From: Georgia CASA Communications
To: Georgia CASA Communications

Cc: Ali Jordan; Angela Tyner; Deidre Hollands; Ewansiha Simmons; Heidi Grimmett; Jennifer King; Joyce Jones;

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Subject: CASA Day at the Capitol Details

Date: Friday, January 12, 2024 3:12:57 PM

Attachments: CASA Capitol Day Flyer 2024.pnq
Letter for Legislators 2024.docx

Dear Affiliate CASA Directors & Staff, Board Chairs, and Sponsoring-Agency Directors:

It's nearing the first week of the legislative session and time to begin making plans for CASA Day at the Capitol on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> (which will be Legislative Day 22). Please read to the end for important details about this year's smaller-scale event. While we plan to bring a more intimate group together this year, we're still excited to offer our legislative briefing and the meaningful opportunity to connect, share, and engage with legislators on policy and budget issues that impact children and families experiencing foster care. The attached flyer highlights the details and can be shared with your staff, volunteers, or board members who will be participating with you.

This year, the legislative briefing will be held in the Blue Room at the Depot (the opposite side of the building where we met last year). We are seeking the on-site participation of approximately 50 - 70 advocates (1 or 2 individuals per affiliate) to help distribute CASA materials to various locations around the Capitol, speak directly with elected officials and legislative staff about CASA advocacy, when available, and spread CASA cheer. The in-person participants should have some familiarity with the larger CASA network and be willing to pair up with others from across the state. For all participants, direct contact with legislators is the most crucial component. The briefing will be geared towards participating in CASA meetings with legislators and needing additional information about our budget request and pending child welfare legislation.

Despite our smaller event, CASA Day at the Capitol remains a critical, organized opportunity to demonstrate the impact of our collective legislative advocacy throughout the state and present requests for continued and increased funding support. Therefore, because there is no formal, organized luncheon, we ask that each affiliate request and schedule a meeting with your legislators on the 15th, before or after the legislative briefing, or at the legislators' convenience. You're encouraged to join forces with neighboring affiliates that share legislators. To assist with the scheduling process, we have attached a sample letter. As always, you're encouraged to customize and adapt the language as you see fit. You can always use your regular points of contact to schedule a meeting as well. (If you're not sure who your legislators are, the Senate and House legislator contact info spreadsheets are on the website. If any of your legislators hold leadership positions in the House or Senate or serve on a budget or other committee directly related to our work, making an appointment and meeting with them are imperative to continue to cultivate relationships and garner future support. We'll be in touch throughout the session to help make these important connections as needed.

There is a \$15 cost to attend CASA Day, and the CASA Day at the Capitol <u>WEBSITE</u> contains the registration link, tentative schedule of events, general talking points, budget-request flyer, lobbying tips, etc. More information will continue to be added as we get closer to the day and move through the session. If you'd like more general information about legislative advocacy and/or details

surrounding CASA Day at the Capitol, we'll be hosting our annual informational webinar in advance of the event on Tuesday, February  $6^{th}$  @ 1:30, which will be recorded and posted to the website. A link for the webinar is on the <u>WEBSITE</u>, and we will send the information out in a separate email as a reminder as we get closer to the date.

As usual, use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, or other social media to connect and share about CASA Day using #GACASADayatCap and plan to wear your pop of red!

Thank you for your continued advocacy. Please let us know if you have any questions.