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THE CHANGE CHASER

Official Newsletter of ACASA

A Note from the Director

From my perspective, this Summer has been the busiest Summer the coalition has ever endured. I say “endured” because that is how it feels.

It is exciting to see all of the hard work we have put forth urging our Congressmen to pass the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) FIX. Fortunately, it passed unanimously (Senate) 100-0. Although this is exciting, we are indeed experiencing despair as we look toward the new grant year and the drastic funding cuts that will be taking place. We have been working hard, looking for solutions, but as we all know, money does not just appear when it is needed. We will continue to work with all of our members to seek solutions and provide support as best we can.

I want to encourage our members to remain hopeful and continue the good work you are doing as we go through this season of change. ACASA remains here for you and supports the vital services you are all tirelessly providing.

Warm regards,

Monie Johnson, Executive Director



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Live Webinars



ACASA has started offering a variety of live online webinars via Zoom over the past few months. Attendance continues to grow each training session and membership has increased.

Featured training:

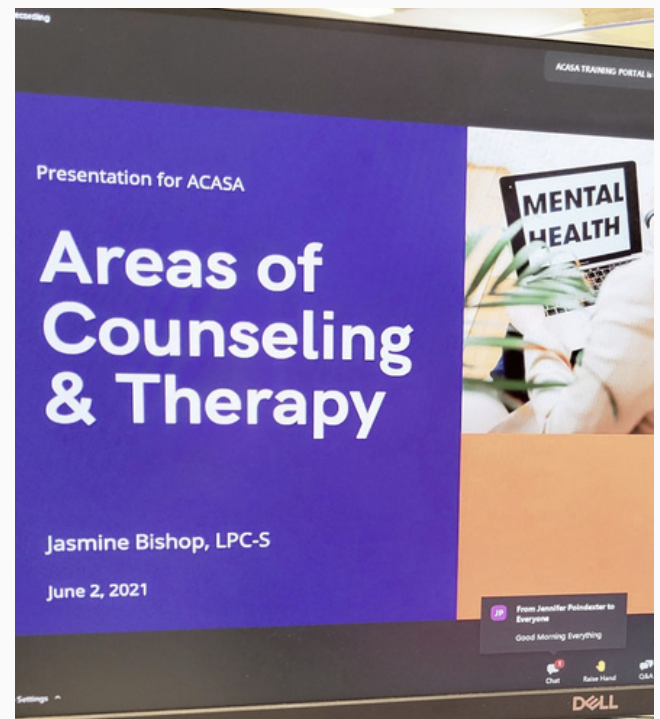
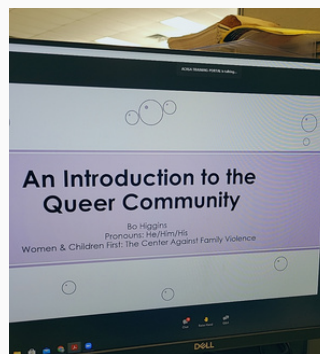
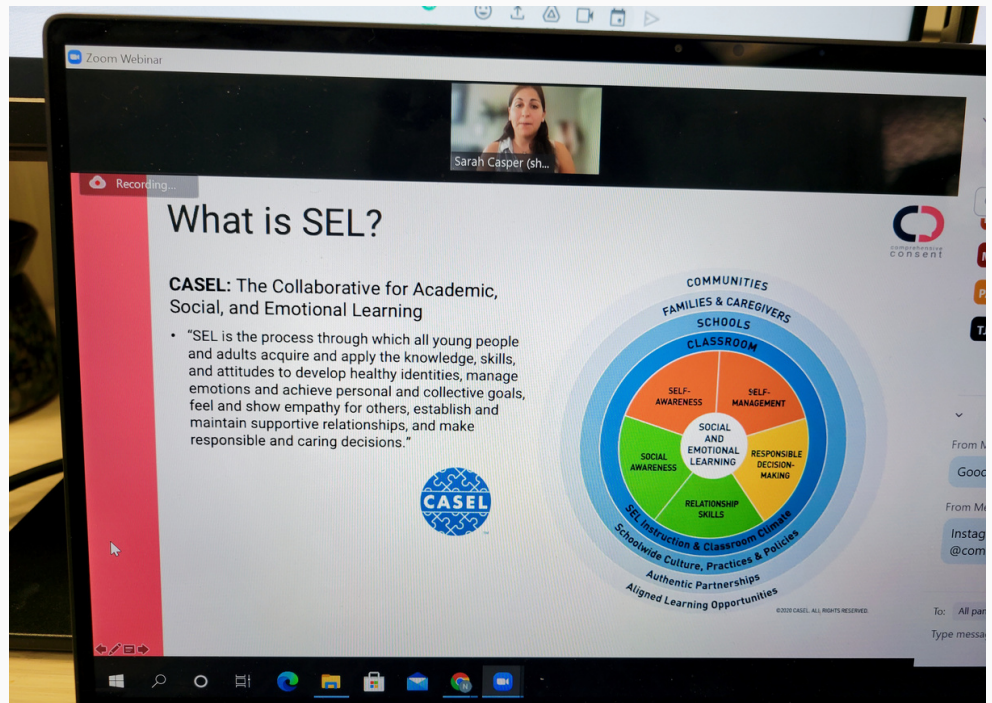


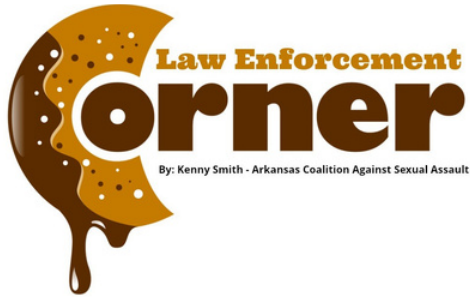
- "Areas of Counseling & Therapy" with Jasmine Bishop
- "How Toxic Masculinity Produces Sexual Assault" with James J. Wilkerson
- "An Introduction to the Queer Community" with Bo Higgins
- "A Social-Emotional Approach to Consent Education" with Sarah Casper

Click the link above to see all the upcoming training opportunities!

To request special training topics:

Email: npress@arkcasa.org
or
khall@arkcasa.org





We have been heavily focused on the reestablishment of CoSAR Teams that were created prior to the onset of the Covid 19 Pandemic as well as the development of brand new teams. To date, we have the following teams established:

- 1st Judicial District (Phillips, Lee, St. Francis, Monroe, Woodruff, and Cross Counties)
- 2nd Judicial District (Craighead, Poinsett, Greene, Clay, Mississippi, and Crittenden Counties)
- 5th Judicial District (Pope, Johnson and Franklin Counties)
- 6th Judicial District (Pulaski and Perry Counties)
- 9W Judicial District (Sevier, Howard, Pike, and Little River Counties)
- 11W Judicial Districts (Jefferson and Lincoln Counties)
- 12th Judicial District (Sebastian County)
- 14th Judicial District (Boone, Marion, Baxter, and Newton Counties)
- 15th Judicial District (Logon, Scott, Yell Counties)
- 18W Judicial District (Polk and Montgomery Counties)
- 20th Judicial District (Faulkner, Searcy, and Van Buren Counties)
- 21st Judicial District (Crawford County)

We currently have a CoSAR Team representing 49% of the counties in Arkansas and 43% of Arkansas' Judicial Districts.

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Conference

The Conference planning committee continues to meet regularly and plan for an in-person conference to be held in September. Given the recent rise in Covid cases, the committee is considering making a backup plan for a virtual conference should Covid related restrictions begin again like last year.

Registration began in June and is limited in accordance with Covid guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health. Covid related precautions will be taken during the live conference.

The conference agenda is complete and approved by the planning committee. Workshop presenters have been chosen and confirmed. The venue has been selected and booked and a hotel contract has been negotiated. There are 46 registrations so far and 20 scholarships for hotel accommodations have been awarded.

Michelle Cline
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Prevention Education



The Prevention program completed its 20-21 school year partnership with the LRPD G.E.M.S and is planning a Primary Prevention training for the mentors of the program over the summer. The program partnered with Carter's Crew, a local nonprofit organization that connects families to community resources and provides emergency assistance as available, to provide an internet safety course for their teens; the training focused on cyberbullying, communicating online, and oversharing.

We coordinated with Netflix and Consent contacts to provide live webinars for statewide partners: "A Social-Emotional Approach to Consent Education" and "Fruit of the Poisonous Tree: How Toxic Masculinity Produces Sexual Assault".

Be on the lookout for upcoming Prevention webinars and our new podcast!

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Advocate Training

Through our consistent training and technical assistance, programs are seeing the value of becoming members of ACASA. With membership, you receive access to our online training database, help navigating our Program Accreditation Process, and resources from the national level. We have also seen an increase in programs working towards becoming accredited sexual assault service providers; this will increase the number of services available to victims across the state of Arkansas.

Kiah Hall
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Anti-Human Trafficking

The first meeting to form a state-wide human trafficking advisory council is happening in August. We will discuss possible projects and concerns/questions about the collection of data from participating service providers. A test survey/needs assessment is currently being developed through the collaborative efforts of ACADV, ACASA, and UAMS. We are working to create regional response teams for survivors to provide immediate and long-term services based upon resources in their areas.

Shannon Holman
Anti-Human Trafficking Director, ACASA
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Upcoming Training Opportunities



Check out the upcoming training we have available for August & September.
This training is open to everyone! Click the link above to register.

Core Training
Sexual Assault Advocacy Certification
Aug 4-II @ 8:30am
Required training for sexual assault advocates that are members of ACASA.

ACASA
Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Creating Consent Culture in Communities
AUGUST 10 @ 10AM
@consent_culture_initiative

SETTING BOUNDARIES
August 24 @ 10Am
Sarah Casper
comprehensive consent

Neurobiology of Trauma
SEPT 16 • 10:00 AM
A Webinar on How Trauma Effects the Brain
Join our State Advocacy Training Director, Kiah Hall, as she discusses concepts of Neurobiology of Trauma and ways to make campus procedures trauma informed.

ACASA
Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Trauma-Informed Campus Response
SEPTEMBER 16 @ 2PM
Basic concepts of Neurobiology of Trauma and ideas for creating trauma-informed responses to sexual assault on campus

ACASA
Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault
James J. Wilkerson
Title IX & Prevention with Fraternities
September 28 @ 1PM
@TheTitleIXGuy @the_title_ix_guy

Membership Perks



Being a member pays off! Head over to our members-only training:

- Victim Impact Statements
- Teleadvocacy
- Ethics
- Secondary Trauma in Friends/ Family of Sexual Assault Survivors
- Safety Planning for Sexual Assault Survivors During Isolation
- And many more!

Click above to become a member today!





Advocate Shout Outs

ACASA has started doing advocate shout outs once monthly to show some much needed appreciation for our membership crisis center advocates. Our very own Kenny Smith is hand-delivering a plaque and gift card to the winners across the state. The advocates do so much for victims across the state, now is our time to do what we can in return.

We'd love to see you featured next! Directors: Please send a list of your advocates with their hire dates to khall@arkcasa.org. Advocates: Give your directors a gentle reminder to submit your information if you'd like to be acknowledged.

April 2021 Advocate: Becca Sparks- Fort Smith Crisis Intervention Center



May 2021 Advocate: Sara Cano - NWA Center for Sexual Assault



WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR.

To have your voice featured in an upcoming issue, email story ideas to npress@arkcasa.org

STAY CONNECTED. CHECK US OUT ONLINE. Use a smartphone to scan the QR Codes

Visit our website for resources and new training



Keep up to date with our Prevention Education Program



To see organization updates and current news

