

Family Mediator Certification Board

Public Minutes

February 27, 2018 at 4:15 p.m.

A meeting of the Family Mediator Certification Board was held on February 27, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 4:16 p.m. by P. Goldsmith. Also in attendance were, S. Towle, T. Cooper L. Aaby, M. Garner and R. Cram, M. Ciocca, A. Matrumalo, and M. Rousseau arrived at 4:30. Not present were C. Dochstader and E. Jasina. In attendance from OPLC were C. Horne and Attorney Lamberti. Honey Hastings was also present as a member of the public.

1. Continuing Education Approval Requests-

a. Changes in Federal Tax Law, NH Legislation, Court Rules/Forms & Cases- 3 legal update hrs.
Approved

B. Ethics-Consideration of DV. Sufficient Information/ Knowledge & Interests of Children- 3 Mediator Skill hrs.-Approved

2. Rules Discussion of the 300s-

The Board went over the 300s section addressing comments from the working group and H. Hastings memo. Attorney Lamberti made note of the Board's comments and will try to have a draft for the next meeting.

M. Garner made a motion to increase the number of initial training hours to 60(with 32 Core, 12 D.V. and 16 NH Specific). M. Ciocca seconded, all in favor and motion passes.

P. Goldsmith made a motion to keep the internship hours at 20 for Attorneys who want to be Mediators who have 10 years practicing with 5 of them being in Family practice. M. Rousseau seconded. Motion passes with 6 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstain.

M. Garner made a motion that if an applicant does not apply for certification directly after their training, they would need to take 3 hours of continuing education for each year following the initial training. T. Cooper seconded, all in favor. Motion passes.

There are other areas of discussion that Attorney Lamberti will have in the draft for the Board to review and vote on at the next meeting.

a. Email from Heather Kulp- M. Rousseau distributed a letter from Heather Kulp regarding the concerns she has with the 300s section of the rules.

b. Memo from C. Dochstader- Noted

3. Rules Discussion of the 400s-

The Board went over the 400s section addressing comments from the working group and H. Hastings. Attorney Lamberti made note of the Board's comments and will try to have a draft for the next meeting.

P. Goldsmith made a motion to add a Family Relationship section for Continuing Education and changing the requirements to 3 continuing education credits in each of the 5 areas (Legal Update, Domestic Violence, Mediator Skills, Ethics and Family Relationships) this leaves 9 credits that can be in taken in the Other category. A. Matrumalo seconded, all in favor. Motion passes.

A. Matrumalo made a motion to accept courses that may be a hybrid of 2 areas and the Board can determine where it will count. P. Goldsmith seconded, all in favor. Motion passes.

A. Matrumalo made a motion to change the requirements for all course presenters to be the same for all categories. T. Cooper seconded, all in favor. Motion passes. See below.

1. Simplified presenter qualifications—any of the following would qualify:

- a. *Certified mediators who have mediated at least 25 family cases;*
- b. *Persons with an advanced degree in law or conflict resolution; psychology, psychiatry or other mental health profession; business, tax, or accounting;*
- c. *Persons with at least 5 years of education, experience, or a combination of the two that is relevant to the topic they are presenting;*
- d. *Persons presenting at a conference or meeting of the Academy of Professional Family Mediators, Association for Conflict Resolution, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, or the Dispute Resolution Section of the American Bar Association, or*
- e. *Any other person presenting with a person meeting the qualifications in (a), (b), or (c) above.*

2. Required documentation:

- a. *Name of sponsor*
- b. *A summary of the professional qualifications of the person or persons presenting the course, including specifics required under section 1, above.*
- c. *The required topic or additional topic approval is sought for.*
- d. *If there is an experiential component, a brief description of it.*
- e. *How the course will meet one or more of the following goals:*
 - (1) *Update or enhance the mediators' knowledge of families and family law;*
 - (2) *Improve the professional competence of the mediators; or*
 - (3) *Equip mediators to work effectively within ethical boundaries.*

The above changes will make it much easier for courses to get approved and a larger variety of offerings for the Mediators looking to get their continuing education requirements.

P. Goldsmith made a motion that a Mediator renewing must have mediated a minimum of 3 cases a year for the renewal period for a total of at least 9 cases. This can be a co-mediation. M. Rousseau seconded, all in favor. Motion passes.

- a. Memo from C. Dochstader- Noted

4. Review of the 800s Domestic Violence Proposal- this will need to wait until all the existing rules have been taken care of.

5. Adjournment-

The next meeting is on March 6, 2018

M. Rousseau made a motion to adjourn at 6:30. P. Goldsmith seconded, all in favor. Motion passes.