Strengthening Core Advocacy: Centering Well-Being

and Belonging for Children and Parents Email

Promotion and Response Templates

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*Note: This document is intended to be a customizable resource for Executive Directors and other local CASA leaders to introduce and promote the 2023 Strengthening Core Advocacy (SCA): centering well-being and belonging for children and parents training to their board members, staff and volunteers. Response templates for any potential questions or hesitations about the training are also included below. The SCA flyers are optional to attach to any promotion email.*

**PROMOTION + INTRODUCTION EMAIL**

*Subject Line: New Training: Strengthening Core Advocacy*

I’m excited to introduce a new training available to our program — **Strengthening Core Advocacy (SCA): Centering Well-Being and Belonging for Children and Parents.** This five-part module training covers the steps to understand and advocate for children and youth who experience a variety of obstacles because of their ethnicity, gender identity, disability status and more.

The training dives deeper into these important topics and goes beyond the surface of understanding what true belonging looks like. The main exercises you’ll work through include reading about key topics and definitions, exploring the origins of some of your thinking processes, learning about how detrimental disparities can be, discovering real life examples and solidifying your knowledge of the CASA role in all of it.

I plan to take the training and hope we can discuss it together as we grow these advocacy skills as an organization.

**RESPONSE EMAILS**

If you were asked...

*Is this a requirement?*

Although this training isn’t required, the Texas Administrative Code requires us to provide cultural diversity training for volunteers, employees, and directors each year. The Strengthening Core Advocacy training falls into this category, and is the most updated, accurate and timely cultural diversity training we have.

I’m encouraging this training because it’ll help you become equipped to be in important conversations in the current child welfare space, and it can help you create a welcoming and safe environment for others. And since our network is committed to ensuring the highest quality of advocacy possible, we need to move forward assessing our biases.

If you were asked...

*How does the sexual orientation and gender identity section differ from promoting gender affirming care, which is now illegal in Texas?*

I understand the confusion around this topic. CASA is not promoting gender affirming medical treatment through the Strengthening Core Advocacy training. The sexual orientation and gender identity section of the training is all about understanding how a person chooses to be identified, which doesn’t mean you’re endorsing a lifestyle or signing up to help someone with gender-affirming treatment. Please also keep in mind that all children and youth in foster care experience trauma, but LGBTQ+ youth face higher rates of rejection, bullying, violence, harassment and other forms of trauma — which the SCA covers.

We know that gender-affirming medical intervention for trans youth — including puberty blockers and hormone therapy — will no longer be legal starting September 1, 2023, because of new legislation from the Regular 88th Texas Legislation Session. We have every intention to respect that law and to endorse only what is legal in the state of Texas for children and youth.