

APRIL 2022

# CASA CORNER



## UPCOMING COURT DATES

### IBERIA PARISH

April 4, 2022

April 27, 2022

### ST. MARTIN PARISH

April 6, 2022

April 28, 2022

### ST. MARY PARISH

April 13, 2022

## CASA BIRTHDAYS

Frances Norris - April 7

Walter Thibodeaux, Jr. - April 30

## ACEs

**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years). Examples of ACEs are: experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect, witnessing violence in the home or community, and/or having a family member attempt or die by suicide. Also included are aspects of the child's environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding. This can include growing up in a household with substance use problems, mental health problems, and/or instability due to parental separation or household members being in jail or prison. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use problems in adulthood. For example, up to **1.9 million cases** of heart disease and **21 million cases of depression** could have been potentially avoided by preventing ACEs. ACEs can also negatively impact education, job opportunities, and earning potential.

In 2020, CDC announced funding for the **Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences: Data to Action** cooperative agreement to support ACEs monitoring and prevention. A critical first step for preventing ACEs is conducting surveillance to understand: the problem's scope, where and when ACEs most likely occur, who is at greatest risk, and the related health and social impacts. The CDC supports six recipients that are implementing two or more prevention strategies from **Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Leveraging the Best Available Evidence**, including: strengthening economic supports to families, promoting social norms that protect against violence and adversity, ensuring a strong start for children, teaching skills, connecting youth to caring adults and activities, intervening to lessen immediate and long-term harms.

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/preventingace-datatoaction.html>

# Hello



# TO OUR NEW

# CASA

ADVOCATES

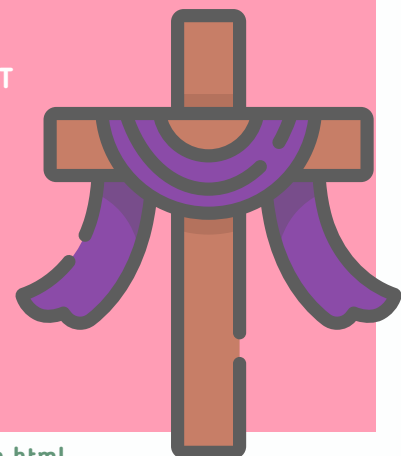




April is **Child Abuse Prevention Month**. During this month, we recognize the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. According to the CDC, at least **1 in 7 children** have experienced child abuse and/or neglect in the past year, and this is likely an underestimate. In 2019, **1,840 children** died of abuse and neglect in the US. Rates of child abuse and neglect are **5x higher** for children in families with low socioeconomic status compared to children in families with higher socioeconomic status. Child abuse and neglect and other ACEs can have a tremendous impact on lifelong health, opportunity, and wellbeing if left untreated. For example, exposure to violence in childhood increases the risks of injury, future violence victimization and perpetration, substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, delayed brain development, lower educational attainment, and limited employment opportunities. Chronic abuse may result in toxic stress, which can change brain development and increase the risk for problems like post-traumatic stress disorder and learning, attention, and memory difficulties. Different types of violence are connected and often share root causes. Child abuse and neglect are linked to other forms of violence through shared risk and protective factors. Addressing and preventing one form of violence may have an impact on preventing other forms of violence.

Everyone benefits when children have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments. There are a number of factors that may increase or decrease the risk for perpetrating and/or experiencing child abuse and neglect, including:

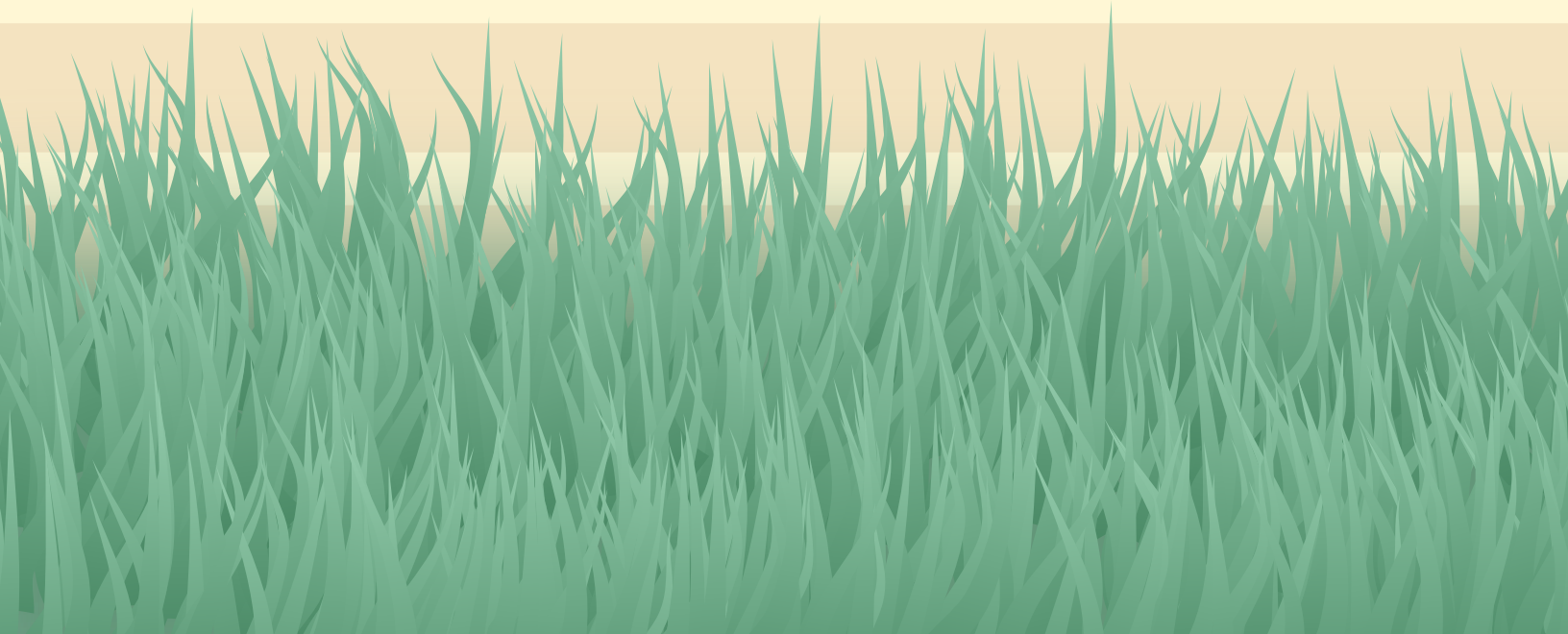
- **STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC SUPPORTS TO FAMILIES**
  - strengthen household financial security
  - family-friendly work policies
- **CHANGE SOCIAL NORMS TO SUPPORT PARENTS & POSITIVE PARENTING**
  - public engagement & enhancement campaigns
  - legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment
- **PROVIDE QUALITY CARE & EDUCATION EARLY IN LIFE**
  - preschool enrichment with family engagement
  - improved quality of child care through licensing and accreditation
- **ENHANCE PARENTING SKILLS TO PROMOTE HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT**
  - early childhood home visitation
  - parenting skill & family relationship approaches
- **INTERVENE TO LESSEN HARMS & PREVENT FUTURE RISK**
  - enhanced primary care
  - behavioral parent training programs
  - treatment to lessen harms of abuse & neglect exposure
  - treatment to prevent problem behavior & later involvement in violence





# THANK YOU

With the help of our  
CASA Advocates, we  
were able to reach **87%**  
**face-to-face contact**  
with children in our care!





# CASA OF THE MONTH

## JERRY GONZALEZ

I have a wonderful 7 year old daughter who already thinks she is a teenager! I work for the Office of Juvenile Justice as a Juvenile Specialist. This job entails working with children who have committed crimes and are trying to change their ways. Outside of work, you'll find me fixing cars, as it is one of my favorite hobbies. I love working with CASA, especially when it comes to working with other organizations to help families reunite! It is so encouraging to know that CASA makes a difference and impact in bettering the lives of children. When it comes to advice, the best piece I have ever received was, "Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving; **we get stronger and more resilient**," a quote by Steve Maraboli.

### CASA'S WITH CHILDREN WITH APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Niaja Jones - 1 child (April 4th)  
Alta David - 1 child (April 17th)  
Rhonda James - 1 child (April 24th)  
Katherine Friend - 1 child (April 28th)

**PLEASE** contact the office about  
your party in a bag.

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 19th at 5:30 pm in  
the Court House Annex Conference  
room.

### FRIENDLY REMINDER

LCWTA has a 1.5hr prerecorded  
session that is **mandatory** for  
all active CASAs.