

SFCASA Newsletter

June 2021



Upcoming SFCASA CE Opportunities

Trauma Exposure: Supporting Your Youth and Yourself on Wednesday, June 9th, 2021, 5:30 - 7:30 PM on Zoom. (2 CE Credits) with Allison Roeser

How do you respond when the young person you serve experiences trauma? Whether it is a recent event, or past traumas, it is important to be aware of how trauma exposure might impact you as their Advocate. In this workshop you'll connect with others who have similar experiences, build community, and explore self-care strategies that can empower your advocacy. This CE is appropriate for ALL Advocates.

Register [here](#).

Cultural Sensitivity When Working with Families on Monday, June 14th, 6:00 - 8:00 PM on Zoom (2 CE Credits) with Dr. Natalia Estassi

Practicing cultural sensitivity requires looking beyond one's own experience and approaching the experiences of others without judgement. Explore the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on different minority groups and recommendations for CASAs on how to best manage these in a culturally sensitive way. What is acculturation? Understand how as providers we can better advocate and provide cross-cultural services to our youth and families. Review the importance of role-modeling, self-disclosure and the importance of how to set necessary boundaries.

Register [here](#).

Racism in the Child Welfare System on Wednesday, June 23rd, 6:00 - 8:00 PM on Zoom (2 CE Credits) with David Noble and Brisia Gutierrez of the Alliance for Children's Rights

Over the course of this training, participants will gain an overview of the history of racism in the child welfare system, the impacts of racism and bias in the system today, and how to employ cultural humility in engaging with young people in foster care. In addition, participants will explore ongoing efforts to make the system more equitable and just for Black and Brown families and communities.

Register [here](#).

Court Report Writing Webinar **Anytime, 1 CE Credit**

Brush up on your court report writing skills to ensure your report is as impactful as possible with our new 25 minute webinar. Remember to email your responses to the 4 CE questions to your case supervisor and Diane at training@sfcasa.org to receive your CE credit.

Webinar can be found [here](#), and response questions [here](#) on our website.

Anti-Racism Package #2- Recognizing and Confronting Implicit Bias **Anytime, 1 CE Credit**

This is the second anti-racism package developed for advocates to continue learning (and un-learning) how to be an anti-racist while serving as a CASA, and earning CE credits at the same time!

The package can be found on our website under the Anti-Racism tab [here](#), and remember to send your responses to the 4 CE questions to your Case Supervisor and Diane at training@sfcasa.org to receive CE credit. Thank you for engaging in this work.

Upcoming Partner Trainings (more can be found on our website)

Preparing for the Unknown: What Will Our Students in Foster Care Need as Our Schools Reopen? on Thursday, June 3rd from 10:00 to 11:30 AM on Zoom (1 CE Credit) **By FYSCP**

This webinar is geared toward helping our schools prepare for students' return in the fall. We know that many children have been in unsafe situations, experienced significant social isolation, food insecurity and other traumatic experiences over the last year due to the pandemic. Schools will have a glimpse of what is to come with hybrid reopening, but many LEAs across the state will not be in full in-person learning until the Fall of 2021. The presenter will help them consider next steps as they prepare for our students' return and help them think about the challenges ahead in a constructive way.

Register [here](#).

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Males on Friday, June 4th, from 9:30 to 4:30 PM on Zoom (7 CE Credits) **By Nola Brantley Speaks**

The sexual exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation of boys has been vastly overlooked as the focus has been cis girls. This training will cover the following topics: childhood sexual abuse of males, stigmas of masculinity, risk factors, and pathways of entry for boys into the commercial sex industry as victims, needs of male survivors, and strategies to engage male survivors.

Register [here](#).

Supporting Dual Status Youth: Intersections in Advocacy Virtual

Conference on June 10th and 11th from 12:00 - 5:00 PM on Zoom (10 CE Credits)

By LA CASA

Join Los Angeles CASA for a free virtual conference featuring many guest speakers from the juvenile justice and child welfare world. The agenda can be found [here](#) and registration is [here](#).

Strengthened Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well-Being Symposium on June 16th-18th

The Columbia Journal of Race and Law at Columbia Law School is hosting this symposium, featuring keynote speaker Dorothy Roberts and many other speakers and presentations on various topics related to re-imagining child welfare. You can view the program agenda [here](#) and register [here](#). CE credit will be offered for each presentation you attend, by the hour.

Cultural Perspectives on Trauma on Thursday, June 24th from 9:30-12:30 PM on Zoom (3 CE Credits)

By SF SOL

Given the disproportionate number of youth of color in the foster care system, it's imperative for social service providers to provide culturally relevant services. This 3-hour webinar will explore cultural perspectives on trauma, healing, and resiliency. With a greater cultural understanding of these concepts, providers will be able to increase their engagement with youth and families in more culturally meaningful ways.

Register [here](#) after confirming intent to attend with luna@sfcasa.org.

Help SFCASA Recruit New Advocates

By sharing our social media posts, you can help us grow our network and introduce others to the CASA role.

Here's a Facebook post you can share to help spread the word: [SFCASA Graduation](#)

You can follow SFCASA on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) to see our latest updates and share with friends and family.

Connecting with Community Event for Teens

Join SFCASA and community partners on July 16th for an afternoon of in-person activities in support of transitional age youth (TAY, 14-21) as they navigate their lives in a world that continues to change due to the pandemic.

Youth will learn about COVID safety and self-care, access resources, and build community with amazing grassroots organizations and active community members such as EJ Jones. He has supported District 11 by advocating for a COVID testing site and eventually a COVID Vaccination site that was accessible to members of

the community. Click [here](#) to check out some additional information about EJ's amazing work.

In addition, youth can enjoy snacks, win gift cards (including participation gift cards for all youth!), and receive some back to school gear. Keep an eye out for an email within the next 2 weeks with further details about location and time!

Reach out to SFCASA's TAY Coordinator Theodora Liebhart with any questions theodora@sfcasa.org.

Juvenile Justice Commission Openings

The San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center Improvement Committee has provided educational and vocational services to youth, 14-18 under the jurisdiction of the Courts for more than 27 years. The committee is made up of 15 private citizens, including at least 2 persons between 14 and 21 years of age, and meets once a month to:

- Ensure that facilities used for the confinement of a minor for more than twenty-four (24) hours conform to all applicable laws that govern such operations;
- Ensure that minors under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court receive care, treatment and guidance consistent with their best interest;
- Act in conformity with a comprehensive set of goals and objectives determined by the Commission to improve system performances; and
- Monitor compliance with established standards to ensure the health, education and welfare of minors under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court.

You can learn more about the commission [here](#). If you are interested in serving on the committee or have questions, please contact Yvette King at yking@sftc.org.

SFCASA x Outward Bound Ropes Course Day

Mark your calendars for the upcoming ropes course day exclusively for SFCASA youth in partnership with Outward Bound on August 14th, 2021!

[Outward Bound California](#) programs engage students with their peers in challenging environments. Students build self-reliance and self-confidence, compassion and an awareness of their community and the world in which they live. Outward Bound California strives for students to gain a greater willingness to challenge themselves emotionally, physically, academically, and, ultimately, to become positive leaders in their communities.

Youth ages 12 and up may attend with their CASAs, and depending on registration numbers, CASAs may be able to climb with their youth. Reach out to Luna at luna@sfcasa.org to register or obtain additional information.

Navigating College as a First-Generation Student Workshop for Youth

on Wednesday, June 16th at 5:30 PM

This workshop will cover how to navigate to college experience and culture, working and attending school simultaneously, and how to leverage the college experience to transition into a career. Featuring Professor Dori Pina of Santa Clara Law, a first generation student.

Youth may register [here](#).

Graduation Gifts for Youth



Is your youth graduating this month and interested in beauty and shoes?

We have beauty bags containing make-up, hair treatments, other fun beauty products, and Birdies plush slippers to celebrate your youth's accomplishments.

Reserve a pair of slides and/or a beauty bag by contacting Luna at Luna@sfcasa.org.

Please note that you must pick the items up at the office.

Snack Squad Paid Summer Opportunity for Rising 8th Graders & Up

Does your youth love food and cooking? **Snack Squad** is a paid summer opportunity for SFUSD rising 8th grade and up students, where students will engage with new ideas about food, food preparation and food justice.

Meetings will be held virtually on Monday and Wednesday afternoons 2-4 from June 7th through June 30th. Participants will earn a \$250 stipend as well as fresh produce and cooking supplies.

Register [here](#)!

June is LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

June is LGBTQIA+ Pride month, and we hope that along with celebrating their youth's identity and freedom to love themselves and others as they wish, advocates will take this opportunity to increase their awareness of the particular challenges LGBTQIA+ youth in foster care face, and prepare themselves to support and advocate for youth who identify as LGBTQIA+.

According to the recent report [Fostering Inequality 2020](#) by the nonprofit group, Children's Rights, LGBTQIA+ youth are more likely to age out without ever achieving permanency, experience homelessness, live in poverty, and suffer from chronic illness. In 2019, anti-LGBTQIA+ discriminatory groups were the fastest growing type of hate group in America, increasing by 43% in just one year.

Furthermore, LGBTQIA+ youth in out-of-home care are disproportionately people of color and are therefore exposed to compounding and unique inequities associated with their intersectional identities.

We have compiled a collection of resources for CASAs to explore to increase their competency when serving LGBTQIA+ youth, as well as events youth may wish to attend to be in community this month.

- [All Children, All Families- Caring for LGBTQ Families & Youth](#)
- [Youth.gov Resource Guide for LGBTQ Youth in Child Welfare System](#)
- [Pride Open House for Youth by LYRIC](#)

Healthy Relationship Classes for Teens

Can U Relate? healthy relationship courses are designed by the non-profit [Shores of Hope](#) to teach youth ages 14 and up the skills they need to cultivate healthy relationships in every arena of their lives- friends, romantic partners, co-workers, etc.

Utilizing a proven multi-media curriculum and a fun and connective presentation style, music videos, games, as well as gift card incentives, facilitators are trained to deliver life-altering information in a way that sticks and speaks to issues of both the heart and health that arise from relationships.

Courses can be completed as 10 90-minute sessions or 14 1 hour sessions. Sessions are held either Tuesday and Thursday mornings or Wednesday and Friday evenings and begin on June 15/16th.

Youth can learn more about the courses, read testimonials from past attendees, and register [here](#).

CASA Tip of the Month

Hang in there! Reaching out consistently to your youth, even if they don't respond, is a critical piece of building a trusting relationship.

