

Advocate Mentor Program at Bergen County CASA

During the last few months, six of our most experienced advocates brainstormed with office staff to develop a new, supportive program called Advocate Mentoring (AM). This was in response to the stress of the pandemic and impact of working remotely coupled with our recent staff transitions. The AM program will provide extensive guidance during advocates' first 6 months on a case. They will help new advocates by providing direction and encouragement, helping form a plan of action, ensuring that Optima notes are entered and collaborating on the first court report. AMs will provide the support that even the most successful Advocates need initially as they begin to work a case, learning to take their first steps on this complicated path. I owe the AM program a debt of gratitude because they already proved their mettle this fall when we were transitioning to a new case supervisor and had 30 cases to redistribute on a temporary basis. Thank you Nilene Evans, Sharon Barth, Karen Marcantonio, Tom Lynaugh, Kathy Krassner and Yvonne Glanville for your generous support. I have come to depend upon and value your thoughtful and often tactful interventions!