

**Family Mediator Certification Board**  
**Minutes**  
**July 26, 2016**

**Present:** M. Rousseau, E. Dinerstein, T. Sturke, C. Dochstader, C. Sadler, P. Goldsmith, M. Garner, R. Cram, L. Aaby and E. Christensen (by phone)

**Excused:** E. Jasina

Also present: P. Heinrich

M. Rousseau called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM. She announced that E. Christensen would be participating during the meeting by telephone. E. Christensen told the Board that she was in Ridgefield, Connecticut and no one was in the room where she was.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

C. Dochstader made a MOTION to approve the Public Minutes of May 4, 2016 with corrections. Second: T. Sturke. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED with M. Garner and E. Dinerstein abstaining.

P. Goldsmith made a MOTION to approve the Non-Public Minutes of April 5, 2016 with corrections. Second: C. Dochstader. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED with M. Garner and E. Dinerstein abstaining.

**Continuing Education Approval Requests**

T. Sturke made a MOTION to approve the following:

\*“Understanding Supervised Visitation Centers,” presented by DOVE on June 14<sup>th</sup> for .5 hour of Domestic Violence and 2.5 hours of “Other” continuing education.

I Can’t Believe This is Happening in My Mediation sponsored by NHCRA on June 15<sup>th</sup> for 3 hours of Ethics continuing education.

\*“Domestic Violence & Mediation” sponsored by NHCRA on June 15<sup>th</sup> for 3 hours of Domestic Violence continuing education.

\*“Transforming Conflict: Finding Hidden Gifts” presented by Judy Ringer at the UNH Conference to be held on May 11, 2016 for 1.75 hours of Mediation Skills continuing education.

Second: C. Dochstader. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED.

C. Dochstader made a MOTION to approve “Looking at Alimony – Current and Proposed, plus Other Family Law Updates” sponsored by Amoskeag Continuing Education/Honey Hastings on September 16 and October 21 for 3 hours of Legal Update continuing education. Second: C. Sadler. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED.

**Administrative Assistant’s Report**

P. Heinrich will check on the status of upcoming nominations/appointments.

M. Rousseau reported about an email that she had received regarding a family law case in which the court appointed mediator was not a certified mediator. Members suggested the email writer should be referred to the Office of Mediation and Arbitration.

**Non-Public Session I: RSA 91-A:3 II c.**

T. Sturke made a MOTION to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, IIc: Personal. Second: P. Goldsmith. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The Board entered Non-Public Session at 5:05 PM.

The Board returned to Public Session at 4:30 PM.

T. Sturke made a MOTION to seal the Non-Public Minutes. Second: C. Sadler. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED.

**Update on DV Guidelines**

E. Christensen reported on a recent meeting with Molly Brown and Melissa Kowalewski that she, E. Jasina and T. Sturke attended. She said they discussed:

1. Feedback from certified mediators regarding the DV Guidelines and the Court process.
2. Concerns, suggestions and progress regarding the Court process for handling of DV cases.
3. Three new options to improve the Court DV screening process that Molly and Melissa intended to look into prior to their next meeting
  - Provide DV screening as part of First Appearance
  - Adding a separate DV screening stage on a different day from First Appearance/ Mediation date.
  - Adding a separate DV screening stage right before mediation.

E. Christensen said she was arranging for a follow-up meeting.

T. Sturke reported that there will be a new First Appearance video which will clarify DV options.

C. Dochstader reminded everyone that, even if there is a pre-screening for DV before mediation is conducted, mediators are obligated to conduct at least a minimal DV screening at the beginning of every mediation session.

Members also discussed that the need for several acceptable DV screening options because each mediation situation is unique and one standard screening technique will not work in all situations. In addition, members wondered about meeting with Judge Kelly again.

P. Heinrich gave the Board copies of her notes from the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on the DV Guidelines and a letter with proposed changes to the DV Guidelines that was submitted by Anthony Matrumalo.

E. Christensen left the meeting at this time.

**Administrative Rules**

C. Sadler told the Board she was working on a “hybrid” of the current “Complaint Rules” which would clarify who had the burden of proof and the role for the complainant, provide for a pre-investigation conference and a right for the complainant to file for reconsideration and specify time frames at various steps in the process. She also said there needs to be a definition of complaint.

Members still want the rules to include a mediation option and several settlement possibilities before a formal adjudicatory complaint hearing.

M. Garner made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: C. Dochstader. MOTION PASSED.

M. Rousseau adjourned the meeting at 6:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich