



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.





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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.**





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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.**

