

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN**

<http://www.nh.gov/csm>

Minutes for the 40th Commission Meeting

October 26, 2007 1-4 PM

Legislative Office Building Room 2006, Concord, NH

These minutes were taken by Scott Garman.

**Members Present:** Joe Mastromarino, Scott Garman, Mike Geanoulis, Marshall Hickok, Scott Meyer.

**Members Absent:** David Lauren, Gus Lerandeau.

**Also Present:** Lee Newman.

Chair Joe Mastromarino opened the meeting with Commissioner introductions.

**Child Support Request for Proposal:**

Mike Geanoulis asked to make a quick announcement regarding a Request for Proposals (RFP) he received from the NH Office of Child Support.

Mike received a Request for Proposal, 08-DCSS-AV-03, Access and Visitation, that he hoped the Commission might be able to get involved with. The object of the proposal is to improve child well-being (and child support collections) by strengthening the father/child connection.

Since the Commission's mission seeks to bring fathers and children closer together, Mike suggested that the Commission should pursue this proposal opportunity. But most felt that such a proposal would require a higher level of infrastructure and an Executive Director to manage the project, so the topic was tabled for future consideration.

**Secretary's Report:**

Scott Garman distributed draft copies of the September 2007 meeting minutes. Scott Garman motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Joe Mastromarino seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's report is delayed in the absence of Treasurer David Lauren.

Scott Garman reported filling out the necessary paperwork last month for Dr. Warren Farrell's honorarium payment, and submitted the form to Joe Mastromarino for final approval.

Joe Mastromarino reported signing the form and submitting it to Barry Bodell's office. Joe received the USPS return receipt and noted that he gave instructions to have the payment sent directly to Dr. Farrell's address to prevent further delays.

### **Task Force on Work and Family:**

Mike Geanoulis, who represents the commission on the Task Force and Work and Family (TFWF), reports that the Task Force is in its infancy, exploring topics of possible concern. Mike said he emphasized the need to encourage father involvement and healthy marriages, or at least healthy cohabitations, as the best way to combine family resources in efforts to get relief from work/family problems.

He also asked the Task Force:

- To look at the difficulties many ordinary-income, non-resident fathers are having keeping up with their child support payments.
- To consider the possibility that government programs could be counterproductive in efforts to involve both parents on work/family issues.
- To consider recommending ways to save marriages from domestic violence intervention by the criminal justice system in nonviolent problem areas that might be more constructively served with counseling, compromise, and improved communication.

### **Commission Name Change Proposal:**

Marshall Hickok expressed concern about the ease with which misperceptions about the Commission have spread in the public and media, and wanted to discuss how possibly changing the name of the Commission could address these problems. This name change would require new legislation to amend RSA 19-I.

Marshall questioned whether our title appropriately reflects our mission and its various themes, and suggested that changing our name to the NH Commission on the Status of Men and Boys would disarm a lot of stereotypes about the "Status of Men", because people are much more willing to accept that boys could be in need of help.

There was general agreement that our existing name often requires further explanation when it is stated, but there was not a consensus that a change to the NH Commission on the Status of Men and Boys

would resolve those issues.

Scott Meyer suggested the NH Commission on Healthy Male Development, but concerns were raised that it may imply negative connotations regarding masculinity in general. Scott Meyer also suggested that input be solicited from others to come up with other possibilities to consider.

Marshall motioned that the Commission keep the name change/perception issue as a rolling agenda item until a majority decides to remove it. Scott Meyer seconded, and the motion passed 4-0, with Mike Geanoulis abstaining.

Scott Garman will speak with former Rep. David Bickford to find out if he has any ideas.

### **Second Biennial Report Preparation:**

Mike Geanoulis distributed copies of a sample report outline, modeled close to the Commission's previous biennial report, and asked if members would agree to take on various tasks.

The following topic assignments were made:

Charter, members, enabling RSA, Duties - Geanoulis

Intro & Overview - Mastromarino

AcknowledgementsIntro and overview - Mastromarino

History - Geanoulis

Committees - Garman

First Biennial Report Feedback - Garman & Geanoulis

    Wall Street Journal Editorial - Garman

    MSNBC's "The Situation with Tucker Carlson - Geanoulis

A Report from John Stephen, DHHS Commissioner - Geanoulis

    Lobbying and state/federal funding - Geanoulis

    Fatherless children and the need for state-funded services - Geanoulis

    Birth Certificates where father is not named - Geanoulis

    Availability of Data - Geanoulis

    DHHS and The Ad-Hoc Committee on Marriage - Geanoulis

Dialogue between Father's Groups and DHHS - Geanoulis

The Trouble With Boys - Geanoulis

    The Boys' Project - Geanoulis

The Father/Child Connection - Geanoulis & Garman

    Public Comment - Geanoulis

    Dr. Gressitt's Testimony - Geanoulis

    The Status of Fathers - Geanoulis

The Importance of Fathers - Geanoulis  
When Fathers are absent - Geanoulis  
Dr Wade Horn Invitation - Geanoulis  
National Center for Education Statistics release: Fathers of U.S. Children Born in 2001: Findings from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Garman  
Justice Gerard Boyle Testimony - Hickok  
USDA and WIC - Geanoulis  
NH Children's Alliance - Geanoulis  
    Report from Steve Varnum - Geanoulis  
    Membership - Geanoulis  
Legislative Report (Suggest that former Rep. David Bickford submit a draft for our approval)  
    House Bill 529 (Comparable Parenting)  
    House Bill 1580 (Child Support)  
    House Bill 1331 (2006) ( Tanf Reform)  
    HB 312 (Parenting Coordinators)  
    HB 560 (Prostate Screening)  
    HB 704 (CSM renewal)  
    HB 470 (Restraining Orders) - Hickok  
Domestic Violence - Garman, Geanoulis, & Hickok  
    Federal House Resolution HR 590 - Garman & Geanoulis  
    PBS and Breaking the Silence - Garman & Geanoulis  
    Dr. Murray Straus Testimony - Garman & Geanoulis  
    Teen Dating Violence--Lee Newman of SAFE-NH report - Garman & Geanoulis  
    RADAR Resolution to the UN, CSM endorsement - Garman & Geanoulis  
    Justice Gerard Boyle Testimony - Hickok  
    AOC Report on Restraining Orders - Garman & Geanoulis  
Child Support - Geanoulis  
    Neil Boutin of CS Div reports - Geanoulis  
Parental Alienation Syndrome - Garman  
    Dr. Stevan Gressitt testimony - Garman  
The Task Force on Work and Family - Geanoulis  
Birth Certificate Laws - Geanoulis  
    Paternity establishment - Geanoulis  
    CSM Resolution - Geanoulis  
Men's/Boy's Education - Garman  
    Dr. Elaine Holden, The Reading Foundation Testimony - Garman  
    Dr. Farrell's Seminar "The Boy Crisis" - Garman  
    Men's Equality Congress Conference - Garman  
Prostate Cancer Support Group - Garman

Scott Garman agreed to set up a Google Docs account where members could collaborate on the report

in real-time. Anyone who is uncomfortable or unable to use Google Docs can submit files in plain text or MS Word format to Scott Garman for inclusion.

Before the meeting adjourned, Mike Geanoulis requested that an agenda item be added for the November meeting to review the Commission's mission statement. Scott Garman agreed to add that to the agenda.