



State of New Hampshire Guardian ad Litem Board

Public Minutes

May 15, 2015

Legislative Office Building Room 101

Members Present: Susan Duncan, Chair, Chris Keating, Vice-Chair, Master Henrietta Luneau, Betsy Paine, Representative Dave Welch, Representative Deanna Rollo Pursuant to RSA 490:C-4 III

Members Absent: Alan Cantor, Senator David Pierce, Dave Robbins, David Villiotti

Chairwoman Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

A quorum was present.

C. Keating left the meeting recused.

A quorum was still 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). Rep. Rollo seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

S. Duncan, Aye, M. Luneau, Aye, B. Paine, Aye, Rep. Welch, Aye, Rep. Rollo, Aye

~Non-Public Session~

B. Paine made a motion to go back into public session. M. Luneau seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.

C. Keating returned to the meeting.

Rep. Rollo left the meeting.

A quorum was still present.

Rep. Welch 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). M. Luneau seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

S. Duncan, Aye, C. Keating, Aye, M. Luneau, Aye B. Paine, Aye, Rep. Welch, Aye

~Non-Public Session~

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

1. Public Comment

There was no public present.

2. Welcome

Chairwoman Duncan officially welcomed Representative Dave Welch to the Board. He is representing the NH House.

3. Review Minutes

Public Minutes March 2015: B. Paine made a motion to approve the minutes. C. Keating seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.

4. GAL Statistics as of May 15, 2015

- a. 84 Certified GALs
 - i. 1 are no longer accepting appointments
 - ii. 3 are temporary for the purpose of completing an appointment
 - iii. Technically, there are 80 Certified GALs able & willing to serve.
- b. 1 GALs expired in April
- c. 1 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. 81 GALs are certified in Superior Court
- g. 71 GALs are certified in Probate Court

Board discussion included that the declining number of GALs is disappointing. It is also a concern that only 57 GALs are certified in the family division. Board staff will a breakdown of numbers by court for the next meeting.

5. Board Actions & Updates

House Bills

The Board reviewed the status list of the House and Senate bills. The Board was informed that SB 103 went into effect on May 5, 2015. Board staff emailed all certified to notify them.

Late Reports Quarter 1 2015

The only late report was from Deborah Mulcrone Manchester Family. The report was due on 4/1/15 according to the late report list from the court it has yet to be filed. The Board will keep this information on record and ask Ms. Mulcrone about it at her next renewal unless it turns into a pattern.

RTK Request

Al Patterson requested the audio and minutes of the Sara Ecker hearing. The audio CD's were mailed immediately. The minutes will be emailed after today's sanction meeting is transcribed.

6. Callanan Reprimand Letter

The Board reviewed the final version of the order and reprimand which was distributed to the parties and posted online. Ms. Callanan has submitted a letter of certification that she notified all parties and courts of the order and sanctions.

7. CEU Requests

Parenting plans and Shared Custody for 6.5 CEUs: C. Keating made a motion to approve. B. Paine seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes

ADHD in Children – Diagnosis and Assessment 2 CEUs: B. Paine made a motion to approve. M. Luneau seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.

The Search for Truth: Memory, Distortion and Deception 7 CEUs: B. Paine made a motion to approve. C. Keating seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.

The Importance of Fathers in the Healthy Development of Children 4 CEUs: B. Paine made a motion to ask for the certificate of attendance and the approval letter from the Social Worker Board of NH. M. Luneau seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.

Autism 101 Parenting Workshop 2015 2 CEUs: C. Keating made a motion to approve. B. Paine seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.

8. Training

The Board discussed hosting a training for Certified GALs. Topics the Board would like to see discussed are: Disclosure, answer phone calls, return emails, Neutrality – no hugging either side, Motions, retainers, when to start work, what are the Judges/Masters looking for. The Board agreed to have Board staff email the certified GALs for their input as to what they would like to see in a training. Board staff will reach out to the Judicial Branch and see what days the Training Room at the Trial Court Center is open in November.

9. Hearings

The Board discussed concerns over having the investigator also being the prosecutor at a hearing. It was decided that in the future these roles will not be conjoined. The Board hired Prosecutor would be used as Prosecutor in all cases.

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