

SEPT 2022

CASA CORNER



UPCOMING COURT DATES

IBERIA PARISH

September 09, 2022

September 20, 2022

ST. MARTIN PARISH

September 01, 2022

September 15, 2022

ST. MARY PARISH

September 14, 2022

CASA BIRTHDAYS

Chasity Morales - Sept. 5
Theresa Burleigh - Sept. 18

CRISIS HOTLINE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

ANYONE COULD BE STRUGGLING WITH SUICIDE...

- Black Mental Health
- Native American and Alaskan Natives
- Attempt Survivors
- Maternal Mental Health
- Veterans
- Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Hearing Loss
- Youth
- Loss Survivors
- Ayuda En Espanol
- Individuals with Neurodivergence
- Disaster Survivors
- LGBTQ+

SUICIDE & CRISIS HOTLINE DIAL 988



BABY SAFETY MONTH

We often think of babies and toddlers when we hear the words "babyproofing" or "childproofing." And it's true that young kids have the highest risk of being injured at home because that's where they spend most of their time. But accidental injury is the leading cause of death in kids up to 14 years old – and more than a third of these injuries happen at home. Most household accidents happen in areas with: **water, heat/flames, toxic substances, the potential for a fall, and choking hazards.** Even if your home is childproofed, it only takes an instant for babies and toddlers to fall, run over to a hot stove, or put the wrong thing in their mouths. Your watchfulness is your child's best defense. Common causes of home-injury deaths are **fire and burns, suffocation, drowning, choking, falls, poisoning, and guns.** Here are some simple ways to help prevent injuries in your home:

- Learn CPR & the age-appropriate Heimlich maneuver.
- Keep these numbers near the phone (for yourself and caregivers):
 - poison-control number **(1-800-222-1222)**, doctor's number, parents' work and cell phone numbers, neighbor's or nearby relative's number



BABY SAFETY MONTH

- Make a first-aid kit and keep emergency instructions inside.
- Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Change the batteries regularly.

5 TIPS FOR NEW PARENTS

- Check to make sure your car seat is installed correctly.
- Before putting your baby down for a nap or for the night, remember that a firm mattress and fitted sheet are all you need for your baby's crib. Remove blankets and toys from the crib and use a sleep sack on colder nights.
- Place your baby's crib and other furniture away from windows to avoid falls or strangulation. Your baby is safer without any strings or cords within reach.
- Remember to set your water heater to 120° F to avoid scalds. This will make sure that the water never gets to a point that could injure the baby.
- Install working smoke alarm AND a carbon monoxide alarm on every level of your home, and in all sleeping areas.



CASA OF THE MONTH

RHONDA JAMES

I am a mother and grandmother to 3. I am retired from the workforce and I am an Army veteran. I enjoy hobbies such as reading, working out, and bowling in a local league. I am also a (blank) year member of the amazing, local community group, Iberia African American Historical Society. IAAHS is a nonprofit corporation operated exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. The mission of the organization is to foster the appreciation, understanding, and teaching of the long, rich, and unique history of African Americans in Iberia Parish; and also, by example and through programs and activities, to encourage and promote research, preservation, and publication of historical materials related to the history of African Americans in Iberia Parish.

Being the voice for children in the foster care system is the best part of being a CASA for me and I love sharing my role as a CASA with people I meet; especially when I wear my CASA T-shirt! It's a great conversation starter. My mom always told me to always be kind to others; great advice that still works!



CASA'S WITH CHILDREN WITH JULY BIRTHDAYS

Rhonda James - 1 child (Sept 3rd)

Terry Magar - 1 child (Sept 7th)

Niaja Jones - 1 child (Sept 24th)

PLEASE contact the office about your party in a bag.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, **September 13th** at 5:30 pm in the Court House Annex Conference Room.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

If you would like a CASA Staff Member to speak about suicide prevention at your next event please email amanda.landry@casa16jdc.org

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

The Problem...

Pre-Covid-19 pandemic, more than **8 million students** nationwide were missing so many days of school that they were academically at risk. Today chronic absence has **more than doubled**. Chronic absence – missing 10 percent or more of school days due to absence for any reason – excused, unexcused absences and suspensions, can translate into students having difficulty learning to read by the third-grade, achieving in middle school, and graduating from high school.

THE PROBLEM

TRUANCY VS CHRONIC

3 TIER INTERVENTION

STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOLS

SYSTEMIC CHANGE



Children Living in Poverty are...

2-3x more likely to be chronically absent – and face the most harm because their community lacks the resources to make up for the lost learning in school. In many cases, chronic absence goes unnoticed because schools are counting how many students show up every day rather than examining how many and which students miss so much school that they are falling behind.

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Truancy vs Chronic Absence

Chronic absence isn't simply a matter of truancy or skipping school. In fact, many of these absences, especially among our youngest students, are excused. Often absences are tied to physical and mental health problems. Other barriers including lack of a nearby school bus, a safe route to school, or food insecurity make it difficult to go to school every day. The good news is that our work throughout the country shows us that chronic absence is a solvable problem. The key is using chronic absence data as a diagnostic tool to identify where prevention and early intervention are needed. Taking a data-driven, comprehensive approach that begins with engaging students and families as well as preventing absences from adding up before they fall behind academically; schools, families and community partners can together determine the causes of chronic absence, and implement approaches that address barriers to getting to class. The Federal **Every Student Succeeds Act** **requires districts and states to collect chronic absence data and report it publicly.** The majority of states have adopted chronic absence as a measure for school accountability. By working together, we can ensure all children can get to school every day so they have an opportunity to learn, flourish and realize their dreams.

TRUANCY

- counts only unexcused absences
- emphasizes compliance with school rules
- relies on legal & administrative solutions

VS

CHRONIC ABSENCE

- counts ALL absences (excused, unexcused, & suspensions)
- emphasizes academic impact of missed days
- uses community-based, positive strategies

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

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Foundational Supports are...

practices for the whole school that prevent student absenteeism by establishing a strong school community, building relationships and ensuring effective communication. Some supports, such as access to computer equipment, internet connectivity, access to learning support for students, and support for families to help them facilitate learning at home are even more fundamental when instruction is remote. When resources are not in place, it is the responsibility of the school and community to put them in place.

The 3 Tiers of Intervention

- **Tier I** - aimed at encouraging better attendance for all students & at preventing absenteeism before it affects achievement.
- **Tier II** - designed to address barriers to attendance for students at greater risk of chronic absenteeism, such as those who missed 10% of the school year, the standard definition of chronic absenteeism. These students and families should receive personalized attention as part of the engagement strategy.
- **Tier III** - provide intensive support to students missing the most school, often involving not just schools but other agencies such as health, housing and social services, & typically requiring case management customized to individual students' challenges. Such students miss 20% or more of the school year.

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Engage Students & Parents

Attendance improves when a school community offers a warm and welcoming environment that emphasizes building relationships with families and stresses the importance of going to class every day.

Monitor Attendance Data & Practice

The best way to identify students with chronic absence, is to use the attendance data already collected by schools to examine which and how many students are missing missing 10% or more of the school year.

Recognize Good & Improved Attendance

School communities can send a clear message that going to school every day is a priority by providing regular recognition and incentives to students and families who have good and improved attendance.

Provide Personalized Early Outreach

Such outreach is essential for identifying barriers to attendance – hunger, access to health care, homelessness, transportation, etc– and the supports or resources that would help improve attendance.

Develop Programmatic Response to Barriers

If large numbers of students are affected by chronic absence, that suggests some type of systemic barrier or barriers are at play. Once it is clear that chronic absence is a problem in your school and for which groups of children, use qualitative and quantitative information to examine what factors might be affecting attendance

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

CAPACITY BUILDING

Provide professional development to district and school staff and community partners so they have the skills and knowledge they need to take a data-driven, positive, problem-solving and multi-tiered approach to supporting student attendance, participation and engagement.

ADEQUATE, EQUITABLE RESOURCES

Resources & funding are sufficient to ensure students, from all backgrounds and circumstances, receive a quality education and similar opportunities to thrive and achieve in school, career and college.

ACTIONABLE DATA

Collect & report quantitative attendance and chronic absence data and qualitative analysis that can show reasons that students miss school that are accurate, accessible, timely, comprehensive and understandable. These data will inform the development of prevention & intervention strategies & allocation of resources that support student attendance.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Strengthen and expand partnerships between the district, school and community to provide for a full range of resources and supports to address barriers to attendance.

POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT

Create a culture of attendance by taking a positive approach to absenteeism that is centered on belonging and engagement. Blended & distance learning environments incorporate relationship and community building strategies and engage students and families when developing key decisions.

SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY

Absenteeism is a cross-cutting issue & cannot be solved by any one person, department or agency. Create systems & cross-departmental and infrastructure support for attendance, and hold stakeholders responsible for helping to reduce chronic absence. Shared accountability should guarantee the regular collection, monitoring and sharing of attendance metrics to support problem solving and resource allocation.

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CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY NETWORK



ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

The Children's Advocacy Network is hosting their annual fundraising event on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at the Randolph Riverfront Center. They hope you can join them for a great evening that supports a wonderful local cause. This event is one of the CENLA's premier functions and is attended by leaders from the corporate, medical, and social communities.

LET'S RAISE \$175,000

FOR CASA

Each year the Children's Advocacy Network serves approximately 1,000 abused and neglected children through their advocacy, counseling, forensic interviews and case management services.

LOCAL SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Because of this support of their community over the last decade, they have been able to increase the service area for CASA, purchase a mobile unit for forensic interviews, add a therapy program to help heal children and provide medical exams onsite allowing the child to avoid the unpleasant experience of the local emergency room.



SAVE THE DATE

GALA & AUCTION	8 SEPT
TIME	5:00PM
LOCATION	RANDOLPH RIVERFRONT CENTER, ALEXANDRIA, LA

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY NETWORK
www.childrensadvocacy.net

VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

CASA Superhero Run

Volunteers for Youth Justice has opened up registration for their annual CASA Superhero Run. The event will take place on **September 24th in Shreveport**. Registrants can choose to participate in the 5K, 10K, Fun Run, or Walk. For more information, registration forms, and sponsorship opportunities, please visit their website <https://vyjla.org/casa-superhero-run/>

Early Registration is \$25 through September 9th.

\$30.00 September 10th – September 23rd.

Race Day Registration is \$35.

T-SHIRTS & RACE PACKET PICKUP: Every pre-registered participant will receive a “VYJ CASA Superhero Run” t-shirt. **Packet pick up will be held at Sportspectrum Thursday, September 22nd from 12PM to 6:00PM, & Friday, September 23rd from 10:00AM – 5:30PM.** You may also pick up your packet on Race Day at the Race Site at 7:00AM.

AWARDS: Overall Male & Female finishers in the 5k & 10k race will receive a \$200.00 Cash Prize. Additionally, 1st and 2nd place age group winners in both the 5k & 10k will receive a medal.

AGE GROUPS: 14- under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+

POST PARTY: Stick around after the race for snacks and drinks.



<https://www.louisianacasa.org/event-details/casa-superhero-run>