

# Tulsa CASA, Inc. Newsletter

700 S. Boston Ave, Suite 230, Tulsa OK 74119 [www.tulsacasa.org](http://www.tulsacasa.org)



February 2025



## CASA CASINO CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

Thank you to our CASA advocates for all of your contributions to make CASA Casino another successful event. We appreciate the donations of art, services, and sponsorships. We are also grateful for the artwork collected from our CASA kids for the live auction. It was another outstanding event which helps us serve more CASA kids. On behalf of the CASA staff and our families, thank you for your support. It is a joy to work with you!



Are you ready for March  
Mallow Madness 2025???  
It's coming soon....



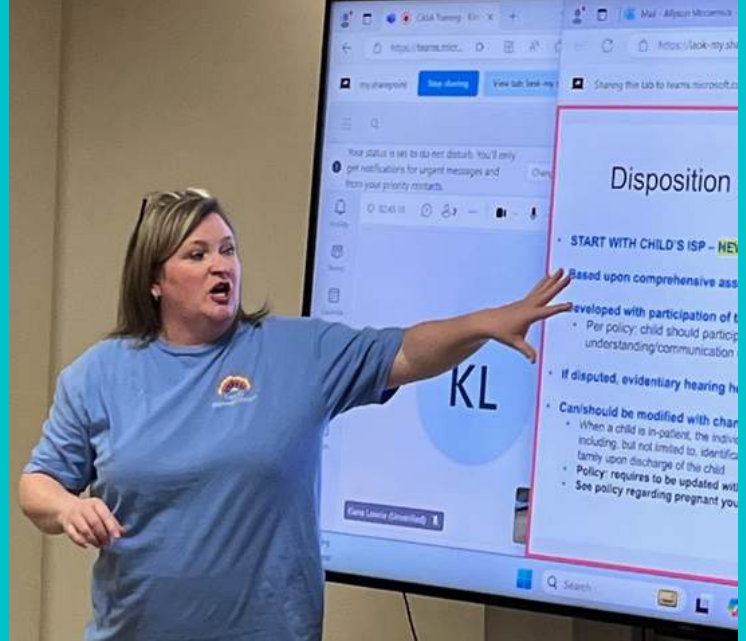


# Title 10-A Training A Huge Success!

Many thanks to Kim Rebsamen for leading the Title 10-A Workshop this month. CASA was well-represented with 49 in attendance! We were challenged, encouraged and educated about our role as child advocates in the child welfare system.



As soon as the slides are made available to us, we will send them on to attendees.



**NEXT TRAINING DATE: HARUV, ICWA TRAINING, 3/5/2025...SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 6**



# Volunteer Spotlight: Kristi Wann

This month, the volunteer spotlight is shining on Kristi Wann! Since she was sworn in as a CASA in August 2021, Kristi has served on 5 cases, including one she has been on since becoming a CASA. She is currently serving on 2 cases.

Kristi has called the Tulsa area home ever since her family moved here in the mid 1990's. She is primarily a stay at home mom and volunteer, but also helps her husband run his web development business, CodeZone. She has two sons, who are elementary and middle school age. She is an active volunteer in the community, serving with Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Reading Partners, the PARB Board and is on the middle school PTA Board. When she's not volunteering, Kristi enjoys watching her sons play competitive soccer and attending Tulsa Athletic and FC Tulsa matches.

Kristi says the thing she enjoys most about being a CASA is being a constant for the teen on her case, for whom she has been the CASA since 2021. "I hope someday they will look back and remember me as a positive influence and know I was always by their side when countless others had unfortunately come and gone."

Why CASA? Kristi says, "CASA offers a unique and powerful opportunity to be a voice for the voiceless, those children who may otherwise be overlooked in the system. Taking cases with the older kids can also (sometimes) allow you to become a positive role model and/or mentor."

"Kristi is an advocate who stands up for the best interest of the kids on her cases. One of her cases she's been on for over three years. The teenager has bounced from home-to-home, placement-to-placement. The one constant has been Kristi. This teen knows that she can call Kristi any day and anytime and Kristi will answer. Sometimes the child will call Kristi every day. Sometimes the call is just to chitchat, sometimes it's to cry, sometimes it's a lie, sometimes it's because she's excited about something new, but Kristi's always there to listen. Kristi's not afraid to direct this child away from dangerous situations and be upfront with her. Kristi is not afraid to stand up for this child in court when others may oppose. She is the true reflection of a CASA Advocate, and I am very proud to have her as part of my team."

- Olivia Hickman, Advocate Supervisor





*Congratulations!*



**Welcome to the CASA Team, Class of December 2024**

Left to Right: Katherine Pacheco, Cheri Tatum, Jennifer Blackshare, Heather Cates, Jamie Ward, Judge Theresa Dreiling, Tracy Bishop, Jessica Howle, Amy Reynolds and Luba Udovenko.



**Welcome to the CASA Team Class of January/February 2025**

Left to Right: Kristen Harris, Lori Burmaster, Barry Burmaster, Judge Kevin Morrison, Eliza Washington-Harris, LaBrisa Williams, Hannah Tamplain, and Allissa Ray.

! WHY  
? WHAT?  
? WHO!  
? WHEN

Share with your friends who may be interested in becoming a CASA!

CASA Lunch and Learn  
Wednesday, Feb 26th

12:00-1:30pm

Tulsa CASA Training Room, 700 S. Boston

RSVP to Ashley Valdez at 918-584-2272

## Healthy Futures for Oklahoma CASA children

In 2025, CASA programs in Oklahoma are teaming up with other states on an exciting new project called Healthy Futures! This initiative will tackle the important task of measuring CASA's impact on child wellbeing. We will begin this exciting effort by collecting data in Optima related to child wellbeing. The Healthy Futures Project focuses on assessing five essential areas of a child's wellbeing: physical, oral and dental, developmental, mental, and behavioral health. Ultimately, the aim is improved advocacy and better outcomes for the children to whom you are assigned.

How will this work? Through information you provide in your regular, monthly supervisions, CASA staff will document the following items in Optima:

1. Wellbeing assessments: Each child will be assessed quarterly in the "wellbeing assessment" section in Optima. The assessment process will identify the number of health needs a child has. As has always been the case, some needs can be addressed outside of court and others through court report recommendations.
2. To Do Tasks: After needs have been identified and an action needs to take place, the "to dos" section in Optima may be utilized.
3. Court Hearing Outcomes: If a health related recommendation is made during a court hearing, the outcomes of these recommendations will be documented.

What can you expect as a volunteer?

- During regular monthly case supervisions, you and your supervisor will discuss the child's health related needs.
- CASA staff will provide resources to help you organize the health information you collect for your CASA kids.
- This data will be collected and submitted to OKCASA by 3/31/2025. Your Advocate Supervisor will share more information on this data collection project.



## Tulsa CASA IST Schedule for 2025 (to-date)



**3/5/2025 HARUV: CASA's Role in Understanding ICWA and Partnering with Tribal Families**  
led by Kimee Wind-Hummingbird, MSW, 12:00-2:00 pm (2 hours IST credit, see additional info below)

**3/25/2025 Court Process and Testifying**  
led by Jordan Phillips, Assistant District Attorney, 12:00-1:00 pm (1 hour IST credit)

**4/4/2025 HARUV: Insights into Forensic Interviews and Tulsa's Child Advocacy Network (CAN)**  
led by Kelsey Zuniga, Mgr Forensic Serv, 12:00-2:00 pm (2 hours IST credit, see additional info below)

**4/22/2025 Best Practices: Court Report Writing**  
led by Cheryl Wright and Jalynn Youngberg, Tulsa CASA, 12:00-1:00 pm (1 hour IST credit)

**5/22/2025 A Day in the Life of a Permanency Worker**  
led by Leslie Condrie-Fimple, OHS Supervisor, 12:00-1:00 pm (1 hour IST credit)

**6/4/2025 Why Enhanced Foster Care?**  
led by Kaitlin Brasher, OHS Programs Field Representative, 12:00-1:00 pm (1 hour IST credit)

**6/18/2025 Breaking the Cycle: Addiction and Substance Abuse**  
led by Jordan Bilby, Coordinator Tulsa County Family Treatment Court, 12:00- 1:00 pm (1 hour IST credit)

**7/10/2025 Creative Visitation Ideas and Interviewing Children**  
led by Tiffany Koch, Broken Arrow Police Dept and Tulsa CASA Staff 5:30-8:30 pm (3 hours IST credit)

**9/25/2025 Best Practices: CASA University**  
led by Tulsa CASA Staff, 5:30-8:30 pm (3 hours IST credit)

**10/9/2025 Best Practices: Practical Advocacy on the ICWA docket**  
led by Cheryl Wright, 12:00pm-1:00 pm (1 hour IST credit)

Additional In-Service Trainings (IST) will be announced throughout the year. All trainings will be held at the Tulsa CASA office unless otherwise indicated. Meals will be provided at each training.



**HARUV USA**  
at OU - Tulsa



**A series of workshops for Tulsa CASA focused on understanding the experiences, perspectives, and rights of abused and neglected children in the court system.**

All trainings will be held at CASA offices in downtown Tulsa, 3rd floor training room (700 S Boston Ave, Tulsa, OK 74119) and scheduled 12pm-2pm. Lunch will be provided by Haruv USA.

▶ **March 5, 2025 (12pm-2pm) - ICWA: CASA's Role in Understanding ICSWA and partnering with Tribes & Families With Kimee Wind-Hummingbird, MSW**

Kimee Wind-Hummingbird, a citizen of the Muscogee Nation with Cherokee descendancy, served the youth and families in the Child and Family programs of her two Nations for 22 years before joining the University of Montana's National Native Children's Trauma Center in 2021. In addition to considerable experience in Tribal Program administration, development and enhancement, she also has extensive expertise in the Indian Child Welfare Act. Kimee has trained and consulted with both tribal and non-Tribal partners including Judges, Attorneys, State Child Welfare Agencies, Native Nations Child Welfare Programs, Juvenile Justice Agencies, Schools, and Native Nations Healthcare Facilities throughout the US and Canada. She also participated in an International Child Welfare Exchange in Israel discussing child welfare issues affecting communities across the globe. Her focus across all of her professional activities has been keeping Indigenous families connected to their Nation, Culture, and Community. Kimee has always lived on the Muscogee reservation in Oklahoma where she enjoys spending time with her three adult daughters and two granddaughters.

▶ **April 4, 2025 (12pm-2pm) - Insights into Forensic Interviews and Tulsa's Child Advocacy Network (CAN)**

**With Kelsey Zuniga, Manager of Forensic Services at CAN**

Kelsey has worked at the Child Advocacy Network in forensic interviewing positions since 2019, and as the Manager of Forensic Services since 2021. During her time at CAN, she has conducted over 1,700 forensic interviews with children involved in child abuse and maltreatment investigations. She has testified more than thirty times in federal, criminal, and juvenile courts, both as a fact and expert witness. Kelsey supervises and mentors the team of forensic interviewers at CAN, does community presentations, and provides training for other members of the Tulsa County multidisciplinary team.

▶ **More training dates and topics will be available at a later date. This is the start of the 2025 training series with Tulsa CASA and Haruv USA.**