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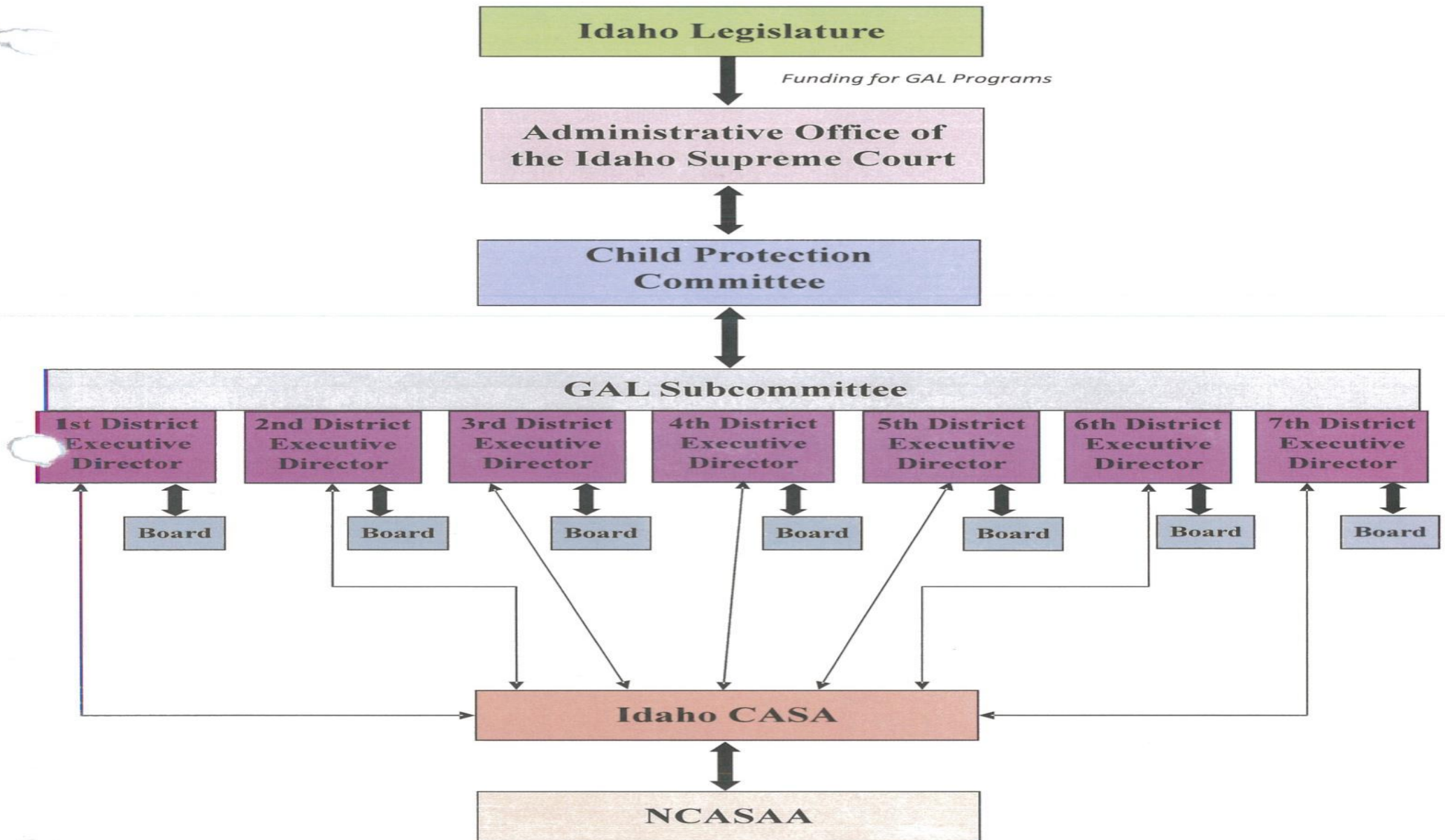
CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates

CASA Programs of Idaho

- Independent 501c3 non profit organizations who are governed by a board of directors
- All seven Idaho CASA Programs are a member of the National CASA Association and follow their 14 standards and practices
- Funded through donations, fundraisers, grants and money from legislators

GAL Funding and Communication Streams



Primary Responsibility of Programs

Recruit, **Train** and **Retain**

Community Volunteers

to represent the best interest of
children involved in

Idaho Child Protection proceedings

Recruitment

Programs recruit volunteers within the communities children live.

All volunteers must complete the following every two years

- NCIC background check
- DHW Child Abuse Central Registry
- Idaho's Sex Offender Registry

Training

All volunteers complete at least 30 hours of pre-service training, topics include:

- Roles and Responsibilities of a GAL/CASA volunteer
- Court Process
- Dynamics of Families including mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and poverty
- Relevant state laws, regulations and policies
- Relevant federal laws, regulations and policies
- Confidentiality and record keeping practices
- Child Development Child abuse and neglect
- Permanency Planning
- Community agencies and resources
- Communication and information gathering
- Effective advocacy
- Cultural Competency
- Special Needs of the children served

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Retention

- Provide a minimum 12 hours of in-service training per year
- Through supervision we provide support to volunteer advocates as they navigate through a complex system
- Develop and support recognition activities to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of our volunteer GAL/CASA advocates

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GAL/CASA Duties

- Investigate
- Advocate
- Facilitate
- Monitor

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GAL/CASA Duties

Investigate

Carry out an objective examination of the situation, including relevant history, environment, relationships and needs of the child

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Advocate

Speak up for the child by making recommendations regarding the child's best interests in a written court report.

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Facilitate

Identify resources and services for the child and facilitate a collaborative relationship between all parties involved in the case, helping to create a situation in which the child's needs can be met

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GAL/CASA Duties

Monitor

Monitor the circumstances of the child and ensure court ordered services are fulfilled and continue to be in the child's best interest.

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GAL/CASA Strengths

Our volunteers bring consistency. Many of our CASA/GAL volunteers have been with our programs for several years. Some as long as 22 years.

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GAL/CASA Strengths

We receive strong support from our
Courts and Communities

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GAL/CASA Strengths

We are committed to increasing the number of children served by an active GAL/CASA volunteer

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GAL/CASA Strengths

We are committed to collecting
accurate data.

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GAL/CASA Strengths

Program staff and volunteers
continue to demonstrate a
commitment to the CASA mission

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GAL/CASA Struggles

Executive Directors need to continuously seek a variety of funding sources through fundraising, donations and grant writing

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GAL/CASA Struggles

Programs work diligently to provide community awareness and to articulate the need for additional CASA/GAL volunteers

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CELEBRATION

We received an additional \$467,500

Programs are using this money to recruit, train and support additional volunteers within their communities.

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