

Chief Child Protection Commission
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 20, 2007

The meeting was commenced by the Chair at 5:40

Present: Carolyn Signorell; Anthony Lazzaro, Monique Ferraro, Judge John Turner; Judge Michael Mack, John Kelley, Gregory Stokes (Shelley Geballe was available by phone).

Public: Doug Monaghan.

CAS: Child welfare is now a specialty practice area in CT. NACC has submitted their application to the legal specialization committee. CAS would like to start the program when Rule takes effect in January, 2008.

Valerie secured approval from DOIT for Kidsvoice. Licenses agreement needs to be reviewed. Kidsvoice. Board will have to pass a resolution that they support non-discrimination. CAS: Will spend a day in Pittsburgh to see how the system is used, provide our design needs and observe the attorneys in court.

Appellate Advocacy Attorneys: 20 applied only 1/3 with CP and appellate experience activated. The remainder are to gain experience in cp or receive appellate training prior to receiving cases. E-mail to all the attorneys to serve on a committee regarding a program and process for collaborating with trial attorneys on appeals. No response. Judge Mack can CAS co-counsel. Probably would be a conflict, but CAS has been assigning co-counsel in difficult cases. Appellate attorneys are supposed to provide Carolyn with copies of briefs and oral argument schedule.

Family Matters Advisory Board: 2 meetings of entire Board. Carrie Kass from Quinnipiac and Sharon Dornfeld a family attorney out of Danbury have put together a draft AMC/GAL training manual; Subcommittees to work on applications and training. Hoping to do 2-3 day training during Judges institute.

Contempt and Paternity Contract: Trying to get the Chief Court Magistrate to bring uniformity to the inconsistency among the Magistrate courts' handling of these cases.

Really need to get another position to deal with Family Matters.

Expansions: Requesting increased hourly rate for certified attorneys.
Money for Pilot Project.
Family Matters Director and Staff Attorneys
Social Worker
Administrative Assistant
Funding for Database.

CCPA and Judicial collaborating on training tomorrow regarding Kids in Court and new FWSN law. Judge Mack suggests that Bar Association should be more involved in recruitment and perhaps we can use the talents of the members of the Senior Lawyer Committee. Judge Mack moved to Adjourn; All agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Clark