



# South Dakota Unified Judicial System

State Court Administrator's Office

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

---

## SOUTH DAKOTA CASA COMMISSION MEETING

**Date:** January 9, 2026

**Time:** 12:02 PM

**Format:** Virtual

**Chair:** Kristie Fiegen

**Recorder:** Sara Kelly

**Attending:** Kristie Fiegen, Judge Patrick Smith, Crystal Aman, Judge Karen Jeffries, and JoLynn Bostrom.

**CASA:** Stacy Starzl-Hansen

**Staff:** Sara Kelly

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM. A quorum was confirmed.

### Approval of Minutes

- **December 2025 minutes** were presented for approval.
- Motion to approve was made by **Crystal Aman**.
- Approval was completed by consent, with all members voting in favor.
- **Motion carried.**

---

### Old Business

#### Southeast CASA – 2026 Budget & Grant Application Review

**Presenter:** Stacy Starzl Hansen

Stacy provided an overview of revisions made to the Southeast CASA 2026 budget and grant application, highlighting a change from a proposed full-time position to a **part-time administrative support position**. The rationale included budget sustainability, reduced financial risk, and the availability of a highly qualified candidate requiring minimal training.



<https://ujs.sd.gov>



# South Dakota Unified Judicial System

State Court Administrator's Office

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

---

Key discussion points included:

- The part-time role would provide administrative and case management support, allowing volunteers to focus on core CASA duties.
- Southeast CASA managed approximately **20 complex cases without volunteers** in the prior year due to placement challenges.
- The revised budget eliminated the prior projected deficit.

## Funding & Financial Discussion

- Commissioners discussed **HB 1221 supplemental state funding** (~\$97,000) and sustainability once that funding sunsets.
- Stacy explained CASA's fiscal strategy, including:
  - Intentional investment of \$130,000 into reserves
  - Growth of fundraising efforts (events, direct mail, expansion into Clay County)
  - Use of investments as a contingency if needed.
- Clarification was provided that the reported deficit was an accounting presentation issue, not an actual loss.
- Stacy agreed to correct financial reports to clearly reflect investments as assets, not expenses.

---

## Action Items

- Southeast CASA will **revise financial reports** to correctly categorize investment funds.
- A **brief written report** on outcomes of the funded position will be provided to the Commission in **December 2026**.

---

## Motions

### 2026 Funding Approval

- Motion made by **Judge Jeffries** to approve **\$25,000** in 2026 funding for a **part-time staff position** at Southeast CASA.
- Seconded by **Crystal Aman**.
- No further discussion.
- **Motion carried unanimously.**

---



<https://ujs.sd.gov>



# South Dakota Unified Judicial System

State Court Administrator's Office

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

---

## New Business

### Future Meeting Date

The Commission agreed to schedule the next meeting for:

- **Friday, May 22, 2026**
- **Time:** 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM (Central Time).

---

## Public Comment

No public comments were received.

---

## Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by **JoLynn Bostrom**.
- Seconded by **Judge Patrick Smith**.
- **Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:26 PM.**

---



<https://ujs.sd.gov>