

**LEGAL AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2009**

**SUMMARY**

**Attending:** Maggie Pritchard, Jack Lightfoot, Egon Jensen, Sarah Fox, Alan Robichaud.

**Review of Committee Membership, Charge and Work Plan**

Maggie led the discussion, distributing copies of a work plan (specifically Goal 5). The priority of this committee centers on the need to compile and review applicable federal and state statutes pertaining to juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health and the like specific to information sharing, confidentiality and funding. We need outside legal assistance from a qualified paralegal or attorney to help in research and composition. Sarah had spoken with the key placement person at Franklin Pierce Law Center who didn't feel she could find anyone interested in the project. Alan will contact the consultants at Plymouth State University to see if an appropriate student can be found for the project. Maggie will contact the Disabilities Rights Center (DRC) to inquire about availability of an intern.

Maggie reported on the discussion at the Steering Committee noting we may wish to involve an attorney who has specific experience with DCFY and DJJS cases. Maggie noted she has checked with Laconia attorney, David Osman who declined the invitation to assist. He did not have any recommendations. Sarah and Jack will canvass the legal directories to seek an attorney in Belknap County skilled in the practice of family law.

A discussion centered on the need for DHHS legal or policy individuals who may assist beyond what Egon brings however Egon indicated that while he is the liaison to this initiative from the Department, there is really no other person who is available to assign the task of a statutory review or to join the committee. The Governor's budget message on Thursday (2/12) is expected to announce additional hits to the Department's budget. Other legal people were identified within other jurisdictions that we may wish to involve as time and needs dictate include Byry Kennedy (DCYF), Ry Perry (Mental Health), Ken Neilson (Dev. Dis.) and Sarah Browning (DOE).

Before we go out and ask for involvement of various people who have legal connectedness to the Department, Egon suggested that the role of this group is to clearly and succinctly frame the questions to which we need answers. That way, specific "asks" can be directed to the appropriate persons.

We discussed the need to involve someone who is connected to the schools or the department of education as the integration effort will clearly need to involve all players and payers. There was no one that came to mind as available from the state department of education again given our current state financial stressors.

Jack loaned Maggie a copy of the Lexus/Nexus version of New Hampshire Juvenile Laws.

**Action** Alan will ask John Tuell for reference to a report by former CWLA staffer, Pat Wilson pertaining to funding streams for child welfare programs.

**Action** Jack will investigate potential legal assistance through the New Hampshire Association of School Attorneys (Jerry Zellin, John Teague, Mark Joyce, etc.).

Next meeting we will continue to review the timelines associated with the work plan and review our efforts to increase and diversify membership.

**NEXT MEETING**

**DATE:** Monday, March 9, 2009  
**TIME:** 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM  
**PLACE:** Child and Family Services NH  
103 North State Street  
Concord, NH