

**Family Mediator Certification Board**  
Minutes  
April 5, 2016

Present: M. Garner, P. Goldsmith, E. Christensen, L. Aaby, E. Dinerstein, C. Sadler, T. Sturke,  
C. Dochstader and R. Cram

Excused: M. Rousseau and E. Jasina

Also present: P. Heinrich and C. Horne

T. Sturke called the meeting to order at 4:19 PM.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

P. Goldsmith made a MOTION to approve the Public Minutes from March 1, 2016 with corrections. Second: T. Sturke. MOTION PASSED with T. Sturke and R. Cram abstaining.

P. Goldsmith made a MOTION to approve the Non-Public Minutes from March 1, 2016 with corrections. Second: C. Dochstader. MOTION PASSED with T. Sturke and R. Cram abstaining.

**Continuing Education Approval Requests**

E. Christensen left the room.

C. Dochstader made a MOTION to approve a Webinar “Beyond Anger and Violence: A Program for Women” sponsored by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence on March 3, 2016 for 1.5 hours of Domestic Violence continuing education credits. Second: E. Dinerstein. MOTION PASSED.

E. Christensen returned to the room.

E. Christensen made a MOTION to approve “Ethics for All Mediators” sponsored by BRDGES Academy on April 8, 2016 for 4 hours of Mediator Ethics continuing education. Second: C. Sadler. MOTION PASSED.

C. Dochstader made a MOTION to request additional information about the conference “Conflict, Collaboration & Communication” from UNH. Second: E. Dinerstein. MOTION PASSED.

T. Sturke made a MOTION to approve “Conflict Resolution Styles” sponsored by NHBA – ADR Section and taught by Candace Dochstader and Esther Tardy-Wolfe on April 13, 2016 for 1.75 hours of Mediation Skills continuing education. Second: E. Dinerstein. MOTION PASSED.

T. Sturke made a MOTION to approve “2016 Family Law Forum: I Want to Know What Love Is” sponsored by the NH Association for Justice on February 12, 2016 for 3 hours of Legal Update and 3 hours of “Other” continuing education. Second: R. Cram. MOTION PASSED.

**Hearing Order**

P. Heinrich reported that the Ashford Hearing Order had been approved by the Board's attorney at the Attorney General's office.

T. Sturke made a MOTION to have the order sent to Ms. Ashford and her attorney after Hearing Presiding Officer M. Garner signed it. Second: C. Dochstader. MOTION PASSED with L. Aaby abstaining.

**Report on DV Meeting**

T. Sturke reported that since the last Board meeting, she, E. Christensen and M. Rousseau had been able to arrange a meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> between mediators, DV advocates and Molly Brown. She said P. Heinrich had facilitated contacting and registering mediators to attend the meeting and that several mediators were upset because seating was limited.

E. Christensen reported that she thought the meeting was extremely helpful. She said the mediators and DV advocates agreed that there should be a separate court screening process before the date of any mediation and not at First Appearance. She also said that most of the mediators present felt that following the Model Standards was sufficient and that the new Board guidelines were not needed. Further, she said that the mediators want to know what to do, as well as how to terminate mediation, if DV is suspected without violating confidentiality requirements.

P. Heinrich told the Board that the DV advocates said that First Appearance and DV screening practices are not standardized throughout the state. She said that several people brought up the difference between the statutory definition of domestic violence and the NHCRA definition of domestic violence.

C. Dochstader said that Molly Brown had attended the meeting by speaker phone. C. Dochstader said that M. Brown had indicated that the courts are working on developing DV guidelines for its court personnel in parallel with the new Guidelines that the Board created and that she would talk to court personnel about the issues raised by the mediators and DV advocates. C. Dochstader suggested that the Board needs to follow-up with M. Brown on a more regular basis.

E. Christensen said those present at the meeting agreed that a workshop or panel discussion between mediators and Coalition members on DV screening techniques and other considerations would be helpful. She also said that more work is needed and many of those present at the meeting offered to assist.

**Administrative Rules**

Members reported that the various rule sub-committees had been exchanging emails to discuss potential changes to the rules. When ready, drafts of proposed rule changes will be sent to members before meetings.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2016.

Minutes, 4-5-16, continued

**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: M. Garner. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The Board entered Non-Public Session at 5:10 PM.

The Board returned to Public Session at 5:22 PM.

T. Sturke made a MOTION to seal the Non-Public Minutes. Second: C. Sadler. MOTION PASSED.

**Other**

E. Dinerstein thanked the members of the Board for their help and support.

At 5:30 PM, T. Sturke declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich