



South Carolina Department of
**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY**
Advocacy. Accountability. Service.

MONTHLY UPDATE

Department of Children's Advocacy Monthly Update
Connecting with and updating our community

Adoption Day in South Carolina



Supreme Court of South Carolina Chief Justice Donald W. Beatty authorized five judges to preside over Adoption Day proceedings, during which approximately 63 children were adopted into 43 families:

- Anderson County: Family Court Judge David E. Phillips
- Charleston County: Family Court Judge Michèle Patrão Forsythe and Family Court Judge Spiros S. Ferderigos
- Horry County: Family Court Judge Melissa J. Buckhannon
- Sumter County: Circuit Court Judge George M. McFaddin Jr

“At this time of year when families make an effort to come together, it is especially rewarding to play a role in providing the security and stability of family to children in South Carolina,” said Chief Justice Beatty. “Adoptions take place in Family Court throughout the year, and we always look forward to the focus that Adoption Day brings to these significant family legal proceedings.” Governor Henry McMaster proclaimed November as Adoption Month, and the Department of Social Services worked closely with courts, attorneys and families to schedule and complete these hearings throughout the state.

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CONTINUUM OF CARE**

**GUARDIAN AD LITEM
PROGRAM WELCOMES
RECRUITER AND
DATABASE/GRANTS
COORDINATOR**



S.C. Heart Gallery



MEET SOUTH CAROLINA'S HEART GALLERY CHILDREN



Ariana S.

Photographer:
Liz Odom ©2020



Tylik G.

Photographer:
Lindsay Haselden © 2020



Shanyia G

Photographer:
Latrice Williams © 2017



Messiah B.

Photographer:
Latrice Williams © 2017



Omyriah S.

Photographer:
Lindsay Haselden © 2021



Jayden M.

Photographer:
Latrice Williams © 2020



Jordan H.

Photographer:
Stephanie Warren © 2021



Ben P.

Photographer:
Mike Baker © 2020



Katedra C.

Photographer:
Mike Baker ©2021



Esais E.

Photographer:
Katie DiPietro © 2019



Adrian O.

Photographer:
Mike Baker © 2018



Kelvin S.

Photographer:
Kennedy Ezekiel © 2020



Johnathan W.

Photographer:
Katie DiPietro © 2019



Michael "Mikey" M.

Photographer:
Latrice Williams © 2019



Elijah H.

Photographer:
Leah Daugherty ©2020



Andrew A.

Photographer:
Kristin Mosley © 2021



Amber J.

Photographer:
Jen Williams © 2020



Jenasys B.

Photographer:
Latrice Williams © 2019



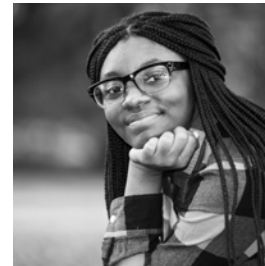
Matthew M.

Photographer:
Latrice Williams © 2017



Nicholas "Nick" F.

Photographer:
Kristin Mosley © 2021



Tasia R.

Photographer:
Jeni Zapor © 2020

Shout-Out to S.C. Continuum of Care, Region C

Four Continuum of Care (COC) Region C staff received acknowledgements for the support and wonderful work they are providing through High Fidelity Wraparound care coordination services. Shout out to Wrap Facilitator Shirley Floyd, Wrap Team Lead Kate Nelson, Wrap Facilitator Angela Chandler, and Wrap Team Lead Michael Williams. These are some of the comments from parents and guardians:



Shout out to Wrap Facilitator Shirley Floyd for receiving positive feedback for always being there to listen and for treating children and grandparents with respect. .

-"Shirley Floyd is always there to listen when we have issues."
-Kate Nelson and Angela Chandler "treat children and grandparents with respect."
-"Wraparound has been excellent. [It is wonderful] when someone is there for you that helps."



Shout out to Wrap Team Lead Kate Nelson for receiving positive feedback for treating children and grandparents with respect. .



Shout Out to S.C. Continuum of Care Region C (continued)



- "Ms. Angela Chandler is very helpful and a wonderful person."

- "Greatly appreciate the program and Mr. Michael Walker."



Shout out to Wrap Facilitator Angela Chandler for receiving positive feedback for being a helpful and wonderful person.

S.C. Continuum of Care provides services for children who have been diagnosed as "severely emotionally disturbed;" who have exhausted existing available treatment resources or services; and whose severity of emotional, mental, or behavioral disturbance requires a comprehensive and organized system of care.

Continuum of Care uses High Fidelity Wraparound to provide evidence-based intensive care coordination in an effort to help keep children and youth in their home, school or community. Continuum of Care is the only state program that provides High Fidelity Wraparound as part of the system of care. High Fidelity Wraparound incorporates an assessment to measure outcomes, for receiving positive comments and for making a difference in the lives of children and families.

To learn more about eligibility and application regarding S.C. Continuum of Care's High Fidelity Wraparound services, [click here](#).



Shout out to Wrap Team Lead Michael Walker for receiving positive feedback for his impactful work with youth and families through S.C. Continuum of Care.

Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program Welcomes New Staff



The Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program welcomes Cassandra Hilton to the team. She is the new Recruiter/Trainer (Program Coordinator II) for Region 2 (the Pee Dee).

Cassandra resides in Florence, SC and is the mother of one. She is a native of Middletown, Connecticut but has resided in South Carolina for the last 27+ years. Cassandra is a graduate of Francis Marion University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Webster University with a Master of Arts in Counseling. Cassandra worked as a Unit Director for the Boys & Girls Club for several years where she recruited members as well as volunteers for the afterschool and summer camp programs. She has worked professionally as a mental health counselor and is experienced in the mortgage industry as well. Cassandra has also served in the U.S. Armed Forces and is a veteran of Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Cassandra is excited about joining the Guardian ad Litem Program as she feels the program “gives a voice” to the children that are served in our community. She looks forward to working and collaborating with others to enlist and prepare volunteers to advocate on behalf of the vulnerable children of South Carolina.

Welcome to Cassandra Hilton

Recruiter/Trainer Manager in the Pee Dee Region
Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program.

The Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program also welcomes Lela Allen as the new Database/Grants Program Manager in Columbia. Lela moved to South Carolina from Colorado in 2005. She has four children and 3 grandchildren. She a Bachelor of Social Work and a Bachelor of Science with an emphasis in Sociology from Colorado State University, and she earned a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Colorado. While attending her undergraduate program, she was a volunteer for the Guardian ad Litem Program in Pueblo, Colorado.

After college, she started her career in child welfare as a case manager (generalist) and was responsible for the case from the point of intake/investigations until reunification, adoption, or case closure. She went to work as a program manager at CASA of Mesa County in Grand Junction, CO, where she was responsible for all grants and fund development.

Lela worked for Richland County CASA for 7 years as a program/volunteer manager; at the Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program as a Program Coordinator II in Greenwood, Abbeville, and Charleston Counties; and as a welfare quality assurance reviewer with the Center for Child and Family Studies at the University of South Carolina. She is excited to return to the Guardian ad Litem Program which holds a special place in her heart.



Welcome to Lela Allen

Database/Grants Program Manager
Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program.

Welcome to the team!



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