part, the loss of their childhood. Dick and Jane were experiencing what life was offering them there in the moment.

All I can say is, what happened to the child in me? Where is the awe and wonder in my here and now?

**Submitted by a Coconino County
CASA**



Check out our October Flagstaff Business News CASA Recruitment/Education Article

Community encouraged to get involved during Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and while there is no typical personality for an abuser there are some signs to be aware of when working with vulnerable populations, like youth who've witnessed domestic violence in the past, to keep the cycle from continuing. In Coconino County children are removed from their unsafe living environment due to domestic violence and a Court Appointed Special Advocate can serve as a role model to help break the cycle of violence.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) states "Violence in relationships occurs when one person feels entitled to power and control over their partner and chooses to use abuse to gain and maintain that control... Every relationship differs, but what is most common within all abusive relationships is the varying tactics used by abusers to gain and maintain power and control over the victim."

Some common red flags are: Any controlling behavior like taking charge of all finances or choosing what the partner should be wearing; a bad temper, possessiveness and extreme jealousy; cruelty to animals or children; and blaming the victim. An abuser may seem nice to those outside the relationship and often denies the existence of or seriousness of the violence.

Abusers often put unrelenting focus on the victim and use guilt, threats and manipulation to convince a victim to stay in the relationship. Children can be witnesses to domestic violence by seeing it, hearing it in another room, or even witnessing the aftermath like injuries or ripped clothing. All will have lasting impacts on the children and should not be discredited.

The Centers for Disease Control said witnessing violence in the home and a history of trauma are both risk factors for dating violence among teens. A 2013 national survey found 10 percent of high school students reported physical victimization from a dating partner in the 12 months before they were surveyed. Often this information goes unreported because victims may feel isolated, depressed and helpless. They may still love the abuser and hope for change in the future or they may not know where to turn for help.

The effects of domestic violence are far-reaching not just for the partners involved but also for the children who may witness it. Witnessing violence by seeing, hearing, or observing the aftermath can leave children feeling anxious, fearful and angry. Often these situations become so volatile the children must be removed from their homes and put into the care of the state, exacerbating those feelings.

Children coming from domestic violence situations need caring, consistent adults to listen to them and help navigate their feelings. When a child comes into the foster care system that person is often the Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA.

CASA advocates are every day community members who volunteer their time to get to know a child in the foster care system. They visit the child monthly, develop a relationship with them, and research the reasons the child was brought into care. The CASA is the eyes and ears of the judge out in the community, collecting information, interviewing interested parties, and making recommendations that are in the best interest of the child. CASA advocates work as part of the court team to help identify the best solution for that child. Because a CASA advocate typically focuses on one case at a time, they are often the most consistent person in the child's life while in care. Recently one CASA reflected, "There's something really momentous to have been monitoring a case and to have created relationships with people in all aspects of the case, then to have the judge in the courtroom saying, 'What does the CASA recommend?' I mean, just the idea that you could actually make a difference in a child's life, how important is that?"

Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October is the perfect time to learn the warning signs of domestic abuse and find a way to help a survivor in your community. CASA of Coconino County is always in need of volunteers to advocate for kids with this kind of history. There are currently 1,079 CASA volunteers in Arizona serving 1,873 dependent children and only 1 out of 8 foster children in Arizona has a CASA volunteer. The need for more CASA volunteers is critical.

Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers must be 21 years of age or older, pass a thorough background check and complete 30 hours of pre-service training. Advocates usually spend 10-12 hours per month working on their case and are asked to stick with the case for its duration. For more information on these programs or to speak with a current volunteer visit CASAofCoconinoCounty.org or contact Cindy Payne @ 928-226-5433 or LPayne@courts.az.gov. The CASA volunteer application is easy to complete @ <http://www.azcourts.gov/casaofcoconinocounty/Apply-Now>.

In regard to Domestic Violence, anonymous, confidential help is available 24/7, through the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY). For more information on the dynamics of domestic violence visit ncadv.org.

Opioid Crisis Talking Points and Q&A for CASA Volunteers, 2017 Overview

Because CASA/GAL programs play a critical role in supporting children impacted by parental opioid abuse, National CASA is ramping up communications and outreach in this area to help local programs recruit volunteers and raise public awareness about the crisis' impact on the children we serve.

Internal Considerations

The opioid crisis should not be presented as uniquely destructive compared to previous crises, such as the crack epidemic of the 1980s that was treated much differently.

Key Messages

1. Children are the silent victims of an opioid crisis that is tearing families apart and helping fuel an 8 percent growth in the nationwide foster system since 2012, reversing earlier progress. In some states, substance abuse and other factors are ballooning the foster population by double-digit numbers, putting a significant strain on the court and child welfare systems.

2. CASA volunteers provide much needed relief to our overburdened court system while ensuring that a child affected by parental opioid abuse does not have to face the future alone. Our highly trained volunteers often have a caseload of one—one child or group of siblings—which allows them to devote the personal attention necessary to truly understand the circumstances and find the best solution possible for each child.

3. A recent nationwide survey of CASA programs puts the opioid crisis in perspective: 85 percent of all programs see opioid abuse as affecting the children and families they serve. And across programs that collect referral data during the first half of 2017 report that 64 percent of all the children they serve are impacted by parental opioid abuse.

4. CASA programs are critical in the fight against opioid abuse and provide a significant return-on-investment for local communities dealing with this crisis. However, new volunteers are desperately needed in every state and in hundreds of counties across the country. If you aren't able to volunteer, you can support us by donating money or telling others about the need.

Quick Numbers

Nationally of 387 CASA and GAL programs surveyed, 85 percent see opioid abuse affecting the children they serve and 67 percent believe it is a strain on the child welfare system.

For the 88 programs surveyed that track opioid abuse data, 64 percent of all children they serve are impacted by opioid abuse.

Over the last five years, the foster care population has grown by 8 percent nationally, while federal funding for foster care decreased by 2 percent over the same period.

In Arizona, the number of children in foster care increased 63 percent from 2011 to 2015.

From 2004 to 2013, the proportion of infants born exposed to drugs—mainly opioids—increased nearly sevenfold in rural counties across the country.

Q & A

Is this really a crisis?

While parental substance abuse is not new, health experts across the nation call this a crisis, and we've seen a significant increase in the foster care population that is at least partially driven by opioid abuse, particularly in states like Arizona and Maine where the numbers have increased by 63 and 45 percent, respectively.

How does this compare to the crack epidemic in the 1980s?

You will have to speak with public health officials for detailed information comparing opioids to other drugs. We're just pleased that light is being shed on substance abuse issues and the needs of children who have experienced trauma as a result of parental substance abuse. We're committed to helping every child who needs our advocacy.

Are you focused on opioids because of the demographics involved?

National CASA's primary interest is ensuring that every child who has been abused or neglected—no matter their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status—has a caring, committed and highly-trained volunteer advocating for their best interest. We are talking about opioids because opioids are affecting children's lives.

Q & A on the Opioid Crisis continued from page five

Is this about removing children from the homes of addicted parents?

We know that children achieve the best outcomes when it is safe for them to be with their families; that is at the core of the CASA model and our volunteer training. The vast majority of the cases we see involve children who have already been removed from their home. Particularly in cases involving substance abuse, our volunteers advocate for services for the parents with the hope they can work towards reunification with their children.

How often does reunification happen?

In 2016, our network-wide data showed that 47 percent of all children with a CASA volunteer returned home after their case was closed.

Are you concerned about other drugs?

Yes, National CASA is concerned about children suffering from effects of parental substance abuse, including alcohol, and our volunteer training covers how substance abuse affects parents and how a CASA volunteer can effectively advocate for a family impacted by it.

Kid Conversation Starters

When are you
(or have been)
most afraid?

What has been
the happiest day
of your life?

If you could change
one thing in the world
what would you
change?

If you could change
one thing about yourself
what would you change?

What is
the one thing
you couldn't live
without?

What is your
favorite movie
of all time?
Why?

What cartoon
character would you
most like to be
and why?

What is the
worst thing about
being ___ years old?

What is the
best thing about
being ___ years old?

Describe your
perfect day.

What job would
you like to have
when you grow up?

Who is your
best friend?
Why are they your
best friend?

Six Things You Should Know About Growing up in Foster Care

By Mary Lee

When I was about 12 years old, I was removed from my family and placed into the Tennessee child welfare system as a foster child. I had to pack all my belongings into trash bags and leave the home I knew behind. Roughly five years later, one week before my 18th birthday, I was adopted by my forever family.

I was very, very fortunate. I went on to earn undergraduate and law degrees and found a career where I can work every day to help foster children and youth. I work in a program that helps young people who age out of state custody without ever being reunited with their families or finding a new one through adoption. Last week, I was one of 12 foster care advocates honored by the White House as Foster Care Champions of Change. We all can help the 400,000 children in foster care and the 23,000 who will turn 18 and “age out” of foster care alone this year.

But to do that, we need more people to understand foster children and the unique challenges they face. Here are six things foster children and youth want you to know.

1. Many of us could avoid foster care if the right help were provided to our parents. Intensive services that strengthen and restore struggling families can keep children out of foster care entirely. That’s best for most kids — and society. Just the act of entering the foster care system, being taken away from your family, is traumatic and can cause serious emotional damage. The state just isn’t equipped to be a parent.

2. Thankfully, most children don’t actually “grow up” in foster care anymore. There was a time when a baby could enter foster care only to exit at 18. Now, under federal regulations, states are required to help children and youth find a permanent family situation more quickly than before. In 2013, the average length of stay in foster care was 13.5 months. That’s still too long in the life of a child. Children enter foster care at all ages. The greatest need is for people to become foster and adoptive parents to teenagers. Most of the young people who age out of foster care at 18 enter foster care as teenagers or have had multiple foster care stints.

3. The system is a scary place for children. Even if your family is chaotic, neglectful or abusive, being taken away from everything you’ve known is terrifying. Imagine having to go live with strangers, often a series of strangers, and there’s nothing you can do. Foster children have no control over their lives, and that lack of control causes continual insecurity. They don’t know how long they’ll be in a particular foster home or where they’ll be going to school next month or next year. Foster teens aren’t allowed to do

many things other teens do, like getting a drivers license or going to sleepovers. Just the act of entering foster care can cause serious emotional trauma. In fact, one study found that foster children are more likely to suffer PTSD than combat veterans.

4. Most foster parents are good people, but there aren’t enough of them. Most foster parents aren’t like the ones you see on TV news in unfortunate ways. They try hard and do the best they can to help the children who come to them. There just aren’t enough good foster homes. When foster care is at its best, each child is matched with a family who best meets his or her specific needs and interests. Stays are really temporary — a month or so, as intensive services are provided to parents or kinship care is found. In today’s systems, most often kids go to the foster home that has an empty bed. Some children end up in group homes, shelters or other congregate care facilities. That’s worse.

5. Foster kids are good kids in a bad situation. Foster kids are just kids — like your kids. But they’ve experienced more difficult situations and hard times than most adults ever will. Some develop emotional and behavioral problems and challenging behaviors. Most have tough outer shells to protect themselves from more hurt and rejection. They desperately need committed adults to make a difference in their lives. They want someone to cheer for them at their football games, go to ballet recitals, help with homework.

6. Adopting from foster care is not as hard as you would think. Heard about how expensive adoptions are? Well, not from foster care. When you foster-to-adopt, you’ll receive a reimbursement to cover the cost of providing for another child in your home, and you may qualify for a continuing support after adoption. The child’s health care and college expenses may be covered as well. And you may be surprised to hear that most teens want to be adopted; I was 17 when I was adopted and my family is still so important to me today.

In every state system, there are thousands of children and youth who haven’t received the help they need to be reunited with their family or find a new one through adoption. We can do better than this and we should.

Mary Lee is national coordinator for YVLifeSet, a program of Youth Villages that provides help to youth who age out of state custody at 18 without continuing support. The program was recently the focus of an MDRC/University of Chicago study that found it increases earnings and economic wellbeing, improves mental health and decreases homelessness and partner violence for the young people who participate in it. For more information, visit www.YVLifeSet.org.

Follow Mary Lee on Twitter: www.twitter.com/maryrachaallee

Arizona's new approach to parents, children, and opioids in Cochise County

Sue Smith For the Arizona Range News
September 20, 2017

Over a five week period this summer, there were nine reported opioid overdoses in Cochise County alone.

To combat the epidemic, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey recently designated opioid addiction a statewide health emergency.

As is so often the case with substance abuse, children are the ones who pay the highest price. Over the past two months, about 161 babies were born in Arizona exhibiting signs of drug withdrawal.

Substance exposed newborns are the most vulnerable children because they suffer the deleterious effects of drug abuse on the very first day they enter this world.

In addition, those children face a significantly higher risk of abuse and neglect if their parents drug abuse continues unabated.

But even if a parent is struggling with addiction, it doesn't mean they stop loving their kids. They are just suffering from a disease that oftentimes overwhelms them with despair.

That's why the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) has adopted an innovative approach that offers hope to parents who are battling addiction.

In the past, a parent who gave birth to a baby with opioids or other illegal substances in their system could expect to have their child taken away immediately and returned after the parents achieved sobriety.

However, trying to overcome a drug habit while having your family torn apart was often too much for parents to handle, causing many to become frustrated and surrender to their vices.

DCS Director Greg McKay and his leadership team recognized this challenge and decided the only substantive way to improve outcomes for Arizona's children was to look for ways to strengthen families.

So we implemented the Substance Exposed Newborn Safe Environment program (SENSE).

SENSE offers parents a helping hand during their battle with addiction while keeping families together and children out of the state's care.

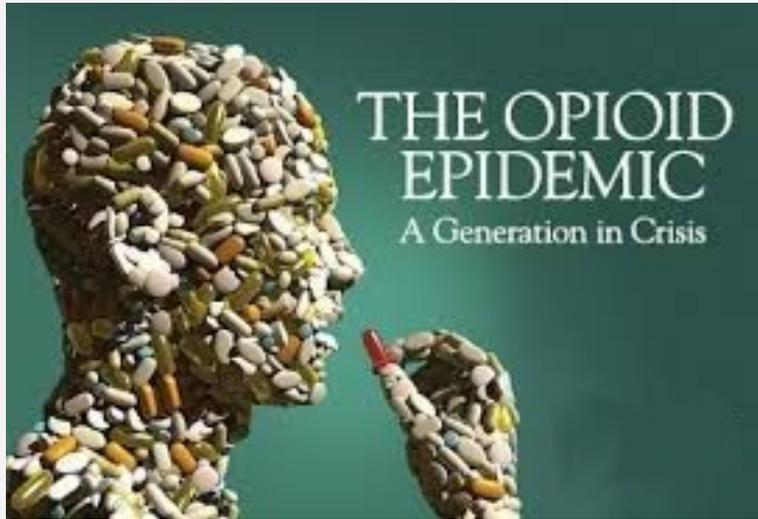
We don't want Cochise County parents to feel like they have to make a choice between conquering addiction and keeping their children. Admitting that you need medical help and finding a way to address that problem should be encouraged, not punished.

The SENSE program allows children to remain in the home, provided there are no other safety issues, while their parents receive substance abuse treatment and family counseling services.

Parents must consent to participate in the program which includes intensive in-home services for the family. Parents can expect to receive up to five visits a week from service providers, including in-home visits from a nurse.

So far, the program has been a success.

The data studied from Maricopa County has shown 90 percent of families that completed the SENSE program had no DCS reports 6 months after completion of services.



DCS is planning on expanding the program to Cochise County in response to the burgeoning population of newborns exposed to substances, including an increase in opiates, during pregnancy.

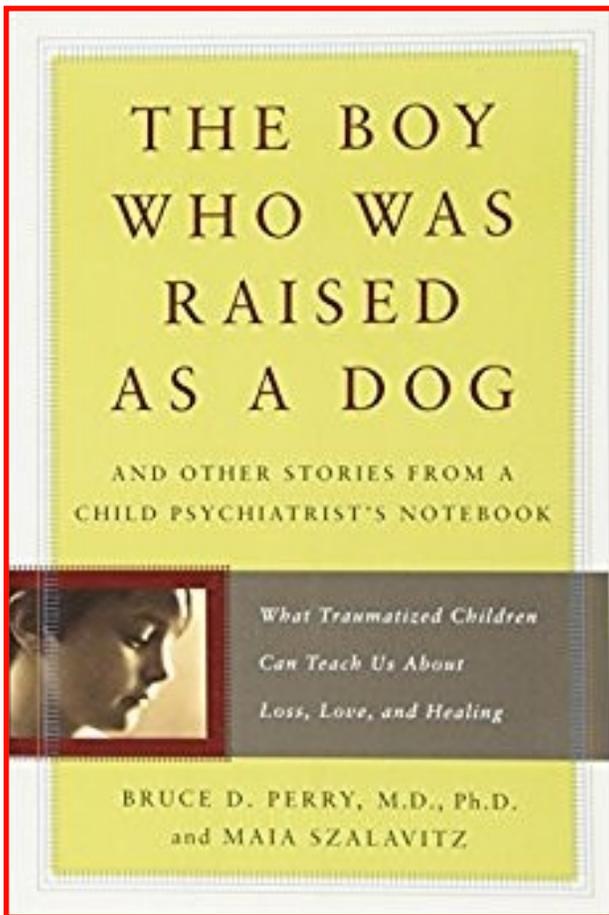
SENSE is a family-centered, strengths-based approach to serving families while holding them accountable for healthy choices and behavioral changes.

Everyone must work together to protect Arizona's most vulnerable children against the opioid epidemic.

It is the entire community's responsibility to keep children safe and to support families.

And strengthening families to help them avoid entering the child welfare system benefits everyone because strong families are the bedrock of strong communities.

Sue Smith is the Administrator of the Arizona Department of Child Safety's Office of Prevention.



JOIN CASA COLLEAGUES ON OCTOBER 10 @ 5:30 PM OR OCTOBER 11 @ 11:30 AM TO DISCUSS "THE BOY WHO WAS RAISED AS A DOG" AND THE IMPACT THIS BOOK HAS ON OUR WORK AS CASA VOLUNTEERS.

In beautifully written, fascinating accounts of experiences working with emotionally stunted and traumatized children, child psychiatrist Perry educates readers about how early-life stress and violence affects the developing brain. He offers simple yet vivid illustrations of the stress response and the brain's mechanisms with facts and images that crystallize in the mind without being too detailed or confusing. The stories exhibit compassion, understanding and hope as Perry paints detailed, humane pictures of patients who have experienced violence, sexual abuse or neglect, and Perry invites the reader on his own journey to understanding how the developing child's brain works. He learns that to facilitate recovery, the loss of control and powerlessness felt by a child during a traumatic experience must be counteracted. Recovery requires that the patient be "in charge of key aspects of the therapeutic interaction." He emphasizes that the brain of a traumatized child can be remolded with patterned, repetitive experiences in a safe environment. Most importantly, as such trauma involves the shattering of human connections, "lasting, caring connections to others" are irreplaceable in healing; medications and therapy alone cannot do the job. "Relationships are the agents of change and the most powerful therapy is human love," Perry concludes. (Jan.)

How does trauma affect a child's mind—and how can that mind recover? In the classic *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog*, Dr. Perry explains what happens to the brains of children exposed to extreme stress and shares their lessons of courage, humanity, and hope. Only when we understand the science of the mind and the power of love and nurturing, can we hope to heal the spirit of even the most wounded child.

Although many parents fret over how to raise a more academically and financially successful child, Perry has learned a thing or two about how not to raise a prospective sociopath. Here he shares the stories of several children he has encountered in his decades as a child psychiatrist and expert on childhood trauma. Each child, from the seven-year-old who offered him sexual favors to the eponymous boy who spent his early years living in a dog cage, taught Perry something about the effects of early childhood trauma on brain development. His discoveries contradict the formerly held precept that children are emotionally resilient and will outgrow insults to their psyches. On the contrary, he says, severe and occasionally even not-so-severe emotional or physical abuse can chemically alter early brain development, resulting later in the inability to make appropriate, socially sanctioned behavioral decisions. Perry doesn't promote what he calls the "abuse excuse" for antisocial or criminal behavior; rather, he makes a powerful case for early intervention for disruptive children to prevent adult sociopathy.

OCTOBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OCT 1	2	3 TRAINING	4	5 TRAINING	6	7
8	9	10 TRAINING	11 TRAINING	12	13	14
15	16	17 TRAINING	18 TRAINING	19 TRAINING	20 ACADEMY	21 ACADEMY
22	23 DINNER	24	25	26 TRAINING	27	28
29	30	31	NOV 1	2	3	4

OCTOBER OPPORTUNITIES:

Every CASA volunteer is required to participate in twelve (12) hours of training each calendar year. Here are some October training opportunities. We look forward to seeing you at as many as you can attend. RSVP with session and your name to reserve your seat.

September 27th: Childhood Trauma @ 6:15 to 7:45pm in Juvenile Court Courtroom, facilitated by Dr. Angela Keith as an introduction to our fall reading book "The Boy who was Raised as a Dog"; RSVP: LPayne@courts.az.gov

October 3rd: 4th Annual Adverse Childhood Experiences Forum; Phoenix; Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/4th-annual-adverse-childhood-experiences-aces-forum-tickets-37041887282>

October 5th: Workshop For Parents of Children with Special Needs: Positive Behavior Support @ 6:00-8:00pm

October 10th: Evening book discussion of "The Boy who was Raised as a Dog"; 5:30—6:30 pm; Juvenile Court; RSVP: LPayne@courts.az.gov

October 11th: 2nd Wednesdays 11:30—1:00 pm —CASA Training and Support Group - Juvenile Court; RSVP: LPayne@courts.az.gov — During October and November this monthly meeting time will be devoted to discussion of "The Boy who was Raised as a Dog".

October 17, 18 or 19th: Changing How we Think about and Respond to Trauma, Connections and Families, with Kevin Campbell; sponsored by Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth. Oct. 17 & 19 at Little America, Flagstaff, 8:00 am—5:00 pm; Oct. 18 at Page High School Auditorium, Page, AZ 9:00 am—4:00 pm. \$10 cost to cover lunch. RSVP soon to virginia@coconinokids.org.

October 20-21: Coconino County CASA Training Academy; Juvenile Court; 8:00 am—5:00 pm

October 23 4:00-9:00 pm—Fundraiser for Best for Babies at Big Foot BBQ—ask that your dinner be credited toward the Best for Babies Fundraiser anytime between 4:00 and 9:00 p.m.

October 26 11:30—1:00 pm—Best for Babies Daddy Bootcamp; facilitated by Jason Carpenter from FMC; RSVP to MMartin@courts.az.gov.

November 17 SAVE THE DATE; Best for Babies workshop—time and date TBA

COCONINO CASA FOR KIDS, INC.

Supporting CASAs and
abused, neglected and
abandoned children

www.coconinocasaforkids.org

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Brian Blue, Member
Marti Martin, Member
Amber Martin, Ex Officio

Meet CASA Volunteer

Krista Bush

I was born in Wichita Kansas. I am a Parent Aide for CPLC Parenting Arizona. I have been doing this work for only about a month. This is my second time with Parenting Arizona. I was previously a Home Visitation Coordinator/Office Manager. I also teach parenting

classes that include a court ordered parenting class for parents in high conflict child custody cases. I have been teaching parenting classes for over 8 years. I like Flagstaff for the small town feel with benefits of a larger city. I love the downtown area and all the cool festivals and stuff that happens here. My favorite places to eat and hang out are all local. I chose to become a CASA because I truly believe that children need a voice when it comes to the court system when their worlds are impacted by the choices the adults in their lives make; whether that is because of dependency or because of their parents divorce.



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