



# State of New Hampshire Guardian ad Litem Board

## Public Minutes

October 18, 2013

Legislative Office Building Room 101

**Members Present:** Susan Duncan, Chair, Chris Keating, Ann Larney, Senator David Pierce, Representative Deanna Rollo

**Members Absent:** Alan Cantor, Master Henrietta Luneau, David Villiotti

Chairwoman Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

A quorum was present.

### 1. Public Comment

#### a. Representative Peter Schmidt from Dover

##### i. Representative Schmidt let the Board know that:

1. He participated in Joint review committee of the GAL audit.
2. He was also on special committee appointed by Speaker.
3. A lot of disturbing testimony was heard at hearings.
4. He remains very concerned with the GAL situation in NH. Representative Schmidt is hoping there is an effort underway to improve the situation.
5. The standard for GALs has improved over the years.
6. Representative Schmidt would like to assist in any way possible.

##### ii. The Board responded with:

1. The family division receives thousands of cases per year only a few people came to committee hearings to express upset.
2. Not one of the people "complaining" to committee filed a complaint with the Board.
3. The Board has a complaint process that gives due process to the GAL and the complainant.

Senator Pierce left the room.

A Quorum was lost.

Work session discussion continued.

### 2. Board Actions & Updates

#### a. Training

##### i. The Training Statement was sent to approximately 55 people and posted on the website.

1. 24 people have responded to statement saying they are still interested.
  - a. Approximately 6 of the 24 are from Rhode Island which requires GALs to have formal training but does not offer the training.
  - b. 3 of the 24 are only looking for the court specific training to expand their business and be able to be listed in family court.

##### ii. Discussion Included:

1. Does the Board need to use NHTI or can hold training itself?
  - a. The Board can hold the training itself.
  - b. Previously the Law School has not been interested in hosting the training.
  - c. In the past the Board has not wanted to take on the task of planning training.

- d. NHTI has the space, technology, provides food, certificates, does registration.
- e. NHTI has the capability of doing the court satellite to all campuses over the US.
- f. There is no rule requiring that the training provide food. It could be a brown bag lunch.
- g. There are State buildings that can be used for free.
- h. The training does not need to be held on nights and weekends it could be during the day.
- 2. Can the Board partner with the Judicial Branch?
  - a. There is a possibility to use their facilities but it doesn't seem like plausible to partner.
- 3. The Board has an obligation to pursue the ability to put on a training.
- b. Children and Family Psychological Evaluation Service
  - i. An email was received requesting an advisory opinion.
  - ii. Department of Health and Human Services referred them to the Board.
  - iii. Discussion Included:
    - 1. The Board does not give advisory opinions.
    - 2. In the State of NH are GALs are certified by the Board and appointed by the courts as neutral.
- c. Board Membership
  - i. A letter and resume were sent to Governor Hassan advising her of Dave Robbins interest in becoming a Board member.
- d. Meetings
  - i. Rules Only Meeting
    - 1. There is a rule only meeting scheduled for November 8, 2013 at 1:00pm.

Senator Pierce returned.  
A Quorum was retained.

## 1. Review Minutes

- a. September 20, 2013 Sub-Committee Public
  - i. A. Larney made a motion to approve the minutes. C. Keating seconded. Vote: 3-0-2 Senator Pierce & Representative Rollo abstaining. Motion passes.
- b. September 20, 2013 Sub-Committee Non-Public SEALED
  - i. There were changes to these minutes so discussion was held until non-public session.
- c. September 20, 2013 Full Board Public
  - i. A. Larney made a motion to approve the minutes. C. Keating seconded. Vote: 3-0-2 Senator Pierce & Representative Rollo abstaining. Motion passes.
- d. September 20, 2013 Non-Public SEALED
  - i. There were changes to these minutes so discussion was held until non-public session.

## 2. Board Actions & Updates

- a. Training
  - i. Chairwoman Duncan reviewed what was discussed when Senator Pierce was not in the room.
  - ii. Senator Pierce made a motion to proceed to put on a training subject to the circuit breaker number of participants NHTI requires. A. Larney seconded. Vote: 4-1. C. Keating objecting. Motion passes.

- b. Office Move
  - i. The office has officially physically moved.
  - ii. The mailing address, phone number and email address remain the same.
  - iii. In November the door to the hallway will be secure so you cannot get through without a badge.
    - 1. Discussion Included:
      - a. The new secure door is for Financial Data Management which occupies pretty much that entire wing of the building. The Judicial Council and the Guardian ad Litem Board Office are affected because of location.
      - b. The Board was established to allow public access to Guardians ad Litem.
      - c. Currently, GAL Board visitors go to Room 120 and then the office is buzzed that there is a visitor. This process will continue in the future.
      - d. People will be able to be buzzed through the door to obtain access to the office.
- c. New Counsel
  - i. Amanda Godlewski is the Board's new counsel at AG's office.
- d. 2014 LSR's
  - i. The Board reviewed the current list of LSR's that possibly could involve the Board and/or Guardians ad Litem.
- e. Thank You Note from Becky McBeath
  - i. GAL McBeath sent a thank you note to the Board for their time and favorable consideration of her renewal application. She went on to say the being a GAL is rewarding to her.

### **3. Continuing Education Requests**

- a. Active Parenting Series
  - i. Discussion Included:
    - 1. The GAL is facilitating 6 week discussions through the Parent organizations at the local schools for active parenting techniques.
    - 2. Mentoring does not qualify as teaching.
    - 3. She is learning different issues from parents.
  - ii. Senator Pierce made a motion to approve one six week session totally 12 hours. C. Keating seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.
- b. Ethical Scenarios Attorneys must know
  - i. C. Keating made a motion to deny. Senator Pierce seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.
- c. Cutting Edge Ethics
  - i. C. Keating made a motion to deny. Senator Pierce seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.
- d. Immigration Compliance in the Age of Enforcement
  - i. Senator Pierce made a motion to deny. C. Keating seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.
- e. Lawyers at risk: Depression
  - i. Workshop was in 2009 so does not meet the time limit criteria for CEU.
  - ii. Senator Pierce made a motion to deny. A. Larney seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.
- f. Medical advancements in diagnosing the origin of injuries in infants and young children
  - i. Senator Pierce made a motion to approve. A. Larney seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes
- g. A review of recent case law and perspectives from the bench
  - i. A. Larney made a motion to approve. Senator Pierce seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.
- h. An Update of the Link Between Animal Abuse and Family Violence
  - i. C. Keating made a motion to approve. A. Larney seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.
- i. Essential Practice Insights and Ethical Considerations in Article 10 proceedings.
  - i. A. Larney made a motion to approve. C. Keating seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.

- j. Protecting Families-People and their Pets-Experiencing Domestic Violence
  - i. C. Keating made a motion to approve. A. Larney seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.
- k. Intake: The Role of Race, Ethnicity, and Class
  - i. C. Keating made a motion to approve. A. Larney seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.

**4. Personnel Records**

- a. There is not a lot of clarity as to where the personnel records are and what obligations the Board has to meet and provide to the administrative assistant.
- b. C. Keating offered to establish a sub-committee to work with the administrative assistant and clarify the duties of the Board and the staff. A. Larney offered to work with them.

**5. Non-Public Session**

*C. Keating moved to go into non-public session for the purposes of discussing a matter which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of a person or persons who is not a member of this body pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c). A. Larney seconded.*

*A roll call vote was taken:*

*Susan Duncan, Aye, Chris Keating, Aye, Ann Larney, Aye, Senator David Pierce, Aye, Representative Deanna Rollo, Aye*

Senator Pierce made a motion to go back into public session. C. Keating seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.

Senator Pierce made a motion to adjourn. S. Duncan seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.