

Minutes
Training Subcommittee of the Standing Committee
on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child
in Family Matters
October 30, 2017

The Training Subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters met in the second floor conference room located at 100 Washington Street, Hartford, CT, on October 30, 2017.

Those in attendance: Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto (Chair); Ms. Liza Andrews, Policy Director, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Attorney Susan Hamilton (designated by Attorney Christine Perra Rapillo); Attorney Justine Rakich-Kelly

Also in attendance were Ms. Frances Wickstrom from the Child Protection Unit of the Division of Public Defender Services and Attorney Damon Goldstein from the Judicial Branch's Court Operations Unit.

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 AM by Judge Bozzuto.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

There was a request from Liza Andrews to amend the draft minutes from the July 13, 2017 meeting to change her job title from "Director" to "Policy Director". A motion was then made by Justine Rakich-Kelly and seconded by Judge Bozzuto to approve the minutes with the requested amendment. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved as amended.

II. Faculty for Training Requirements for Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters

There was a discussion by the members of the Subcommittee about the composition of the faculty for the mandatory pre-service training. For child development, it was agreed that a licensed mental health professional who specializes in child development from one of the local colleges or universities should conduct the training. Liza Andrews will reach out and see if anyone is available. Justine Rakich-Kelly will contact the Institute of Living about having someone to speak on communicating with children. Susan Hamilton will speak with Christine Rapillo about recommendations for someone to conduct the training session on Family Dynamics.

For the second day of pre-service training, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence will be asked to speak on the topic of domestic violence. Susan Hamilton will reach out to the Department of Children and Families for

someone who can present on the topic of trauma, mental health, and addiction. Finally, Judge Bozzuto will find someone from the Judicial Branch to speak on the topic of cultural competency.

For the final day of training, staff from the Children's Law Center will present material on the topics of courtroom practice and the role of the GAL/AMC. Judge Bozzuto will also reach out to the Family Services Unit of the Branch's Court Support Services Division about speaking on the topic of the role of the GAL/AMC as well as their role and the services that they provide. Finally, Justine Rakich-Kelly will speak with local attorneys who are not GALs/AMCs to see if they are willing to speak on the topic of ethics.

The Subcommittee discussed the possibility of opening up the training to as many as 50 participants. The previous recommendation had been to enroll up to 40 participants. Finally, the members of the Subcommittee agreed on June 13-15, 2018 as tentative dates for the training. Frances Wickstrom will see if there is space available for the training at the Legislative Office Building on those dates. These two topics will be discussed further at the December 6, 2017 meeting of Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters where the Subcommittee will also report back on the results of this meeting to the full Committee.

III. Schedule of Future Meetings

This Subcommittee will meet again at a date and time to be determined following the December 6, 2017 meeting of the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters.

Judge Bozzuto adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.