

Guardian ad Litem Board
Public Minutes
October 11 2019
121 South Fruit Street, Concord

A meeting of the Guardian ad Litem Board was held on October 11, 2019. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Duncan at 1:10 p.m. Also in attendance were: Representative David Welch, Attorney Betsy Paine, and Attorney Todd Prevett, Representative Ned Gordon and Attorney Sarah Blodgett. Not present were Honorable Henrietta Luneau, David Villiotti and Senator Hennessey. Attending from the Office of Professional licensure and Certification was Chris Horne.

1. Introductions- Board welcomed new Board Member Representative Ned Gordon as the Public member on the Board. Introductions all around.

2. Reading and approval of the August 30, 2019 Minutes- Representative Welch made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 30, 2019 meeting. Attorney Paine seconded, Representative Gordon abstains and motion passes.

3. Unfinished Business- none

4. Communications General-

a. an Act to establish a commission to expand the rights of minors to legal representation- Board reviewed the information and will continue to follow.

5. CEU Requests-

a. Bias: Implicit, Explicit, what is it? - 2 hours- Chairperson Duncan made a motion to approve this course, Attorney Paine seconded, all in favor and motion passes.

b. MA GAL Annual Conference, Parental Alienation- 8.5 hours- the agenda is missing from this course approval. Staff will request this information for review at the next meeting.

c. Interpersonal Domestic Violence- 2Hrs.- This course is tabled until next meeting. Representative Gordon made a motion to show the power points to NHADSV to be sure it meets their standards of training. Attorney Paine seconded, all in favor and motion passes.

6. Board Updates-

a. Number of GALs- as of October 4, 2019-

1. Current- 64 plus 2 no longer accepting appointments. Of the GALs that are certified 62% are Lawyers and 38% are non-attorneys. Staff will check the list to see who is no longer certified.

2. Temp-5 (5 new) most of these only need to complete the Nuts and Bolts training.

b. Judges Panel follow-up- 25 people attended the training. There was a variety of good questions and a good mix of individuals. The Judges who presented at the training were Judge Foley, Judge Luneau and Judge Ashley.

c. Nuts and Bolts Training Date-November 2, 8:30-1:30 This training will be the final training for a few of the temporary individuals. This training is on a Saturday and will be held at the OPLC building.

Board discussed billing. Expectations need to be made clear to the GALs. Judges should be responsible for what a GAL tries to bill. Brown Bag Lunches were very beneficial to all those who attended. They were a good way for GALs to learn what the courts expectations were and a time to ask questions.

7. New Business-

a. Meeting Date Discussion- In the past the Board has had to cancel meetings due to quorum issues. Starting in January of 2020 the Board will be moving the meeting to the 3rd Friday of each month. The 1:00 p.m. time will stay the same.

b. Training on use of Social Media in Cases- the survey that was sent to the GALs had a request for a training on social media. Board requested that Attorney Prevett's Nuts and Bolts training encourages the GALs to use a different email for GAL work. Also that they are protecting their social presence.

Chairperson Duncan had a copy of an article in the Ethics Supplement to the Bar News. This article will be sent to all GALs.

c. Board Chairs meeting- Chairperson Duncan gave a recap on the meeting that David Grosso had with the Board chairs. Many topics were discussed such as: revenues of OPLC, reciprocity, a web portal for Board members, need for investigators, 125% Boards and the audit performance that has been requested by David Grosso that will take place next year.

d. Board discussed "Jades Law" HB 427. Next meeting Board members will review and discuss further. All non-CASA GALs need to be aware of this law. Board will discuss this as well at the next meeting. This law needs to have an amendment added to it to correct the law it falls under. Representative Gordon will speak with the sponsor of the Bill to try and get this amendment.

8. Non-Public Session-

a. Upon the motion of Attorney Prevett and the second of Attorney Blodgett, 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 at 3:05 p.m. Representative Welch made a motion to seal the non- public minutes. Attorney Paine seconded, roll call vote, and motion passes.

9. Adjournment- Representative Welch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m. Attorney Prevett seconded, all in favor and meeting adjourned.

a. Next Meeting December 13, 2019. There will not be a quorum in November.