

Minutes

January 27, 2011

Disney's Yacht and Beach Club Resort

Adoption/Paternity/Dependency and Children's Issues Committee

(Family Law Section- Florida Bar)

Members in Attendance:

Sarah Sullivan

Abigail Beebe

Avonelle Mackerell

Judith Migdal-Mack

Deborah Day

Caryn Green

Heather Apicello

Angel Bello-Bellini

Sheena Benjamin-Wise

Matthew Capstraw

Cynthia H. DeBose

Nexy De la Rosa-Monroe

Anne Marie Gennusa

Ronald Gilbert

Maria Gonzalez

Aimee Gross

Steve Grossbard

Amy Hickman

Allyson Hughes

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Ho. Jon Juan Johnson

A Sam Jubran

Sarah Kay

Jill Lowe

Hon. Raymond McNeil

Magistrate Joan Ellen Montagano

Kelli Murray

Kim Nutter

H. Stephen Pennypacker

Andrea Reid

Elisha Roy

Susan Savard

Lee Schreiber

Charles Thompson

Yolyvee Rivera was excused

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM

Roll call was taken and an attendance list passed around.

Introduction of new members:

Sarah welcomed all and introduced the names of new members: Schulyer Smith, Natalie Martin, Leisa Wintz, Patrick Reynolds and Aimee Gross.

Approval of September 21, 2010 Minutes:

Motion by Maria Gonzalez to approve the minutes, seconded by Caryn Green. The minutes were approved.

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Reports from Sub-Committees

a. Paternity

1. Sarah Sullivan reported that there needs to be a new chair for this subcommittee. Amy Hickman volunteered for this position. Judith Migdal-Mack motioned that Amy be approved as chair; seconded by Tom Dugger and approved by all. Amy needs volunteers and if you are interested in being on this subcommittee, please call or e-mail Amy Hickman. If you submitted your name to Amy at the meeting, please call or e-mail her again to confirm you want to be on the committee.

2. There are multiple issues including legislation that this committee needs to work on. Broward County Judge Renee Goldenberg has expressed concerns and shortfalls of the statutes that need to be addressed.

b. Sandcastles:

Sheena Benjamin –Wise reported that the Survey was sent out, the committee is reviewing the results and they will be ready for the next meeting. However she stated that 50% said they did not want this program. Only the 7th and 11th circuits use the program.

There was a discussion about whether the survey should be sent out again and this time to chief judges and not just case managers. The committee was then asked to do this. Another recommendation was to follow up with the two circuits that have the program and find out the strengths and weaknesses of same.

Sheena agreed to do both suggestions before abandoning the idea.

c. Military Timesharing: Amy Hickman

No report

d. GAL/Hearsay:

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1. GAL uniform Order:

Kim Nutter says they are still working on a uniform GAL order. It is now before the Rules and Forms Committee and need to have someone put it on the agenda and present it. If you would like a copy of the hearsay language in the order, please call or e-mail Kim.

e. Ad Hoc GAL training Committee:

Kim Nutter reported that Florida Coastal Law School will allow the committee to use their facility, but Palm Beach Film School wasn't able to give them a budget to film it. She proposed to put a new budget before the Executive Council and research other sources to get the training done. The budget must include the ability to have updates. Amy Hickman suggested that Alan Abromowitz (Head of GAL) may be helpful. She stated that she could introduce the committee to him.

They are almost finished with the power point and will be done in the next few months. Matt Capshaw suggested that it might be plausible to use U-tube.

Old Business

a. Proposed Chapter 39 Legislation-status

1. Tom Dugger and Maria Gonzalez reported that **Keep Children Safe:** Senate Bill #504 and House Bill #287 have been filed and good to go.
2. Paternity legislation is still in drafting process, no numbers yet. He stated that when it is filed he will send the numbers so it can be tracked.

b. Reminder of attendance/correcting roster/next meeting

Sara encouraged all to attend the meetings and correct the Roster that has been passed around.

Next meeting at Gaylord Palms in Orlando June 22 (tentative) but there might be telephone meetings prior to that meeting.

New Business

- A. Appointment of new chair for Paternity Subcommittee- Amy Hickman new chair (see minutes above).

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- B. Creation of new subcommittee on Innovative Court programs – This committee will research how circuits are handling drug courts, parent programs, pro se programs, aging out of foster care programs etc.
No one volunteered to be chair, Sarah will be e-mailing some people to encourage their participation. Lee Schreiber and Kelli Murray agreed to serve on the committee.
- C. Creation of new subcommittee to address legislation:
Committee agreed a new subcommittee is not needed at this time. It will stay with Legislation Committee now. Abby suggested that if anyone has any new ideas for legislation and new subcommittees please do so before next year. Maria Gonzalez suggested any ideas to be e-mailed or call the chairs.
- D. New Committee Chair for Military Timesharing needed. Amy stepped down and Sam Jubran will chair it.

Good of the Order: None

Diane Kirigin came at the end of meeting to thank everyone for coming to meetings and participating. She invited all members to come to Family Law Retreat in Napa Valley.

Motion to Adjourn : Matt Capshaw; seconded by Caryn Green ,
unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned:

Submitted by Judith Migdal-Mack and Avonelle Mackerell