



## **State of New Hampshire Guardian ad Litem Board**

Public Minutes May 16, 2014

Legislative Office Building Room 101

Members present: Alan Cantor, Susan Duncan, Chair, Chris Keating, Ann Larney, Master Henrietta Luneau, Dave Robbins, Representative Deanna Rollo, David Villiotti

Members Absent: Senator David Pierce

Chairwoman Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:08pm.

### **1. Public Comment**

Betsy Paine who works for the Circuit Court on Domestic Violence was in attendance for observation.

### **2. Review Minutes**

April 18, 2014 Full Board Public: A. Larney made a motion to approve the minutes. S. Duncan seconded. Vote: 6-0-2 M. Luneau & D. Robbins abstaining. Motion passes.

April 18, 2014 Adjudicatory Hearing of Ann Thompson Bennett: C. Keating made a motion to approve the minutes. Rep. Rollo seconded. Vote: 6-0-2 M. Luneau & D. Robbins abstaining. Motion passes.

### **3. GAL Statistics as of May 16, 2014**

#### **a. 96 Certified GALs**

- i.** 1 is on an alteration of time to complete CEUs and it not allowed to accept new cases
- ii.** 1 are no longer accepting appointments
- iii.** 2 are temporary for the purpose of completing an appointment
- iv.** Technically, there are 92 Certified GALs able & willing to serve.

#### **b. 3 GALs expired in April**

#### **c. 5 GALs expire May 20<sup>th</sup>**

- i.** So far only 1 has submitted a renewal app

#### **d. 2 GALs were granted a CEU extension which expires May 25<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **e. 7 GALs are still within the 90 day re-certification period**

#### **f. 65 GALs are certified in Family Division**

#### **g. 76 GALs are certified in District Court**

#### **h. 93 GALs are certified in Superior Court**

#### **i. 82 GALs are certified in Probate Court**

### **4. Board Actions & Updates**

HB 1343 Relative to guardian ad litem fees

The Board had to fill out a fiscal note which indicated that the language as amended by the House has no impact on the Board or our oversight of GALs. The Senate Judiciary heard the bill on May 6<sup>th</sup> and recommended passage with an amendment that still does not include the Board. On May 15<sup>th</sup> the full Senate approved the amendment and the bill was sent to a committee of conference. The House will vote in June.

Congratulations to Susan Duncan and Alan Cantor for being re-appointed by the Governor to another 3 year term on the Board.

IT Plan

The IT Plan for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 is due on May 30, 2014. The Board thanked the Judicial Council for allowing office staff to use their computer to complete the plan as the Board's computer has not yet been updated to Windows 7 and MS Office 2010 which was required to complete the power point presentation.

At the April Meeting the Board requested that the office staff speak with Louise Lavertu the Executive Director of the Joint Boards of Licensures. After discussion with Ms. Lavertu and with Rebecca Bolton of DoIT it was discovered that the Joint Boards uses a software application called “My License Office” which is a customizable database. The minimum cost to convert the Board’s database to “My License Office” software is about \$50,000. Ms. Bolton pointed out that if the current database works there is no need to spend money upgrading to a new one. The “My License Office” software is more for online automatic renewals and does not fit the Board’s processes or needs.

The Board agreed to add a laptop to its wish list as the current secretary is using her own laptop at meetings. They also agreed to have the Chair and Administrative Secretary approve the finalized plan and submit it by the due date.

## 5. Late Reports

The Board reviewed an Assented Motion to Strike Late Report from GAL Jane Vaillancourt. A. Larney made a motion to strike the late report from the Board’s record. Rep. Rollo seconded. Vote: 8-0. Motion passes.

## 6. Training

The number of people on the training notification lists are:

72 General	65 District
63 Probate	56 Superior

The Board reviewed a list of questions pertaining to offering a training that will assist in writing an RFP for a training coordinator. The Board agreed that there are not enough attorneys interested to consider doing a separate training for them. Due to the fact that now all counties have a family court all three court specific trainings should be offered when a training is held. The Board reviewed some changes that needed to be made to the manual. They also decided that they would offer the manual as a PDF download ahead of the training for free. Those that would like a hard copy manual would have to pay a fee. The Board discussed the difference between a webinar and a video taped training. They decided that is something to consider for the future but not at this time. They agreed to have everyone look over the RFP and make a decision about it at the June meeting.

## 7. Schedule a Rules Only Meeting

The Board decided to spend time at the June meeting on the rules. It is hard to find an extra meeting time when a quorum is available as all Board members have other full time jobs and this is a volunteer position.

*M. Luneau 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). D. Robbins seconded. A roll call vote was taken:*

*Alan Cantor, Aye, Susan Duncan, Aye, Chris Keating, Aye, Ann Larney, Aye, Master Henrietta Luneau, Aye, Dave Robbins, Aye, Representative Deanna Rollo, Aye, David Villiotti, Aye.*

### ~Non-Public Session~

Rep. Rollo left the meeting during non-public session. A quorum was still present.

M. Luneau left and returned to the meeting during non-public session. A quorum was still present.

C. Keating made a motion to return to public session. D. Robbins seconded. Vote: 7-0 Motion passes.

A. Cantor made a motion to adjourn. A. Larney seconded. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.