

SFCASA News

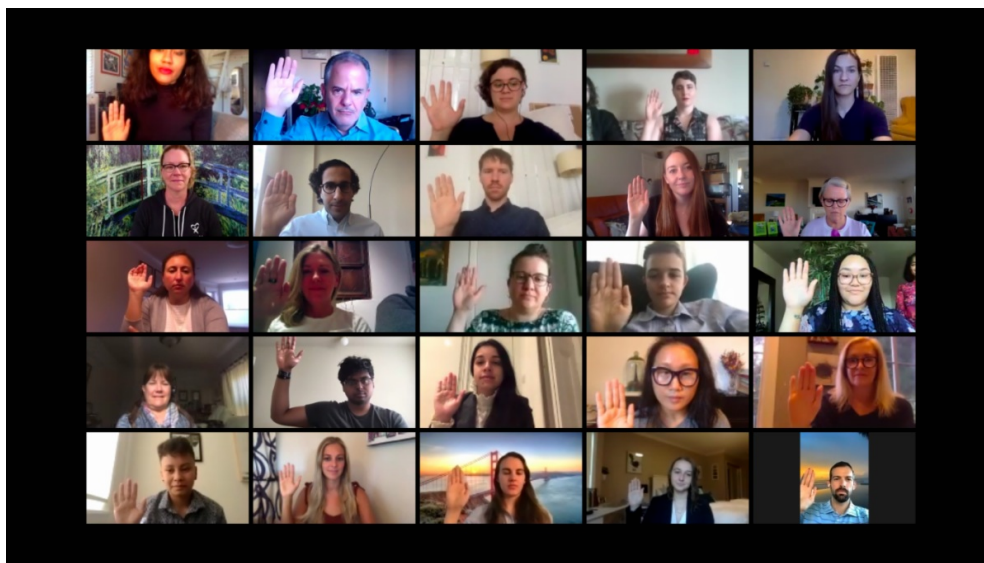


October 2020

Welcome Shiko!

We are excited to introduce our newest team member Shiko Wanjiku who joins SFCASA in the Program Manager role. Shiko arrives at SFCASA having most recently supported the Foster Ed site demonstration project for Contra Costa County through the National Center for Youth Law. Shiko also brings rich and diverse experiences working with autistic children and CSEC-involved youth to her work with advocates, colleagues and community partners.

Congratulations to our Summer Training Cohort!



We are excited to welcome our new cohort of CASAs from our summer virtual training! We are inspired by you and your commitment to the CASA role and look forward to supporting your work as advocates.

Juvenile Justice Booster Training Series

Delinquency Law and Processes on **Wednesday, October 14** from 5:30-7 pm via Zoom (2 CE Credits)

This training will be led by Assistant District Attorney and former CASA, Nicole Giacinti, and will give CASAs a basic understanding of how a case is processed through the juvenile justice system, from initial detention through placement and supervision. It will give clear distinctions between the juvenile justice court process and objectives and the child welfare court process and objectives, describe the role of the CASA in a juvenile justice case, and how it may differ from that of a CASA volunteer in a child welfare case.

Probation 101 on **Monday, October 26** from 2-4 pm via Zoom (2 CE Credits)
Probation 101 will offer a look into the role of the probation officer, the services they provide, and how SFCASA can best collaborate with the Juvenile Probation Department. This training will be conducted by Supervising Probation Officer, Derek Hom; Deputy Probation Officer and Training Coordinator, Kwanza Morton; Community Development Specialist for SFJPD, Adrian Garcia; and Juvenile Advisory Council Member, Angel.

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.

Mental Health, Behavioral Health, and Healthcare Services for Juvenile Justice Youth: *Community Provider Stakeholder Panel* on

Monday, November 16 from 5:30-7:30 pm via Zoom (2 CE Credits)

SFCASA welcomes representatives from Seneca's Assess Youth, Identify Needs, Integrate Information, Match to Services (AIIM) Higher and the SF Department of Public Health's Special Programs for Youth (SPY Clinic) to introduce and discuss important information regarding mental health and behavioral health services for Juvenile Justice Involved Youth. CASAs have an opportunity to learn about available services and how to advocate for your youth in accessing these services.

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.

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

Shattered Bonds CE



Join us on **Thursday, October 29th** for a very special CE opportunity. Professor Dorothy Roberts, the author of *Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare*, will join us for a presentation on race in the dependency system.

[Sign up here.](#)

Impact of Sexual Abuse on Children in Foster Care and How COVID-19 Has Affected Increased Rate of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Join Dr. Natalia Estassi on **Monday, October 19** at 6-8 pm on Zoom (2 CE Credits).

This training focuses on defining sexual abuse, and how to recognize signs and symptoms related to sexual abuse and trauma in children at various stages of their development. Information will be presented on sexual abuse and the traumatic

A CASA Community Network (CCN) Event: Strengthen Your Approach to Educational Advocacy

Are you wondering how to strengthen your role as an advocate during these challenging times of virtual learning and virtual advocacy?

Join the Community Network Committee on **Monday October 26** at 6-7 pm (1 CE Credit).

SFCASA Educational Advocacy Specialist, Mia Ragent, along with a representative from SFUSD will discuss the rights of a CASA in the school system, how to advocate

impact it can have on children and adolescents. Examine the connection between sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, reproductive health issues, and how to talk to teens about healthy relationships.

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

Check out our [calendar](#) to stay up to date on upcoming CE opportunities!

virtually, and access more resources. After a brief presentation, you will have the opportunity to participate in break-out rooms with other CASA's and share your challenges and successes. We will then return to the main room for Q&A with our speakers.

RSVP for the Zoom event [here](#).

Youth Holiday Gift Request



SFCASA is gearing up for our holiday gift drive, and we want to fulfill as many holiday wishes as we can this year! [Submit your youth's gift request here](#), and don't forget to include any stocking stuffer items they would like. Remember, don't ask them for their gift requests directly, be creative!

Requests are due Friday, **October 9th**.

Advocate Appreciation



Although we are disappointed not to be able to appreciate all of you in person this year, we are excited to do so virtually!

Don't forget to [RSVP for the Advocate Appreciation Zoom Session](#) on Monday, November 9th!

Make sure you sign up for your gift box by Wednesday, **October 7th**.

Remember to Complete your Q4 Survey!

Please complete the Q4 survey as soon as possible. If you can no longer find the emails containing the links sent on 9/1 and 9/14, please contact advocatelink@sfcasa.org and we will resend the link to you. Thanks for your support of our program impact and improvement efforts!

Educational Advocacy

As we continue the fall semester, here are some steps you can take to support your educational advocacy:

- Complete the [Education Survey](#) (K-12 only).
- Input the school placement for your youth (all ages) in A.L.
- Check out John Burton Advocates for Youth's upcoming webinar [Completing the FAFSA: A How-To for Adult Supporters of Foster Youth](#). Email your reflections to our [Training Specialist](#) to receive CE credit.

Please contact your Case Supervisor if you have any questions!

Creative Ways to Connect with Youth

- Send a care package with financial support from SFCASA's Sunshine Fund.
- Play [multi-player](#) games online.
- Order and send a pizza (or other meal) to give the caregiver a break.
- Cook a meal together over video chat.
- Meet at a park and visit (physically distanced with masks).

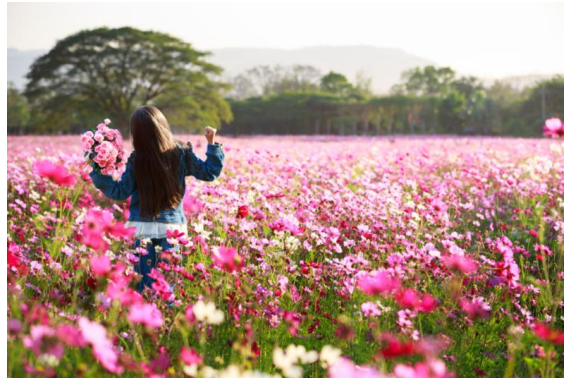
View our full [list](#) here.

If you have found additional ways to stay connected with your youth, please share them with your Case Supervisor.

SFCASA is hiring a Program Assistant!

Please see the [Program Assistant job posting](#) for more details, and share it widely with your personal and professional networks.

Self-Care



This year has been challenging for all of us. We are so grateful and appreciate you for your ongoing commitment as CASAs and our young people. Please remember to practice self-care and let your Case Supervisor know how they can support you.

