

Possibilities for placement and supervision of mental health advocates
Submitted by Linda Brundies, Assistant Ombudsman II

Department of Inspection and Appeals – similar to Iowa Child Advocacy Board and State Public Defender

The Iowa Child Advocacy Board (ICAB) is an independent board established in Iowa Code Chapter 237, Division II to provide for citizen involvement in child welfare issues. It is composed of nine [members](#) appointed by the Governor of Iowa and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. ICAB is a unit of state government attached to the [Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals](#).

ICAB establishes policies and procedures for two volunteer child advocacy programs: the Court Appointed Special Advocate ([CASA](#)) program and the Foster Care Review Boards ([FCRB](#)) program.

Department of Human Rights – possibly within the Division of Community Advocacy and Services

<http://www.humanrights.iowa.gov/advocacy.html>

Why the Iowa Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman office is inappropriate to supervise or house mental health advocates:

1. The primary role of an Ombudsman is to impartially investigate complaints against governmental agencies, not to advocate for or represent the interests or rights of particular individuals.
2. Our office has jurisdiction and can take complaints about any mental health advocate appointed by the county board of supervisors. (Currently just Polk County due to population greater than 300,000)