

Guardian ad Litem Board
Public Minutes
April 14, 2017 at 1:00 pm
121 South Fruit Street, Concord NH 03301

A meeting of the Guardian ad Litem Board was held on April 14, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 by Chairperson Duncan. Also in Attendance were: Attorney Sarah Blodgett, Attorney Alan Cantor, David Robbins, Representative David Welch, Attorney Betsy Paine, Honorable Henrietta Luneau arrived at 1:05 and David Villiotti arrived at 1:10. Not present was Senator Kevin Avard. Attending from the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification was Chris Horne. Also present was GAL Todd Prevett and Attorney Robert Lamberti.

1. Reading and Approval of February 10, 2017 minutes –

- a. Attorney Paine made a motion to accept the public minutes as written, D. Robbins seconded, Representative Welch abstained and motion passed.
- b. D. Robbins made a motion to accept the non-public minutes as written, Attorney Blodgett seconded, Representative Welch abstained and motion passed.

2. Unfinished Business-

- a. Attorney Lamberti came to the meeting to have the Board vote to amend GAL 215.04. This was a proposed change by JLCAR. The public comment period has ended; the Board received no comments on the proposed change, now the Board can make their final vote. D. Robbins made a motion to approve the change as written, Representative Welch seconded, all in favor.
- b. Training- all the classes that were approved at the February meeting are available on the website with links for GALs to sign up.
- c. Email Regarding Military Training- Chairperson Duncan received an email regarding military training and whether or not the GAL Board accepts any military training towards a GAL certification. Attorney Lamberti informed the Board that the statute that exists does not pertain to the GAL Board. However the Board determined that it would look at the training on a case by case basis if the issue does come up.

Attorney Lamberti left the meeting.

- d. Thoughts on Domestic Violence Training Email – Chairperson Duncan has been working with Linda Douglas regarding Domestic Violence training for new GALs. L. Douglas is putting together a list of areas that she feels needs to be covered. She offered to do the training at no cost. If she is unable to do the training she suggested Scott Hamilton, who is also a qualified trainer. L. Douglas will let us know if he would charge.

L. Douglas is looking at June for a potential time for a Domestic Violence training. Chairperson Duncan wanted to see what the Boards preference was as far as length of time and when training takes place, 2 to 3 hours in an evening or 4 to 5 hours in the daytime. Chairperson Duncan will work with L. Douglas to schedule a date for the training. Chairperson

Duncan will let staff know of any information relating to this training so it can be passed onto the rest of the Board.

The Board also discussed training and how it will be recorded for future use by any new GALs. It was discussed that specific trainings be grouped together; abuse and neglect, permanency planning, children in need of services and delinquent children. These 4 topics would be able to be covered in 1 hours' time. Domestic violence would also be touched upon in those 4 topics as well as having a separate domestic violence training.

The Board also discussed having PDFs available to people who sign up for courses to cut down on the expense of copying materials.

Attorney Blodgett is on the Committee for Cooperation with the Courts and a concern came up about the shortage of GALs. Judge Kelley reached out to the courts about the availability of non-Casa GALs. A number of the courts that got back to Judge Kelley indicating they were having trouble appointing a GAL. There is a concern about getting new GALs certified.

3. Communications General-

a. Board member terms up this year-

Terms up in June: D. Villiotti is willing to serve another term. Chairperson Duncan is also willing to serve another term. Attorney Cantor does not wish to continue another term.

Terms up in October: D. Robbins is also willing to serve another term.

4. CEU Requests-

a. Opiate Addiction and Treatment Options- The Board voted to pre-approve this class, staff will post a link on the GAL website.

b. NH Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselors trainings available- The Board voted to pre-approve this class, staff will post a link on the GAL website.

c. How to Get Your Social Media, Email and Text Evidence Admitted (and Keep Theirs Out)- 6 CEUs- Approved

d. Understanding Child and Family Trauma, Toxic Stress and Substance Abuse Issues- 4 CEUs- Approved

e. Strafford County Addiction Summit: Local Solutions to a National Problem- 5.75 CEUs- Approved

5. Board Updates-

a. Late report update- Staff will send a letter to K. Crusco and Karen Griswold thanking them for their responses to the Board's inquiry. Staff will also make sure they are aware that this was not an investigation.

Staff will work with Attorney Paine to write a letter to J. Rackley thanking her for her response and also explaining to her the court protocols; Chapter 10, Protocol 4 relative to abuse and neglect reports.

6. New Business-

- a. Secure FTP users- the Board members who were not at the March Board meeting were given the instructions to get set up on the FTP site for Board information uploads.

GAL Todd Prevett left the meeting

7. Non-Public Session-

a. Upon the motion of D. Robbins and the second of Honorable Luneau, the Board, by roll call vote, voted to conduct a non-public session at 2:35 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- D Robbins made a motion to seal the non-public minutes, Representative Welch seconded, all in favor, unanimous.

8. Adjournment- meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

- a. The next meeting will be May 12, 2017 at 1pm.