



Health and Human Services Agency

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rachel Peña, Social Services Director

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 July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

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.

CASA volunteers, empowered by the court and guided by CASA staff, get 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 in court and Family Team Meetings.

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.

Approved by: Rachel Peña, Social Services Director