

2023 Business Plan Presentation

**Child Advocacy and
Juvenile Services**

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Gwinnett



2021 – 2022 YTD Recap

- Created to establish independence from the organizational structure of juvenile court and to resolve perceived conflicts inherent in the judicial supervision of staff
- Attorney Guardians ad litem, Probation Officers, and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers have the legal duty to make recommendations to the court without fear of reprisal
- Judicial Code of Conduct requires that judges act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary

2021 – 2022 YTD Recap

Accomplishments

- Created May 2022
- Established collaborative working relationships with County departments, non-profits, and community partners

Challenges

- Forecasting budgetary needs while simultaneously dividing existing resources
- Implementation of validated risk/needs assessment and service planning tools



External Dependencies/Influences

- Local, state, and federal legislation
- Courts
- Community
- Child advocacy practices
- Juvenile justice reform

Notable Metrics/Trends

- Juvenile justice reform emphasis on evidence-based rehabilitative programming via validated risk/needs assessment tools and appropriate service plans
- Recognizing and addressing systemic explicit/implicit racial, ethnic, and cultural bias inequities in child welfare and juvenile justice



Identified Constraints & Opportunities

- New department
- Collaboration with other Gwinnett County departments, external agencies, nonprofits, and community partners to address systemic needs for youth and families

Operational Decisions

- Provide highly qualified legal representation and education advocacy for children in dependency and custody proceedings to improve safety, well-being, and permanency outcomes
- Implement a validated risk/needs assessment tool along with service plans to reduce recidivism



2023 Operational Budget Changes

Decision Packages

1 Guardian ad Litem Attorney and

1 Education Advocate Attorney

Cost \$219,425

County Initiatives

Key initiatives and involvement

- Organizational Excellence and Accountability
 - Professional development
 - Succession planning
 - Competitive salaries



2023 Requested Budget

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|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Requested Budget | \$4,635,149 |
| Decision Packages | \$219,245 |