

Guardian ad Litem Board  
Public Minutes  
February 15, 2019  
121 South Fruit Street

A meeting of the Guardian ad Litem Board was held on February 15, 2019. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Duncan at 1:35 p.m. Also in attendance were: David Villiotti, Representative David Welch, Attorney Sarah Blodgett and David Robbins, Honorable Henrietta Luneau. Not present were Attorney Todd Prevett, Attorney Betsey Paine and Senator Hennessey. Attending from the Office of Professional licensure and Certification was Chris Horne.

1. **Reading and approval of the January 11 minutes-** Representative Welch made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2019 meeting. Attorney Blodgett seconded, Honorable Luneau and D. Robbins abstain and motion passes.

As an addendum to the minutes under discussion on e-filing, Honorable Luneau let the Board know that electronic filing will not apply to confidential cases. Marital cases will not be going to e-file this year.

2. **Unfinished Business-** Staff will send out the GAL survey for Board members to review and discuss at the next meeting.

3. **Communications General-**

a. Nuts and Bolts of Being a GAL – staff talked let the Board know there were 18 attendee. Some who are in the process of doing trainings to be a GAL The mix of current experienced GALs and a newer individuals made for good conversation and questions answered.

b. Training Suggestion from Ralph Morin- Child Interview Training- Board felt this would be a great training. Chairperson Duncan is going to reach out to Attorney Paine to see if she has any thoughts on who could do this training.

Other ideas for people who can do this would be a mental health professional or someone with a child advocacy background.

4. **CEU Requests-**

The Board discussed what the definition of attending means in the rules(section 403.03). Board will revisit many of the CEUs listed below after they have had a chance to discuss with the Boards attorney and the Rules attorney. Board may want to have criteria in the rules as to how many courses need to be live vs. other means of attendance. Staff is going to review the courses that have already been approved to find out how many are webinars, DVDs and web trainings.

a. Community Report on Autism-3 hrs.-

b. Level 1 Alcohol and Drug Awareness and Education-8 hrs.-

c. Drugs Brain and Behaviors; The Science of Addiction-2 hrs.-

d. Substance Use in Women- 2 hrs.-

- e. Child Welfare Practice with Families Affected by Parental Incarceration- 1 hr.-
- f. Chronic Child Neglect-1 hr.-
- g. Facing Addiction in America-7 hrs.-
- h. Principles of Substance Abuse Prevention for Early Childhood-2 hrs.-
- i. Parenting Intervention for Men Who Batter-1 hr.-
- j. Sibling Issues in Foster care and Adoption-1 hr.
- k. Prevention through Connection- 2 hrs.- Approved
- l. Prescription Opioid Misuse, Heroin Use, Maintenance Medications and Treatment-2hrs.-
- m. Moving Toward Prevention: Collaboration and the CFSP-1.5 CEUs- this course is already approved, Board needs an agenda to confirm the CEUs. Attorney Blodgett will get a copy of the agenda for the Board.
- n. Immigration and Child Welfare-1 hr.
- o. Research Report Series: Cocaine, Inhalants, Hallucinogens and Dissociative Drugs- 2 hrs.-
- P. Preventing Suicide: A Technical Package of Policy, Programs and Practices- 2 hrs.-
- q. Marijuana- 1hr.-
- r. Therapeutic Communities- 1hr-
- s. Principles of Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Treatment-2 hr.-
- t. Bringing the Protective Factors to life- this is an updated agenda to the current program.-6 CEUs- approved

## **5. Board Updates-**

- a. Late Reports- there were 2 GALs on the late report listing. Staff will send a letter requesting a response to the late report.
- b. Number of GALs-
  - 1. Temporary-5
  - 2. Current-65

The Board discussed the numbers and how they have gone down. Many are retiring, lack of funds are a few reasons. Staff mentioned that the training had a number of people who have not submitted applications yet and there are also many emails inquiring about how to become a GAL. This is very positive.

## **6. New Business-**

- a. HB 583- relative to the procedures governing GALs and relative to parental rights and responsibilities. There has not been a hearing posted for this yet. Board does not want to make a policy about it. However the Board talked about the concerns.
- b. HB 295- relative to the office of the child advocate- the board reviewed this. Staff noted that they would be present at the May meeting. This will be an opportunity for the Board to share what they do and the role of the Guardian ad Litem.
- c. Judge Carbon would like to call in at the next Board meeting to discuss a question she has regarding rule 503.06(h) requiring the GAL to notify the Court and the Board about being a party to an unrelated case in the Courts. What is the rationale for this? Board would like The Boards attorney and the rules attorneys input on this as well.

## **7. Non-Public Session-**

- a. Upon the motion of Attorney Blodgett and the second of Representative Welch, the Board, by roll call vote, voted to conduct a non-public session at 3:25 p.m. Such a non-public session is authorized by RSA 91-A:3, II(j), RSA 91-A:5, IV, Lodge v. Knowlton, 118N.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 minutes, Representative Welch seconded, roll call vote and motion passes.

## **8. Adjournment-**

- a. March 8, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
- b. Representative Welch made a motion to adjourn at 3:55 p.m. D. Robbins seconded, all in favor and meeting adjourned.