



Help SFCASA to Improve Youth Outcomes and Support for Advocates!

In March 2020 SFCASA moved from a lengthy monthly survey to a short quarterly survey aligned with our core advocacy areas: Education, Placement, Community Connections, Healthcare, and Independent Living Skills (ages 16-21). *These quarterly submissions by advocates are essential for our impact evaluation and continuous quality improvement work, a critical component of the ambitious reporting and evaluation program we embarked upon with our move to Salesforce/Advocate Link two years ago.*

65% of advocates submitted surveys in our first three quarters (March, June and September 2020), a significant improvement from the 8% submission rate for the monthly survey, and still leaving plenty of room for improvement. Your responses help us learn about specific case trends, what's working, and what isn't... and in the aggregate about whole organization trends, needs and opportunities. Presently we are wrapping up an analytics consultancy focused on improved, multi-tier reporting. This together with longitudinal quarterly survey data will anchor our continuous learning system to better support volunteers and staff in our relationship-based advocacy to meet the needs and improve outcomes for youth and families.

And beginning in early 2021 we look forward to sharing with you regularly about the impact of your advocacy in addition to improvements in Advocate Link (including a mobile app). In the meantime please complete and submit your December quarterly survey using the unique email link you should have received on December 1st. And, as always, [Erika](#) and [Janey](#) are happy to answer any questions or learn any feedback you may have about [activity log](#) and/or quarterly survey submission. Please don't hesitate to reach out—we love hearing and learning from you!

Congratulations to our Fall 2020 Training Cohort!



Welcome our newest virtual training class of CASAs to be sworn in a few weeks ago! We are excited to support you as you embark on your CASA journey.

This was our final training of 2020 and we are grateful to all of the CASAs who joined us virtually this year. We are in awe of your commitment and feedback!

Employer Matching Gifts

Do you work for a company that matches contributions or volunteer hours? The deadline is likely coming up this month to submit your 2020 volunteer hours or contributions (including fingerprint donations) for matching. Check on your employer intranet or with your HR department. The matching gifts really add up for SFCASA!

Tutors available for English Language Learners and students with special needs

SFCASA has a new remote tutoring partnership with [Classroom Matters](#). CM employs highly trained professional tutors and they are graciously offering tutoring for SFCASA youth free of charge. CM serves all students, but we especially recommend CM for ELL or students with special needs. Find out more information and enroll your youth [here](#).

SFCASA Holiday Gift Pick Up



SFCASA's holiday gift pick up will take place **Friday and Saturday, December 11th and 12th** with locations in both San Francisco and the East Bay! If you haven't already, contact [Jackie Moncada](#) or your Case Supervisor to indicate which day and location you'd prefer. Once we have answers from the majority of advocates we'll send out timing and pick up instructions!

City Youth Now Gift Distribution

City Youth Now is teaming up with STEPs for a Holiday Gift Distribution event to provide gifts and holiday meals to foster and justice-involved youth and their siblings. City Youth Now will contact you to schedule a time to pick up the gift.

Take this short [survey](#) to request a gift! The deadline is **Friday, 12/04, at 5 pm**

Youth Holiday Personalized Gifts



We have a generous volunteer who creates customized wooden initial gifts for our young people. She takes requests for just about anything - everything from Fortnite to their favorite hobby like dancing and soccer!

Fill out this short [survey](#) to request a gift that would be available during SFCASA's holiday gift pick up days or can be shipped directly to you or your young person.

Juvenile Justice Booster Training Series

Delinquency Court Stakeholder Panel on **Wednesday, December 2** from 5:30-7:30 pm via Zoom (2 CE Credits)

Please join SFCASA's Delinquency Stakeholders Panel with representatives from the Superior Court of San Francisco, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office/Conflicts Panel, and the SF Juvenile Probation Department. The goal of the Juvenile Justice Panel Presentation is to provide you with a clearer understanding of the roles of the various participants in the delinquency court process, enhanced by examples of how a CASA volunteer may most effectively work with each party to support the best interests and well-being of juvenile justice involved youth.

Pulling it All Together and Getting Started on **Monday, December 14** from 5:30-7:30 pm via Zoom (2 CE Credits)

This training, focused on practical learning, will give the CASA a deeper understanding of the expectations of the role. SFCASA's Juvenile Justice Coordinator, Gabriela Bayol, will cover getting started, tips around engagement, court report writing, what to expect from JJ status review report and using Advocate Link. SFCASA's Educational Advocacy Specialist, Mia Ragent, will also go over how best to advocate for education and strategies that may be useful for CASA's working with JJ youth.

PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Training, Online [HERE](#) (2 CE Credits)

PREA supports the elimination, reduction and prevention of sexual assault within the corrections systems. The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA, P.L. 108-79) was enacted by Congress to address the problem of sexual abuse of persons in the custody of U.S. correctional agencies. The National Institute of Corrections has been a leader in this topic area since 2004, providing assistance to many agencies through information and training resources. This training is important for CASAs who are working with JJ youth, as anyone working and volunteering in a juvenile or adult detention facility must complete this training.

Email our [Training Specialist](#) to RSVP.

Upcoming CE Opportunities

Holiday Blues: Depression, Anxiety, and Suicide Prevention on **Tuesday, December 8** at 6-8 PM via Zoom (2 CE Credits) with Dr. Natalia Estassi.

The stress can increase their depression, anxiety, and trigger suicidal thoughts. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 1 million people die each year from suicide. It is the **SECOND** leading cause of death for ages 10-24 and the **THIRD** leading cause of death for college-age youth and ages 12-18. Four out of five teens who attempt suicide have given clear warning signs. Learn how to recognize these warning signs and what you can do to save a life. Review the signs and symptoms of depression and anxiety and how they are directly linked to suicide. Study misconceptions about suicide and how to address them in your work. Discuss several tips on preventing suicide, including how to assess the level of suicide risk. Explore common suicide risk factors for children and teens, including problems that may trigger a suicide attempt. Examine alarming statistics to remind you of your crucial role as providers to assess and address suicide with all our youth. Learn how you can make a difference!

Email our [Training Specialist](#) to register!

Do No Harm Podcast (4 CE Credits for six part series)

NBC News and Wondery host the [Do No Harm Podcast](#), a six part narrative series, which follows the intersecting paths of two families as they confront the dependency system- a legal and medical system that's so committed to protecting vulnerable children from abuse that it sometimes destroys the lives of innocent parents.

To receive CE credit, send your [reflection responses](#) to our [Training Specialist](#)!

Nemo says Hello!



Nemo wanted us to share how much he misses going to work and seeing all of his CASA and youth friends at court. For now, he will enjoy taking naps and playing fetch at home. Nemo wishes that you all have a happy and safe holiday season and hopes to see you soon!

