

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Responsibilities

MISSION

The mission of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA) is to promote the compassionate and just treatment of survivors, their loved ones and significant others, foster collaborative relationships between community systems, and affect attitudinal and behavioral changes in society as we work toward the elimination of sexual violence against all people.

ROLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As the elected body of NJCASA, the Board of Trustees, together with the professional staff, is responsible for the leadership of the Coalition and considers the input and needs of its Program Members.

Board members set broad policies and goals and give the Executive Director free rein to implement them in the day-to-day management of the Coalition. *Individual members of the board, however, have no authority to act independently of the full Board.* When they do, it can seriously damage the Coalition's ability to carry out its mission, diminish Board team spirit and break down the Coalition's good image in the community. Board members who abuse their position this way will be disciplined or censured.

Board members also are "trustees" of the Coalition. They approve an annual budget (income and expense) that ensures that the Coalition can meet its financial needs. In addition, the Board monitors the overall health of the Coalition by reviewing annual reports of the auditor recommended by the Executive Director and/or Finance Committee. This, however, does not mean Board members should interfere with the Executive Director's responsibility to make day-to-day operational expenditures.

The Board of Trustees meets at least six times each year. It has four standing committees: Executive, Governance and Capacity, Fundraising, and Finance.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Trustees is responsible for:

- ❖ Furthering the mission of NJCASA
- ❖ Promoting the development of the Coalition as a membership movement
- ❖ Establishing policy
- ❖ Insuring that the Coalition's policies and practices reflect NJCASA's organizational commitment to racial, ethnic and cultural diversity
- ❖ Insuring the financial integrity of the Coalition
- ❖ Raising funds
- ❖ Maintaining community relations
- ❖ Providing expertise
- ❖ Creating and approving strategic plans and directions
- ❖ Hiring, supporting, evaluating and dismissing the Executive Director
- ❖ Insuring that the Coalition's programs match the mission