

Family Mediator Certification Board

Public Minutes

August 8, 2017 at 4:15

121 South Fruit Street, Concord

A meeting of the Family Mediator Certification Board was held on August 8, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 4:25 by P. Goldsmith. Also in attendance were: C. Sadler, C. Dochstader, E. Jasina, R. Cram, A. Matrumalo and Chairperson M. Rousseau arrived at 5 PM. Not present were M. Ciocca, L. Aaby and M. Garner. Also in attendance were C. Horne and member of the public Honey Hastings.

1. Reading and Approval of July 11, 2017 Minutes- L. Sadler made a motion to approve the minutes from July 11, 2017 public minutes, C. Dochstader seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

2. Unfinished Business-

a. Discussion on Continuing Education with Heather Kulp- Heather talked about the “other” category that mediators use. She asked if it would be possible if instead of a catch-all could this category be used for other courses that would also be beneficial to the mediators. A few possible areas might be: A Best Practices course on what other States do, explore what practices are utilized in those States and allow mediators to gain credit for learning the information. A Coaching and Observation course, based on Heather’s visits to the Courts around the State she heard from many mediators that this would be helpful. This could be done as a roleplay type training, where you can get feedback at the training. This would be helpful for the professional growth of the mediators.

Heather feels it would be beneficial to have CEUs that mediators know will get approved in order to make them more willing to take “other” courses. To an outsider it appears that the requirements for getting a course approved are very difficult, so mediators take courses in the same area to make sure they get the required CEUs in the 4 major categories necessary for renewal. The requirements of a trainer are very narrow which cause many classes to not meet approval. As Heather pointed out she would not qualify to be a trainer in many areas. She believes the qualifications need to be changed so we can get more trainers.

Other possible areas of training: Child Support, a specialized training in this area. C. Sadler feels this would be helpful. The Dynamics of Families: including ethnic and financial aspects of families, these are areas that could be very helpful. A Skills training as a course where you have observations and you receive feedback. But again this falls back to the restrictions of the trainers that are approved. Mediators may be reluctant to attend for fear the course won’t be approved by the Board, but pre approving courses would alleviate this issue.

How do we know mediation is working? How do you create durable agreements? How well are mediator’s doing now? What is the quality of mediations? There are high standards for the trainers; the Board needs to look at how narrow the scope is to approve the trainers.

is b. H. Kulp and E. Jasina gave a DV update to the Board. A systematic way of screening being developed from the courts which would uniform screening to the mediator. This refers to the 1st appearance. What this means to the mediators is that there will be 1-2 screenings before getting to the mediator. Hoping to have something in place by January

c. Continuation of the 200s with Attorney Robert Lamberti- The Board will review the draft of the 200s that Attorney Lamberti provided them. This will be discussed at the September meeting.

3. Communication General- The Board talked briefly about public being present at the meeting and where they should sit and when should the Board receive comments from the public. A vote should be taken at some time.

4. Continuing Education Approval Requests-

a. Mediator Ethics & Standards of Conduct- 4 Ethics CEUs – This course was denied. The Board felt this is a Florida based course.

b. Brain Science: Tips for Stress and Conflict Management-3 Skills CEUs- Approved

c. A Quick Introduction to Transformative Mediation- 1.5 Skills CEUs- Approved

d. Poverty Law: The Basics-6 CEUs (Legal Update and Other)- This course was denied. Staff will send a letter requesting a copy of the training manual, a breakdown of times in each area and the presenters for each section. How many CEUS are being requested?

e. Nonviolent Communication- A powerful Model for Mediators- 3.3 Skills CEUs- This course was denied. Staff will send a letter requesting more information Leah Boyd to see if she will qualify as a presenter based on 404.06 (d)(e).

f. Ethics World Café-What Would You Do?-3 Ethics CEUs- Approved

5. Board Communication-

a. Renewal notices –This information is supplied as an FYI to the Board.

6. Non-Public Session-

a. Upon the motion of P. Goldsmith and the second of A. Matrumalo, the Board, by roll call vote, voted to conduct a non-public session at 6:00 p.m. Such a non-public session is authorized by RSA 91-A:3, II(j), RSA 91-A:5, IV, Lodge v. Knowlton, 118 N.H. 574(1978), and the Board's executive and deliberative privileges. Each member recorded his or her vote on the motion, which passed by unanimous vote of all members present.

b. Upon return to public session- P. Goldsmith made a motion to seal the non-public minutes, R. Cram seconded, roll call vote, all in favor, motion passes.

7. Adjournment-

The next meeting will be September 5, 2017 at 4:15

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27