

# *Improving Outcomes for Older Foster Youth*

**WV CASA**  
**15th Annual Conference**  
**September 25, 2014**  
Oglebay Resort and Conference Center  
Wheeling, WV

Who Should Attend...

All persons that work in the field of abuse and neglect, including: CASA Volunteers, staff and board members, domestic violence victim advocates, social workers, nurses, attorneys, law enforcement officers, probation and parole officers, teachers, clergy, counselors, psychologists, judges, magistrates and victim advocates.



**West Virginia CASA Association**  
258 Jefferson Ave  
Moundsville, WV 26041  
304-810-0952  
Fax: 304-810-4182  
[www.wvcasa.org](http://www.wvcasa.org)



*West Virginia CASA is a member of the National CASA Association*

## **Continuing Education**

6 hours pending for:

Social Work

Attorney

Counseling

Certificate of attendance will be made available at the conclusion of training

This conference is made possible by a grant from the  
WV Supreme Court, Court Improvement Program. [www.wvcip.com](http://www.wvcip.com)

# Conference Agenda

- 9:00 - 9:05 Welcome  
The Honorable David Sims, First Judicial Circuit
- 9:05- 10:30 Improving Outcomes for Older Youth  
Nora Sydow Esq., National Center for State Courts
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 - 12:00 Improving Outcomes for Older Youth continued
- 12:30 - 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30- 3:00 “Ready or Not, Here we Come!”  
Transition planning for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder  
Rebecca Hansen, M.A.  
West Virginia Autism Training Center’s College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder at Marshall University
- 3:00- 3:15 Break
- 3:15-4:45 “No such thing as a ‘bad girl’!”  
Kathy Szafran MA, LPC  
President and CEO of Crittenon Services, Inc.,
- 4:45 - 5:00 Evaluations and Closing remarks by Susan Harrison, Executive Director CASA for Children Inc. Serving Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel and Tyler Counties.

Nora Sydow, J.D.  
The National Center for State Courts

The mission of the National Center for State Courts is to **IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE** through **LEADERSHIP** and **SERVICE** to state courts, and courts around the world.

NCSC is the organization courts turn to for authoritative knowledge and information, because its efforts are directed by collaborative work with the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators, and other associations of judicial leaders.

Judicial leadership has contributed to a child protection environment where collaboration with social services, attorneys, service providers and others has resulted in better service to families and a **safe reduction in the number of children and youth in care**. Yet any judge presiding over a child protection docket today can attest to pervasive challenges, such as limited child and family service dollars and resources and disparate outcomes. Answers to these issues emerge by critical analysis of the performance and outcomes data.

**Biography:**

Nora Sydow, J.D., is a Senior Analyst at the National Center for State Courts. She works on variety of technical assistance projects improving court organization, process and operations, with special attention to those involving children and families. She provides training and technical assistance to courts around the country in the area of court performance measurement, data exchange, well-being, judicial leadership, and continuous quality improvement in child abuse and neglect cases. She has presented to national audiences, authored several peer-reviewed articles, and designed curriculum on those topics as well. Ms. Sydow also serves as NCSC project director for the Judicial Engagement Team (JET), an initiative supported by Casey Family Programs to safely reduce the number of children in foster care through improved court practice. Prior to joining NCSC in 2008, Ms. Sydow worked as a college instructor in a criminal justice program and has also served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Ms. Sydow received her JD from the West Virginia University College of Law and dual BS degrees from Old Dominion University. She is a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management.

**Objectives:**

Improving Outcomes for Older Youth

- Improving well-being for older youth, including education outcomes and physical and mental health
- Improving permanency for older youth
- Youth engagement
- Advocating for dually-adjudicated youth (delinquency/dependency)
- Transition planning

Rebecca Hansen, M.A.

West Virginia Autism Training Center's College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder at Marshall University

It is well documented that lifestyle transitions can be challenging for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The customs that once applied to the high school classroom are now altered to fit a more mature audience. The distinct differences between high school and college settings can cause significant distress for a student with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Planning and preparing for such changes can offset the stress of transition and can make it a successful process. This presentation will illustrate how individualized, positive behavioral support methods can be used to help students desiring to apply to college. With the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders on the rise in general, there are many more students that are applying to college and require specialized supports from college programs. Currently there are few programs designed to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder who are enrolled college. Services from disabled student services typically only meet part of their individualized needs. Supporting students with Autism Spectrum Disorder on a college campus requires unique knowledge and skills and implementation of these individualized support can be initiated by families early in the process. The audience will learn effective strategies to ease the transition from high school into college and support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder through adequate preparation and planning. It's never too early to begin planning for the transition into adulthood and through an appropriate college education, students with Autism Spectrum Disorder can become valued contributors to our society.

#### **Biography:**

Rebecca Hansen, M.A., is the Program Coordinator for The West Virginia Autism Training Center's College Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder at Marshall University. Ms. Hansen is currently a doctoral student in Education Leadership in the Graduate School of Education and Professional Development at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia. Her area of emphasis is in student affairs issues within higher education, with specific interest in issues related to access and comprehensive supports for students with autism spectrum disorders. Ms. Hansen holds an undergraduate degree in Biology and a master's degree in Student Affairs Counseling. She has provided individualized and person-centered supports for students with ASD at Marshall University for over ten years.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Participants will be able to gain a better understanding of the transition process from high school into adulthood. This will include understanding effective ways to communicate with high school counselors about the proper accommodations for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their specific needs for college admissions, should that be the next step for them.
2. Participants will be able to obtain effective ways of helping high school students with Autism Spectrum Disorder ease into the transition from living at home to residing in a different environment, such as a college campus.
3. Participants will be able to assist students with Autism Spectrum Disorder to adequately prepare for life after high school, including events that are unrelated to scholastics. Participants will be provided with a checklist that may be used to better understand the non-academic portion of the transition and the inevitable experiences that coincide with being an adult.
4. Participant will be able to understand what college support programs are looking for in applicants in the areas of academics, independent living skills, socialization, safety, stress and resilience should that be the direction that the individual decided to take.

Kathy Szafran, M.A., LPC  
President and CEO of Crittenton Services of West Virginia

**Biography:**

Kathy F. Szafran is the President and CEO of Crittenton Services of West Virginia. She has more than 25 years of behavioral health experience encompassing senior level management, program and policy development, quality improvement, budget management, training and consulting, marketing, grant writing, clinical supervision and group, individual and family therapy. Ms. Szafran is a qualified expert witness for legal proceedings regarding the clinical treatment of abused children. She participated as a member of Governor Manchin's Transition Team and holds an appointment to the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Advisory Board serving the Governor and the State of West Virginia. She serves on the home team for the National Governors Association Three Branch Institute on Child Social and Emotional Wellbeing. Ms. Szafran has presented workshops at numerous national conferences and she has presented at Congressional briefings related to gender responsive-trauma focused care for marginalized girls. Under her leadership, Crittenton Services, working in conjunction with the Justice Resource Institute, integrated the Attachment, Self- Regulation, and Competency (Blaustein & Kinniburgh, 2010) trauma-informed treatment framework into the agency's residential and rural, community-based behavioral health services. The Attachment, Self-Regulation, and Competency (ARC) (Kinniburgh & Blaustein, 2005; Blaustein & Kinniburgh, 2010) framework is a core-components treatment model, developed to provide a guiding framework for thoughtful clinical intervention with complexly traumatized youth and their caregiving systems.

She's the past president of the West Virginia Child Care Association, and is currently a peer reviewer and team leader for the Council on Accreditation. Ms. Szafran is active with the National Crittenton Foundation, advocating for best practices specific to trauma-focused, gender responsive services for multi-system involved girls.

Crittenton Services, Inc. is a trauma-informed behavioral health agency serving more than 1000 young women, children and families annually from all 55 counties of West Virginia. A comprehensive continuum of care is provided through four distinct programs-a fifth program, transitional living, is pending.

**Objectives:**

Participants will have an increased knowledge about at-risk teenage girls and how to create an environment to help them heal and successfully transition into adulthood.

Objectives:

1. Participants will learn how adverse childhood experiences impact long term emotional and physical health.
2. Participants will gain an understanding why girls engage in high risk behaviors that cause them to become system involved. "Girls living on the complex trauma train."
3. Participants will explore reasons for the high percentage of teen pregnancy within this population.
4. Participants will increase their understanding of treatment frameworks that can improve the long term outcomes for the at- risk, system involved girl.
5. Participates will increase their understanding of "Duel Generational Treatment". Finally breaking the cycle of abuse, neglect and poverty.

# Registration Form

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual WV CASA Conference

September 25, 2014

Oglebay Resort and Conference Center

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Early Registration - \$35  
(Received by 9/19/2014)

Late Registration - \$40

CASA Volunteers - \$15

Fees include light refreshments at registration, lunch, break, and materials

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I am a CASA Volunteer with \_\_\_\_\_ Program

(Name of your CASA Program)

Make checks payable to **WVCASA** and mail to:  
258 Jefferson Ave.  
Moundsville, WV 26041

Registration forms must be accompanied by full payment in order to be processed

Cancellations: No refunds will be given for “no shows” or cancellations. Registration fees are NON-REFUNDABLE, but may be transferred to another individual

## For more information

Call 304-810-0952 or email [executivedirector@wvcasaforchildren.com](mailto:executivedirector@wvcasaforchildren.com)

Oglebay Resort and Conference Center  
<http://www.oglebay-resort.com/>  
800-624-6988

**Oglebay is located in Wheeling, WV on Route 88 North, just 4 miles off I-70 at exit 2A.**

**Destination address:** 465 Lodge Drive, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

**GPS Coordinates:** N 40 degrees 5 minutes 58 seconds and W 80 degrees 39 minutes 39 seconds

A block of rooms have been reserved under the name: CASA. The group rate is \$106 per night.

