



Hello Advocates .

Today's topic is Optima and VOCA (Victim of Crime Assistance). Some of you know that Speak Up for Kids assisted the GAL Program with 4 new CAM positions so we have new staff in the office. Tracy, Danielle, Fiona and one TBD. Part of their new positions requires extra documentation that includes, hand written verification of volunteer GAL hours (so if you get a phone call that asks if you are willing to verify your hours in writing you will know why). VOCA is a grant that allows us to use volunteer hours as matching money instead of cash. This is very exciting because your hard work is being counted now by the federal government and is directly assisting our kids here in Palm Beach County. So here is the VERY IMPORTANT PART, it is imperative to accurately count your hours in Optima, these hours should include, anytime you are communicating (by phone, text, email, or in person) about your child with the CAM, with the CBI attorney, court hours, travel time, preparing reports, school, therapist, case manager, custodian and anyone else that is involved. Every time you put in your hours you are directly impacting funding for the GAL program, for instance in May the volunteers spent 1255 hours advocating for our children (well done volunteers!).

- Optima can be accessed through www.guardianadlitem.org, pick Optima and then 15th Circuit.
- Double check your volunteer details information in Optima to ensure it is accurate.
- Please ensure you have filled out the "best e-mail" and "best phone" so our staff know your preferences for contact.
- When uploading documents, Yourself, PDF and Word are most compatible with Optima.
- Optima will increase the "real time" information you have on your cases, and also enhance our team approach by ensuring the GAL volunteer, CAM and BIA have all the same information and records. Gathering and uploading records, and ensuring all your contacts are documented, will help the GAL team make the best decisions and recommendations.
- Optima is a GAL Program. When there are questions about what information can be shared, double check with your CAM.
- Those GAL volunteers on Optima, are typing their child visit notes directly into the contact log. It is not necessary to use the "Visitation Form", however please be sure to cover all the content areas from the visitation form.

Thank you - *Michelle*



LATEST FROM LIZ LIEBER

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Hello, volunteers!

As one of the GAL Program core competencies, Communication plays a vital role in the work of the child advocate. Communication is a two-way street, an interchange or exchange of thoughts and ideas. Many times, however, the message a person intends to send is not the message that is received; the non-verbal cues that accompany the words can cause the words spoken to be interpreted quite differently. Words and their dictionary meanings are only one-third of any speaker's message, suggest communication experts. Being aware of the interplay of each of the three components of communication will deepen your understanding and hopefully strengthen your communication skills.

- **Verbal:** The verbal component refers to the actual words spoken, traditionally the elements thought of as language and "communication".
- **Non-verbal:** This component refers to gestures, body movements, tone of voice, and unspoken means of conveying a message, all of which can be easily misread and misinterpreted.
- **Feelings:** Refers to the feelings experienced during the course of an interaction and not easily observed.

Effective communication occurs when all three components are aligned, that is, what one says matches the body language and what one feels. When there are discrepancies between the verbal, non-verbal, and the feelings involved, however, mixed messages are sent, and many times, the receiver of the message will tend to believe the non-verbal cues! It's easy to see then why there are so many misunderstandings between people.

Communicating with children, their families, foster parents, case workers, and many others, is a very large part of your role as a GAL Volunteer. Understanding how to convey your message consistently using all three components of communication is essential. It's also important to observe and assess whether people's verbal and non-verbal messages match; learn to hear the silent messages. Develop your skill in listening for meaning, which requires hearing the spoken message, receiving and deciphering the message that is being conveyed silently, and being in tune with the feelings of the sender.

Keep in mind also that in dealing with families from different cultures, the meaning of an action may differ with the culture; eye contact, for example, can convey different messages depending on a person's culture. Remember from your cultural diversity training; learn about the culture of your GAL family so that you can communicate with families and children within the terms of their culture and language!

And remember, another of our tenant, Courtesy. Being courteous and respectful to all individuals you encounter can ease even the toughest interactions.

- Adapted from Chapter Seven of the CASA Pre-service training manual.



“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.” – Sherry Anderson

We are halfway through the year. By this time we have slacked off of many of our New Year’s resolutions. Gym membership? What Gym membership? It is time to get motivated again and do things that enrich our lives. It is time to talk to your CAM about taking on another case. Evaluate your current case and how much time it requires. Make sure your visitation logs and reports are all in and current and see what kind of time you have available. You can talk to your CAM about taking on a case that may be less time consuming if you do not believe you can fit another complex case in your life. Maybe you could visit a child who is placed in our county but whose court case is in a different county. No court hearings mean less work for you. Another solution would be to encourage a friend to sign up and become a volunteer. The two of you can team up on a case and work it together. It is a great way for couples to spend time together working on a case. Some of my best volunteers on a case are husband and wife teams! You would be sharing the work load and helping train a new volunteer while spending more time with people you enjoy. It is a win-win situation all around. Being a volunteer is not always easy on our available time or our soul depending on the case. Dealing with rules, statues, laws and social work ideology can be very frustrating to all involved. Having someone to share the experience with can be very helpful. It could be one more topic you have to share over a glass of wine or tea.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” – Elizabeth Andrew

Do you have a club house or organization who would be interested in learning about what you do as a Guardian ad Litem volunteer? Let us know and we are more than willing to speak to groups who may want to learn about our program and what we do and how they can help advocate for children in the foster care system. Do you know of business owners who are willing to make donations or offer services to help with children in care? Our not for profit SPEAK UP FOR KIDS, Inc. would love to talk to them! We are always looking for ways in which we can help our children and our volunteers with their wide range of different life experiences, jobs, educational backgrounds and personalities is a prime resource for our program. We appreciate all you contribute and do!

“Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve; you don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve; you don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve; you only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT RECRUITMENT TEAM



Hi to Staff, Volunteers and all other reader's.

Well the summer dog days are upon us and it can be hard to keep a sharp edge. To further compound all the climatic agitation, this 15th Circuit Recruitment team is missing a key member. As most of our group knows, Kelly Kerr has left our service to open a yoga studio in Delray. Best wishes to Kelly and her family... we will surely miss her here at the 15th!

As to Recruitment, we continue to press on, thanks to the efforts of Peter Braun, Ellen Kranzler, Leslie D'Alessandro, Ursula Taub and Dan Lishansky. Thanks for your help! Taking note of our Recruiting activities for the summer days, we are having a major Community Awareness/Marketing campaign with local movie theaters. The State Office is working with all Circuits and major movie theatre companies in creating a PSA (Public Service Announcement) campaign to be carried out for two weekends in two different Palm Beach County movie theaters. Stay tune for a blast email asking for help!!!! We will need volunteers/staff to be at an information table when these PSA's play in the multiplex. I would like to thank Brad Austwick, our CAM in Belle Glade (as well as Marie Francois who also walks the sugar cane beat) for placing our GAL recruiting signs in various locations out in the West County. The signs are another marketing/branding technique the State Office is providing. Hope we all have a safe and happy summer!

Thanks for listening. *Ken Gotlib.*



HELP NEEDED!

Come help our kids get backpacks and school supplies by volunteering at the Back to School Bash 2017! There are multiple locations to sign up for: Delray, West Palm, Jupiter, Belle Glade and Pahokee. Copy and paste the links below at SignUp.com to pick your day and location! Even an hour of your time will be well spent as hundreds of kids and their caregivers are expected!

<http://signup.com/go/vqMYbuU>

[Village Academy Sign-up](http://signup.com/go/OqnxACO)

<http://signup.com/go/OqnxACO>

[Roger Dean/Oxbridge Sign-up](http://signup.com/go/OqnxACO)

NEWS, NOTES, AND QUOTES FROM THE 15TH

By

JACKIE BONE & SHARI CALDERWOOD – CAM II s



DID YOU KNOW? THAT THE 15TH CIRCUIT HAS SPECIALTY COURTS?

Did you know that we have three different specialty courts in the 15th Judicial Circuit? Listed below is a brief description for each. If you have any interest in participating in a specialized court, please speak with your Child Advocacy Manager.

Therapeutic Court:

The mission of Therapeutic Court is a team approach helping children achieve permanency by addressing their clinical needs through appropriate services, placement, judicial oversight, and review of psychotropic medication. Magistrate Fanelli presides over the hearings, which are held several times a month. It is a collaborative effort between several agencies, including DCF, ChildNet, GAL, Children's Legal Services, Regional Conflict Counsel, and many other community agencies. Therapeutic court focuses on children with mental health issues. Everyone works together within and outside of the courtroom on issues related to the therapeutic needs of these children.

Early Childhood Court:

ECC addresses child welfare cases involving children under the age of three. It is a problem-solving court where legal, societal, and individual problems intersect. There are fifteen core components in ECC, which include judicial leadership, a community coordinator to facilitate the court team's activities, monthly court reviews, child-parent psychotherapy, frequent parent-child contact, and the use of family team meetings.

The goals of Florida's ECC are to:

- improve child safety and well-being
- heal trauma and repair the parent/child relationship
- expedite permanency
- stop the intergenerational cycle of abuse/neglect/violence

Family Drug Court:

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Family Drug Court Program is a voluntary court program designed to help substance abusing parents work towards a goal of reunification.

In order to enter Family Drug Court: (1) participants must be Palm Beach County residents who are the parent(s) of children with new dependency petitions where substance abuse is identified as an issue for parent(s); (2) the case jurisdiction is in Palm Beach County; (3) the primary goal for the family must be reunification; (4) the parent(s) must admit to the abuse/neglect allegation(s). Disqualifiers include: Parents who are alleged to be sexual perpetrators, who are incompetent, suffer from an un-stabilized mental disorder, are on a pain management protocol (including methadone maintenance), have an advanced terminal illness, or have a long history of violent offenses, prior TPR's, or a pending felony.



SPEAK UP FOR KIDS

OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

So much has been happening at Speak Up For Kids....

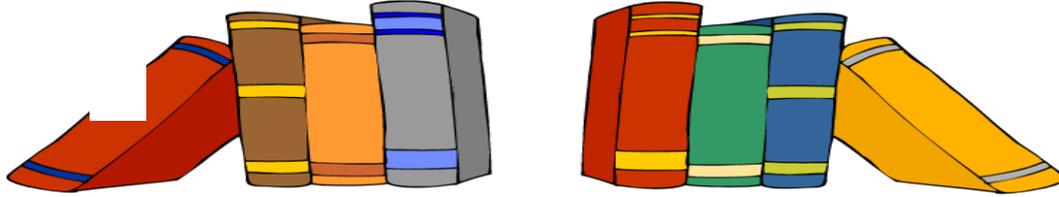
We have an incredible and exciting way to honor someone on their birthday and give a birthday party to a foster child at the same time! Check Gift a Birthday out: <http://speakupforkidspbc.org/gift-a-birthday>



We thank:

- **You!** You are the hope of our community's future and Speak Up for Kids exists to further YOUR WORK and the GAL Program
- **Our Clark Kent supporters** and donors who wish to keep their super powers hidden from the world! Thank you for helping us thrive!
- **Sheriff Rick and Dorothy Bradshaw** for their continued hospitality at the PBA hall as well as the hundred thousand dollar surprise presented at the recognition dinner!!! If anyone believe in super hero power of the gal it is the Bradshaw's!
- **The collective superpower** of the South Florida Chapter Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals - you amazed us!
- **A SUPERHERO** sized thank you to **Vincent Cuomo** for your support and how you have championed our cause!
- **The angels at Samaritans365** for making kids prom dreams come true!!!
- **A super star line up** of laughter & fun at The 6th Annual Benefit Gala for Speak Up for Kids!!! It was a SOLD OUT show at the Bellagio Lake Worth. Thank you to the SuperHero Hall of Famer LARRY GELLER & LOU SCHER and to everyone who helped make this night a success
- You again as we honored you at the 13th Annual GAL Recognition Dinner & Mardi Gras Night. We would be remiss if we did not thank Ellen Kranzler and her volunteer team for coordinating this event. Congratulations to all of our 2016 award recipients!

We are working tirelessly to reach 100% advocacy and support the GAL Program. There are many exciting fundraising events in the works and we welcome & Invite ideas for supporters /grantors that you may know. To stay connected with our happenings please follow our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SpeakUpForKidsofPBC or our webpage: www.speakupforkidspbc.org
Coleen La Costa – executive-director for Speak Up For Kids of Palm Beach County, Inc.



The next meeting of the GAL Book Club will be at the Hagen Ranch Rd Library – 5689 Hagen Ranch Rd, Delray Tuesday – July 11th, 2017, from 5:00-7:00 pm.

The book selection is

“Like Family: Growing Up in Other People’s Houses”

By Pauls McLain

Paula McLain has written a powerful and haunting memoir about the years she and her two sisters spent as foster children. In the early 70’s, after being abandoned by both parents, the girls were made wards of the Fresno County, California court and spent the next 14 years in a series of adoptive homes. The dislocations, confusions, and odd pleasures of an unrooted life form the basis of a captivating memoir. McLain’s beautiful writing and limber voice capture the intense loneliness, sadness, and determination of a young girl both on her own and with the need, along with her siblings, for staying together as a family.

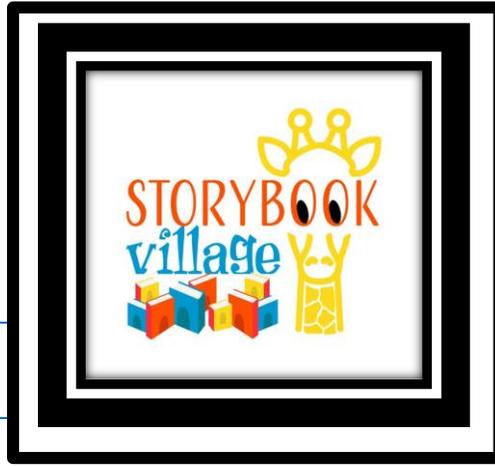
{The book is available in the public library, and we have copies in the 4th floor office in West Palm and in the Delray Office.

Remember, you can receive 3- in-service credits, [2 for the book report and 1 for the discussion group, towards your goal of 12 credits for the year]. }

RSVP – to Ellen at – bibliophile6452@comcast.net – 561-355-

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

THE 15th CIRCUIT OF



APRIL 9th, 2017

PALM BEACH

GUARDIAN AD LITEM

Hosted a Story Book Village - Where Stories Came to Life!

Florida's Children's week is a special annual celebration filled with joyful singing, the colorful "Hanging of the Hands", and the dedication of thousands of child advocates who capture the true spirit and commitment that Florida has for its children and youth. Children's week is now in its 10th year and the celebrations have expanded across the entire state to all 67 counties.

This year our Guardian ad Litem volunteers participated in Children's Week by holding a STORY BOOK VILLAGE - WHERE STORIES CAN COME TO LIFE BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES, in conjunction with City Place's Spring Family Fun Fest.

City Place was extremely supportive in providing the use of Rosemary St, from Hibiscus down to Fern, (all streets being closed to vehicle traffic) to house 20 different booths, all presenting a different story for Story Time. The booths were maned by many of the foster agencies we work with, as well as a yoga studio, pediatric assoc, balloon man, WXEL-TV, S. Fl. Science Center, and many more. We had a very successful booth of over 2000 books that were donated and the children all took advantage of the free books. Hundreds of families and adults walked through our Village and were amazed at all the things being presented.

We plan on expanding for next year and would like your help. Themes are currently being discussed and plans being made for an even better village. If you would like to get involved, at the beginning stage or later on to just help set up and run it, get in touch with Ellen at bibliophile6452@comcast.net or 355-4511.



Listening to poetry being read



Court's Caring canines



I am for the child™

With Appreciation for all GALs do
WITH and *FOR* their GAL kids.

FYZZ is offering a 20% discount for ANY yoga class for
Guardians and/or their GAL Kids

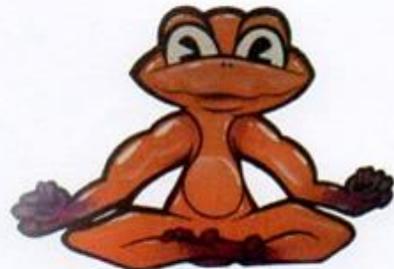
Yoga is proven to reduce stress, anxiety and depression
and helps children regulate and control their emotions.

Following are some testimonials from kids participating in a yoga program
in a juvenile detention center:

- *"This yoga program really helps me with my temper. Every time I get angry I think of the things the yoga instructors showed me and I use it to calm myself down."*
- *"Yoga has benefited me. It is a good way for me to learn how to relax and it helps me sleep at night."*
- *"Yoga helps me from top to bottom because I breathe better and I am not overly stressed anymore."*



Family Yoga Zen Zone
1201 N. Federal Highway
Delray Beach, FL 33483
561-303-1005



www.familyyogazone.com

GUARDIAN AD LITEM
Paim Beach County Courthouse
205 N. Dixie Highway, Suite 4.1100
West Palm Beach, Fl. 33401

Circuit Director Michelle Canaday 355-1148 michelle.canaday@gal.fl.gov
Program Director Liz Lieber 355-1166 liz.lieber@gal.fl.gov
Supervising Attorney Kathleen Clendining 355-1124 kathleen.cleindining@gal.fl.gov

<u>court</u>	<u>JK</u>	<u>JL</u>	<u>JM</u>	<u>JO</u>	<u>JS</u>	<u>B.G.</u>
JUDGE	Dalliah Weiss	Gregory Keyser	Kirk Volker	James I. Martz	Luis Delgado	Kirk Volker
BIA *	Marissa Dass 355-4173	Andrew Thomas 355-1163	Stacey Carter-Ogman 355-6223	Lue Anne Goodine 355-6083	Kevin Walsh 330-1758	Daniel Brinley 996-4858
BIA*	Christian Pietka 355-6225	Lauren Clifton 355-6628	John Rundell 355-6160	Lauren Castle 355-1549	Gregory Bromely 330-1738	
CAM II *	Shari Calderwood 355-6221	Jackie Bone 355-1776	Shari Calderwood 355-6221	Liz Lieber 355-1166	Jackie Bone 355-1776	Shari Calderwood 355-6221
CAM*	Beth Zigler 355-4281	Olga Rodriguez 355-2494	Mireya Silvagnoli 355-1826	Leslie Dufresne 355-1998	Kelwyn Williams 330-1753	Brad Austwick 996-4894
CAM*	Tiffany Francis 355-6845	Lee (Elinor) Turco 355-1167	Marie Francois 355-4860	Andre Hoellmann 355-2310	Barbara Boslow 330-1754	Marie Francois 996-4860
CAM*	Robin Robinson 355-2700	Anna Ramotowska 355-1810	Tracy Nearman 355-1626	Josie Lindor 355-4427	Denise Davis 330-1757	
S.A.*	Pam Brooks 355-2772	Pam Brooks 355-2772	Pam Brooks 355-2772	Fiona Wade –CAM Courtesy Cases		
A.A.*	Ta’Chea Ferguson 355-4405	Fay Reynolds 355-1113	All 3 – split	Marcy Vital 355-1849	Jim Graf 330-1752	

<u>COURT</u>	<u>THERAPEUTIC</u>	<u>EARLY CHILDHOOD (BABY COURT)</u>	<u>DRUG</u>
JUDGE	MAGISTRATE JUDETTE FANELLI	KATHLEEN KROLL	GREGORY KEYSER
BIA*	Kathleen Clendining 355-1124	Lauren Clifton 355-6628	Lauren Castle 355-1549
CAM II*	Jackie Bone 355-1776	Jackie Bone 355-1776	Shari Calderwood 355-6221
CAM*	Danielle Gifford 355-1165	Danielle Gifford 355-1165	Tracy Nearman 355-1626

Additional Staff: Ken Gotlib -Recruitment & training- 355-3243 // Peter Braun – recruitment – 355-38044
Khrissy Lastierre – Human Resource-355-3726 // SUFKs – exec dir. – Coleen LaCosta – 355-3799 -
255-3383 - Ellen Kranzler – volunteer; transportation; editor newsletter; book club.

ALL EMAIL ADDRESS ARE – firstname.lastname@gal.fl.gov

*BIA-BEST INTEREST ATTORNEY // CAM II-(CAM) – Child Advocacy Manager // S.A. – Staff Advocate // A.A. –Administrative Assistant.

SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

**THE
ADVOCATE**
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Circuit Director:
*Michelle Canaday,
Esq.*
Program Director:
Liz Lieber
Supervising Lawyer:
*Kathleen
Clendinning, Esq.*



A CHILD NEEDS YOUR HELP.

**Have you ever thought what it's like to be
a child in the courtroom?
A child totally on your own?**

The Guardian ad Litem Program is an organization powered by highly-respected volunteer child advocates who are trained and supported by professional staff to transform children's lives.

Our Guardian ad Litem advocate volunteers are the voice in court for abused, abandoned or neglected children.

The child's best interest is our only interest in our ultimate goal of ensuring each child has a safe, permanent home.

Children who have a Guardian ad Litem volunteer do better in school; find a safe permanent home more quickly; are less likely to return to foster care; and receive more services to help them in what is certainly the most difficult time in their lives.

If you are passionate about children, and want to make a difference in a child's life by breaking the circle of abuse, you can help by becoming a Guardian ad Litem volunteer.

Connecting with us on Facebook, or making a donation to our affiliated non-profit organization, SpeakUpforKidsPBC.org - Or please visit us at www.galpbc.org or call 561-355-6224.

I AM FOR THE CHILD ARE YOU?



SPEAK UP FOR KIDS is one of the chosen charities for **TUNIES'** So, when you shop and check out pick the option for them to donate to our SUFKs.

Would you like to help raise money and gifts for our Guardian ad Litem Program and SUFKs?

There are many ways of seeking donations: The more familiar you are with the person or company, the easier it is to present a request.

How about:

- ✚ Your hair dresser;
- ✚ Your nail technician;
- ✚ The most frequented restaurant;
- ✚ Your car service company;
- ✚ Your dry cleaner;
- ✚ Your travel agent;
- ✚ Your gardener;
- ✚ Your plumber;

LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN WILD.

We can use all kinds of gifts and checks. Thank you for whatever you can do for our kids.