

Effective Communication with Stakeholders

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE__

CASA may share: Any medical information.

CASA may ask: Can you share any medical information for this child? If medication is prescribed, what is the specific medication? Is there a plan in place for the use of this medication(s)? Does the plan include a timeline for getting off the medication? Who is the prescribing physician?

*Public Health nurses are natural allies for CASAs to partner with to make sure the child/youth is getting all the services they need.

FOSTER PARENT

CASA may share: Nothing! HOWEVER, since the CASA is charged with the best interest of the child, and/or if time is crucial, share needed information.

CASA may ask: Are you giving the medication regularly? Have you noted any behavioral changes for good or ill, or any side effects?

PRESCRIBING PHYSICIAN

CASA may share: Any medical information about the youth or child, including behaviors, medical history, and trauma history.

CASA may ask: What if any medication is prescribed? Why is it being prescribed, what is the diagnosis? What are potential side effects? What is in the plan in relation to stopping the medication? What are possible alternatives to medication?

SOCIAL WORKER

CASA may share: Any information you have can be shared with the social worker.

CASA may ask: What medications is child/youth taking? Are JV 220's fully filled out? Is the Health and Education Passport completed? Who is the therapist, and how was therapist chosen? How long has therapist been seeing the child/youth?

*CASAs should always read the social workers file and make copies of anything they think is important; copies should be stored at CASA office.

THERAPIST

CASA may share: The child/youth's behaviors, moods, relationships, and stated wants and desires.

CASA may ask: What has the child/youth's response been to therapy? What is the general goal of therapy (you are not asking about specific information shared in therapy, but more general such as "goal of therapy is to deal with trauma from abuse")? What progress has been made toward the overall goal? How long has the child been seeing the therapist? How long can the therapist see the child/youth? In what type of therapy have they engaged, (e.g. cognitive, play, EMDR, etc.) and why was this type chosen?

TEACHER

CASA may share: Nothing!

CASA may ask: Can you describe the child's behavior? What peer relationships does the child have? Does the child have the ability to do schoolwork assigned?

*There are many other questions to ask teachers related to educational issues; the above are targeted toward possible effects of medications and mental health.

CHILD/YOUTH

CASA may share: The name of medication, the reason for taking the medication and the diagnosis. Any age appropriate information regarding medication may be shared.

CASA may ask: What medications are you taking? Why are you taking this/these medications? How do they make you feel? Do you like taking them? Do you remember what it was like before you were taking them? Do you feel better now? Do you think the medications are helping you? Why or why not? Is anyone making you take the medications?

Note: questions to ask and information to share are not all inclusive, but are meant to cover the most common items.