



# South Dakota Unified Judicial System

State Court Administrator's Office

605.773.3474  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

## SD CASA COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES MAY 21, 2025 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM, CDT Virtual Via Microsoft Teams

### Attending:

**Commissioners** – Crystal Aman, JoLynn Bostrom, Judge Patrick Smith, Kristie Fiegen (Committee Chairwoman). Commissioner Aman excused herself from the meeting at 9:20 am.

**CASA Executive Directors** – Stacy Starzl-Hansen, Jackie Horton, Stacey Tieszen, Julie Wermers, Amy Cermak, Gloria Hutson, Laurie Gill, and Kehala Two Bulls.

**Guests** – Makenzie Huber (Searchlight), Jessie Dufner, Adam Altman, Tiffany Even, Mariah Bloom, and Amy Rehder.

**UJS Staff** – Sara Kelly, Austin Gourley and Savannah Shrake.

### Administrative Items

1. Call meeting to order – Commissioner Fiegen called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.
2. Roll call – All Commissioners in attendance.
3. Approval of December 2, 2024, minutes – Commissioner Bostrom moved to approve, Commissioner Smith second, 4- Yea, 0 – Nay, motion carried.
4. Updates from state administered CASA Association – Sara Kelly reported on the accomplishments of 2024, activities and goals for 2025, updates on National CASA (NCASA) and the newly formed state association network named Court Appointed Advocates/GAL Network (CAAN). The CAAN development is in response to the uncertainty of NCASA and will continue the work if NCASA is not functioning at full capacity. Sara Kelly presented a revised budget for the state association to support the [sdcasa.org](https://sdcasa.org) website and her travel to the state network meeting in Louisville, KY in June 2025.

### Presentations – Annual Basic Fund (\$203,000 Approx.)

- Local CASA programs – each program presented accomplishments and challenges for 2024, goals for 2025 and answered questions of the CASA Commissioners. The CASA programs presenting were:
  - Sioux Falls CASA – Stacey Tieszen
  - East Central CASA – Julie Wermers
  - Northern Hills CASA – Amy Cermak
  - Seventh Circuit CASA – Kehala Two Bulls
  - Southeast CASA – Stacy Starzl-Hansen
  - First Circuit CASA – Jackie Horton





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## Presentations – Additional Funds

- New CASA programs presented accomplishments and challenges for 2024, goals for 2025 and answered questions of the CASA Commissioners. The CASA programs presenting were:
  - Fifth Circuit and Sixth Circuit CASA (New Programs) – Gloria Hutson, executive director of the Fifth Circuit CASA and Laurie Gill, executive director of the Sixth Circuit CASA presented.
- A marketing grant request was presented by Seventh Circuit CASA and answered questions of the CASA Commissioners.
  - Seventh Circuit (Marketing) – Kehala Two Bulls of the Seventh Circuit CASA presented a marketing plan.

## Discussion and Awards

Commissioners discussed the program presentations, asked questions and clarification on statistical information and award options.

1. Recommendation Annual Basic Fund – proposed by Commissioner Fiegen
  - a. Southeast CASA - \$28,500
  - b. First Circuit CASA - \$35,000
  - c. Sioux Falls CASA - \$52,000
  - d. East Central CASA - \$35,000
  - e. Northern Hills CASA - \$29,500
  - f. Seventh Circuit CASA - \$23,000Total - \$203,000

Commissioner Bostrom moved to approve Commissioner Fiegen's proposal, Commissioner Smith second, 3-Yea, 0-Nay, motion carried.

2. Recommendations Additional Fund – Commissioner Smith commented the marketing should be above and beyond what a program has in their budgets and doesn't see how marketing as a whole is used for extra effort. Commissioner Fiegen stated marketing is hard to measure and the outcomes need to measure the number of newly recruited volunteers.

Commission Fiegen proposed:

- a. Fifth Circuit CASA - \$30,000
- b. Sixth Circuit CASA - \$30,000
- c. Seventh Circuit CASA - \$0
  - i. Recommendations for Seventh Circuit – they are eligible for \$17,000 for the December 2025 meeting with an application that shows program growth with increased number of volunteers (suggested 10 over the original program goal) and increase in board engagement and conduct in person board meetings.





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Commissioner Bostrom moved to approve Commissioner Fiegen's proposal, Commissioner Smith second, 3-Yea, 0- Nay, motion carried.

## Other Business

1. Annual CASA grant application (updates/changes) – discussion on edits to the grant applications, Sara Kelly will work on updating drafts for approval.
2. Additional CASA funding allocation strategy – discussion on strategically allocating the additional funds to support the new programs and expansion of existing programs. Sara Kelly and the legal interns will work on this and present it to the Commissioners at the summer meeting.
3. December 2025 meeting – Sara Kelly will send out a Doodle Poll for dates to secure a meeting date and time.
4. 2026 meeting – To be set at the December 2025 meeting.

**Adjourn Annual Meeting** - Commissioner Bostrom moved to adjourn, Commissioner Smithe second, 3 – Yea, 0 – Nay, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.

