

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN
<http://www.nh.gov/csm>
Official Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2008 1:00-3:30 PM
Legislative Office Building Room 206, Concord, NH

These minutes were taken by Scott Garman.

Members Present: Joe Mastromarino, Larry Colby, Scott Garman, Mike Geanoulis, Scott Meyer

Members Absent: David Lauren, Robert Sinclair

Also Present: John Dawley

Additional Agenda Items:

Mike Geanoulis requested the following additional agenda items:

- NH Child Support Economic Study Meeting Audio Web Link
- Legislative Bill Drafting

Scott Meyer requested the following additional agenda items:

- Internships with the Commission

Joe Mastromarino requested the following additional agenda items:

- Enforcement of HB1585 and RSA 633:4

The above items were added to the agenda without any objections.

Secretary's Report:

Scott Garman distributed copies of the August minutes draft. Larry Colby noted an omission in the attendance list. Larry Colby motioned to accept the minutes as corrected. Scott Meyer seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Larry Colby noted for the record that last month's meeting with members of the UNH Cooperative Extension regarding the NH child cost economic study is a noteworthy example of the Commission's work on behalf of its constituents.

Web Site Update:

Scott Garman reported no changes to the Commission's web site during the past month, and intends to submit the next update before the close of September.

Joe Mastromarino suggested that obtaining statistics about how often the Commission's web site is viewed would be a useful data point to measure the Commission's outreach effectiveness. Scott Garman agreed to find out how to add a web counter to the Commission's web site to provide these statistics.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report is delayed due to the absence of Treasurer David Lauren.

November/December Meeting Dates:

Due to the close timing of the last Friday of November and December with holidays, Joe Mastromarino agreed to confirm meeting locations for the third Friday in November and December. Please track the Commission's web site meeting calendar for details. Potential meeting locations discussed were the LOB, NH State Library, and Upham-Walker House.

Men's Health Day Recap:

Larry Colby attended a Men's Health Day celebration on September 20, 2008. The event was in Keene, NH and held at a local hardware/lumber store. The event was sponsored by the Cheshire Medical Center.

Booths were set up with various information about men's health, and there were free health screenings offered. There were also demonstrations of potential interest to men, including fly fishing and a motorcycle safety display by Harley-Davidson.

The Commission discussed interest in encouraging other hospitals around the state to hold similar events. Larry Colby noted that Ruth Abbott from the Cheshire Medical Center may have more information about how the event was organized

Larry also distributed blue ribbon pins and blue wrist bracelets representing prostate cancer awareness. More materials along these lines can be found at:

<http://www.fightprostatecancer.org>

New England Fathering Conference:

Larry Colby announced that dates have been set for the 10th annual New England Fathering Conference. The conference will be held in Cromwell, CT from March 25-27, 2008. He noted that this year there will be a panel discussion on custody and child support issues, and how policies differ in various New England states.

Public Input:

John Dawley from Nashua spoke before the Commission about possible advertising and outreach efforts. Mr. Dawley is a small business owner who can develop 4x8 foot signs and drive them around the state to help raise awareness. These "mobile billboards" would cost approximately \$410 for initial construction, and then could be moved around the state for \$33/hour.

Commission members discussed the idea of developing a sign on topics related to the CSM's mission, but tabled any decisions on this for a future meeting.

Expired Commission Seat:

Mike Geanoulis noted that currently a member of the Commission has been serving in an expired seat for over one year. He expressed concerns that this could have a negative impact on the Commission since the legal status

of an expired member's votes is under question. Scott Garman expressed concern that the lack of explicit renomination by the Governor's office does not allow the Executive Council to perform its duties to review and approve or deny the membership of this seat.

Scott Meyer offered to ask his Executive Councilor about the basis for which a previously appointed member of a state commission may serve after his or her term has expired. Joe Mastromarino agreed to ask the same from the Governor's office.

NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence:

Mike Geanoulis wishes to make it clear for the record that the original reason for inviting Grace Mattern of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV) to meet with the Commission was to discover what criteria and process is used to accept new member organizations into their coalition. The secondary reason for this meeting is for the Commission to be briefed on the results of a new survey on domestic violence in New Hampshire. Mike requested a date for Ms. Mattern's appearance be set as soon as possible.

NH Child Support Economic Study Meeting Audio Web Link:

Mike Geanoulis offered to follow up with the guests from last month's meeting (Dr. Malcolm Smith and Dr. Michael Kalinowski) to obtain a digital copy or web address where the audio from last month's meeting can be downloaded from. Mike would like to have this link included on the Commission's web site when it becomes available.

Internships with the Commission:

Scott Meyer offered to discuss the possibility of the Commission offering internships with his Executive Councilor.

Legislative Bill Drafting:

Mike Geanoulis expressed interest in reviewing the Commission's reports to identify recommendations that could be sensibly incorporated into new legislation, and working with the state legislature to get such bills established.

Mike will also welcome and invite legislators to Commission meetings and distribute copies of our reports, particularly to newly elected members this Fall. Mike will submit a draft of his welcome email to the group for review.

Enforcement of HB1585 and RSA 633:4:

Joe Mastromarino distributed draft copies of a letter to the Attorney General to inquire as to how or why RSA 461-A:4-a and RSA 633:4 (both excerpted below) are not being enforced and even ignored. Alleged violations of these laws constitute possible emotional abuse of children by withholding them from one of their parents, usually the father. The first provides for a hearing within 30 days while the latter, also designed to prevent emotional child abuse, is a violation of the criminal code.

This Commission is concerned about anecdotal evidence from aggrieved fathers that parental interference problems are being ignored by the courts, child protection agencies, and our criminal justice system.

RSA Excerpts:

461-A:4-a Judicial Enforcement of Parenting Plan. – Any motion for contempt or enforcement of an order regarding an approved parenting plan under this chapter, if filed by a parent, shall be reviewed by the court within 30 days.

633:4 Interference With Custody.

I. A person is guilty of a class B felony if such person knowingly takes from this state or entices away from this state any child under the age of 18, or causes any such child to be taken from this state or enticed away from this state, with the intent to detain or conceal such child from a parent, guardian or other person having lawful parental rights and responsibilities as described in RSA 461-A.

II. A person is guilty of a misdemeanor if such person knowingly takes, entices away, detains or conceals any child under the age of 18, or causes any such child to be taken, enticed away, detained or concealed, with the intent to detain or conceal such child from a parent, guardian or other person having lawful parental rights and responsibilities as described in RSA 461-A.