



State of New Hampshire Guardian ad Litem Board

Public Minutes

February 20, 2015

Legislative Office Building Room 101

Members Present: Alan Cantor, Susan Duncan, Chair, Master Henrietta Luneau, Chris Keating, Betsy Paine, Dave Robbins

Members Absent: Senator David Pierce, David Villiotti

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

A quorum was present.

1. Public Comment

There was no public present.

B. Paine 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, Master Henrietta Luneau, aye, Chris Keating, aye, Betsy Paine, aye, Dave Robbins, aye.

~Non-Public Session~

M. Luneau left the room recused during non-public session. A quorum was still present.

M. Luneau returned to the meeting.

A. Cantor left the room recused during non-public session. A quorum was still present.

A. Cantor returned to the meeting.

C. Keating made a motion to go back into public session. B. Paine seconded. Vote: 6-0. Motion passes.

2. Review Minutes

Sub Committee Public Minutes January 2015: C. Keating made a motion to approve the minutes. B. Paine seconded. Vote: 6-0. Motion passes.

Full Board Public Minutes January 2015: C. Keating made a motion to approve the minutes. D. Robbins seconded. Vote: 5-0-1 D. Robbins abstaining. Motion passes.

3. GAL Statistics as of February 20, 2015

- a. 85 Certified GALs
 - i. 1 are no longer accepting appointments
 - ii. 3 are temporary for the purpose of completing an appointment
 - iii. Technically, there are 81 Certified GALs able & willing to serve.
- b. 3 GALs expired in February
- c. 3 GALs are still within the 90 day re-certification period
- d. 57 GALs are certified in Family Division
- e. 65 GALs are certified in District Court
- f. 82 GALs are certified in Superior Court
- g. 72 GALs are certified in Probate Court

4. Board Actions & Updates

Update on Presentation to Children and Family Law

Chairwoman Duncan that she went with Vice-Chair Keating and the office staff was also in attendance. They explained how the Board came to existence. There were a lot of good questions asked and answered. The entire committee was not in attendance.

House Bills

The hearings on HB 513 regarding the complaints procedures of the Board and HB 515 regarding the oversight of GALs were held by the Children and Family Law committee of the legislature.

Vice-Chair Keating attended along with office staff. Discussion included the possibility of using Survey Monkey. The recipient of services should be filling out the questionnaire but because they are children that is not okay. The judges should be evaluating the GALs performance. The Board doesn't mind adding this task to the office staff task so long as the resources and funding are provided. Current statistics were presented to the committee. Vice-Chair Keating also pointed out that if a complaint was filed with the Board that raised to the level of being criminal it would be forwarded to the county attorney. Of all the cases that GALs are appointed to the Board only receives complaints on .01% of cases. The Committee was going to discuss this in executive session.

Micheal Murray-Former GAL who recently passed away.

Board staff received a call from Mr. Murray's wife who said she was informed by her lawyer to destroy all of Mr. Murray's GAL records. She has them boxed and ready to go to professional shredder. She questioned if this was the proper policy. Discussion included that Mr. Murray was bound by the GAL rules but Mrs. Murray is not. So long as she is having them shredded or burned she is doing the right thing.

The Board also took a moment to recognize Mr. Murray for his years of service as a GAL and contribution to the children of New Hampshire.

5. CEU Requests

The Board reviewed the following CEU Requests. Autism Parenting 101 for 2 CEUs: S. Duncan made a motion to ask for more information in the form of agendas, presenter bios, and course descriptions. M. Luneau seconded. Vote: 6-0. Motion passes. Domestic Violence for 3 CEUs: A. Cantor made a motion to approve. B. Paine seconded. Vote: 6-0. Motion passes. The Trauma of Sexual Abuse for 6 CEUs: B. Paine made a motion to approve. A. Cantor seconded. Vote: 6-0. Motion passes. Understanding Bullying for 1.5 CEUs: S. Duncan made a motion to ask for more information in the form of agendas, presenter bios, and course descriptions. B. Paine seconded. Vote: 6-0. Motion passes.

Kristine Keeler sent a letter of reconsideration for approval of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Symposium. Ms. Keeler states that she does not have and cannot obtain any of the information the Board requested. The Board is confused as to how other people who attended the symposium were able to obtain the documentation and gain approval from the Board last month but she cannot. B. Paine made a motion to send her a letter that the course has been previously approved because other participants were able to provide the documentation but she will need to send a certificate of attendance. M. Luneau seconded. Vote: 6-0. Motion passes.

6. Board Actions and Updates

NForm Update

Chairwoman Duncan and office staff had a second meeting with the NForm committee. Office staff is going to work on consolidating forms. It was confirmed that users will have to have a username and password however they will be able to access the NForm portal from GAL website.

C. Keating left the meeting.

Governor's Budget

The Governor's presented budget includes a New Office Of Professional Licensing and Certification. This would remove Board from association with Department of Administrative Services. The office would move to the Philbrook building at NH State Hospital. The Governor has stated that staff would be retained. An executive director for new agency would be hired. This new agency would have a full time attorney and an IT person. The office staff is keeping a list of questions to ask the budget director if this passes the House.

The Board reviewed the GAL case statistics for 2014.

A. Cantor made a motion to adjourn. B. Paine seconded. Vote: 6-0. Motion passes.