



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: January 9, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Rachel Peña**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for the provision of quality court appointed representation for the best interests and well-being of foster children served by Child Welfare Services (CWS) for the term of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is a community-based program that recruits, trains and supports volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities.

A CASA, empowered by the court and guided by CASA staff, gets to know the child and the child's situation by seeing them every week and talking regularly with teachers, parents, other family members, social workers, attorneys, and therapists to better understand what the child needs. Then the volunteer advocates for that child's best interests.

It is the intent of this MOU to facilitate structured communication, collaboration, and a commitment to work effectively between CASA and CWS to ensure the best interests of court involved youth and children are served.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Memorandum of Understanding, as the services provided ensure the best interests of court involved youth who have experienced abuse or neglect are communicated to the court.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Rachel Peña, LCSW Director of Social Services