

Guardian ad Litem Board
Public Minutes
February 10, 2017 at 1:00 pm
121 South Fruit Street, Concord NH 03301

A meeting of the Guardian ad Litem Board was held on February 10, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 1:10 by Chairperson Duncan. Also in Attendance were: Attorney Sarah Blodgett, Attorney Alan Cantor, David Robbins and Honorable Henrietta Luneau. Not present were David Villiotti and Representative David Welch. Senator Kevin Avard arrived 1:12. Attorney Betsy Paine arrived at 2:00. Attending from the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification was Chris Horne

1. Welcome to Senator Kevin Avard – introductions all around. Chairperson Duncan gave some history on why the GAL Board was created, how the GALs work and how they are paid.

2. Approval of January 10, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes-Attorney Blodgett made a motion to approve the minutes as written, D. Robbins seconded, Honorable Luneau and Senator Avard abstain, minutes approved. D. Robbins made a motion to accept the non-public minutes as written, Attorney Cantor seconded. Honorable Luneau, Attorney Blodgett and Senator Avard abstain, minutes approved.

3. Unfinished Business-

a. Training-

1. Listing of CASA volunteers by county- cases needing Non-CASA GALs has increased significantly for the calendar year. Attorney Blodgett has had to request more funding to pay those GALs.

2. Training regarding the Drug Crisis for NH GALs 2 workshops are available now. Staff will post the link on the website for GALS to sign up for the courses. *The Initial Training on Addiction and Recovery for 6 CEUs* will be a requirement to become a new GAL. The other course *Families and addiction for 3.5 CEUs* is approved for all GALs.

Attorney Paine joins the meeting at 2pm. She explains CASA volunteers to Senator Avard.

3. Empower to Connect Conference- Board approved for 11 CEUs. Staff will post a link on the website for GALs to sign up for the course.

4. NH Alcohol & Drug Counselors Assoc. trainings- 2 courses are approved for 6 CEUs each. Staff will post the link for GALS to sign up for the courses. Also noted there are a number of courses being offered by NHADACA.

Suicide Prevention & Intervention for School Personnel & Educators: Recognizing Individuals at Risk, Connecting With Them and Connecting Them to Help. 6CEUs

Suicide Postvention for School Personnel & Educators: Reducing Risk and Promoting Healing After a Death by Suicide. 6 CEUs

5. Casa Training Material- Partnering for a Future without Violence will be a requirement for New GALs. It will be scheduled in October. Danielle Snook is the contact person. Once the Board has the exact date and number of CEUs, staff will post on website for GALs to sign up through the link.

b. Question regarding Board's requirement to report DV or abuse- It is understood that the Board dismisses cases if the case is still pending in court. (See RSA 490-C:4(g) "A complaint relating to a trial or judicial proceeding in progress shall be dismissed without prejudice, unless the board for good cause votes to proceed immediately with such complaint.). Note that RSA 490-C:4(g) allows the Board to proceed on a complaint if they decide there is good cause to proceed immediately with the complaint. Good cause in this context is not defined, but presumably the Board could find good cause in the case of abuse allegations.

The person who is filing the complaint would have already reported abuse if it was present. Any allegations of abuse would have been reported prior to getting to the Board. When staff receives a complaint it is given to the Board as soon as possible.

4. Communications General-

a. HB538-FN- The Board will monitor this bill to see what happens.

5. CEU Requests-

a. How to Become your Own Cyber Sleuth Parts 1&2, 6 CEUs, NHBA- Approved

b. Educating Mediators on Addressing Issues Related to Self-Employed Obligors, Divorce Tax Issues & Business Valuation and Legal Updates, 6 CEUs - Approved

6. Board Updates-

a. Late reports- The Board needs to take a uniform approach to sending letters to the GALs listed on the late reports. Need to let the GAL know we are aware of the late report listing and the Board wants to know why they were late and ask for a brief response. Board will take a look at this again next month. Staff will work with Attorney Blodgett to create a letter to send to the GALs on the report.

7. New Business-

a. The training sub-committee will talk through email.

b. Staff will let those interested in being a GAL know that there are trainings offered on the website that will be a required part of certification.

b. The TPR Protocols are being reworked. Once they are complete they will be rolled out in phases to be sure everyone is trained. Attorney Paine will let the Board know when in October the trainings will be. The Protocols will be effective January 2018.

8. Non-Public Session-

a. Upon the motion of Senator Avard and the second of Dave Robbins, the Board, by roll call vote, voted to conduct a non-public session for the purpose of discussing pending investigations and noting that 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 the unanimous vote of all members present.

b. Upon return to public session-D. Robbins made a motion to seal the non-public minutes, Attorney Paine seconded, all in favor, unanimous.

9. Adjournment- 3:45 pm

a. Date and Time of next meeting- March 10, 2017 at 1 pm. Staff will need to make sure we will have a quorum for this date as many are not available.