

Activity to Extend the Learning

Title: CASA Brainstorm

Developed by: CASA of Allegheny County, PA. , Melissa Protzek

Contact Information: mprotzek@pgh-casa.org

Based on Material From: N/A

Audience:

- Experienced CASA/GAL Volunteer
- New CASA/GAL Volunteer
- Other: _____

Goal of Activity:

To share knowledge and encouragement among CASA volunteer advocates.

Learning objectives:

Participants will list three new options for addressing challenges related to the volunteer role.

Notes for the facilitator:

The work here is all facilitative; there is no content to be reviewed during the session. To prepare for the workshop, solicit suggestions from volunteer advocates and case managers about issues they are facing. Then identify tenured advocates who have faced these issues successfully and who would be willing to participate in the workshop.

Things to keep in mind:

- Carefully chose the facilitator advocates who will be facilitating the conversations.

- You may want to have a pre-meeting/discussion with the facilitators so everyone is clear on what is expected from them and what is the common goal of the activity.
- Make sure to remind the facilitators that this should not turn into a session of gripes and complaints. It should be constructive discussions.

Materials and equipment needed:

Training space that allows for several small discussion groups. Flip charts and markers for large-group-check in. Sign-in roster to include preferred method of sending follow-up notes. You may want to consider bringing “content” material such as books, videos, etc. if there are certain topics that might be discussed such as immigration issues, meth addiction, etc.

Outline of Activity:

Anchor/Kinesthetic/Auditory: Divide CASA volunteer advocates into groups according to pressing cases issues, including those who are currently facing the issue and those who have successfully navigated it. Direct the groups to areas where they can converse. Ask the experienced volunteer advocates to elicit conversation about the challenges being face.

Content Application/Auditory: Ask the experienced advocates to lead a conversation in which the advocates share ideas and teach one another.

Future Use/Visual/Auditory: Afterwards, facilitate a large-group check in so that groups can briefly report on the topic and ideas they discussed. Capture the notes on a flipchart. Ask advocates to identify something different or additional they plan to try. Take notes and offer to send participants your notes. Save these notes so that they can become resource materials at your next CASA Brainstorm.