

**NHCRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, October 3, 2007**

**Present:** Ellen Dinerstein, Wendy Lasch-Williams, Joan Gross, Frank Marafiote, Carol Stewart, Roberta Emerson, Melinda Gehris, Sally Stalker, Gail Morrison

**Absent:** Cindy Clark, Bobbi Sym, Elizabeth Christensen

**I      **The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m.****

**II      Approval of September 20, 2007 Board Minutes**

Frank motioned to post Board Minutes on the NHCRA website. Wendy expressed concerns that there would be an added expense. Frank suggested using a PDF file at no cost. The board discussed issues of surrounding communication with membership, attracting membership, using the list serve, going into closed sessions on executive issues, and approval of minutes prior to posting.

Frank motioned to make approved minutes available on the website subject to any restrictions made by the board in approving the minutes. Roberta seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

Frank questioned the September 20th referral to him and Carol working on merging long term goals and adding community mediation as goal. There was discussion of the goals serving the community at large. Frank and Carol will work together on this issue. There was additional discussion regarding changing the statement in September 20th minutes from "adding Community Mediation information to the website" to "expanding Community Mediation information to the website."

Melinda moved to accept the minutes with the change. Frank seconded motion. All approved.

**III     Treasurers' report**

Elizabeth was absent and unable to present the report. Ellen informed the board that Elizabeth had requested more time at the next meeting to explain the annual report to the State which is due in November. There was discussion regarding the Hartford Insurance policy that was purchased before last year's conference not being renewed.

## IV Committees

### Nominating Committee

Ellen suggested forming a nominating committee. Wendy noted the time line and structure of nominations according to By-Laws and the Board's ability to vote to appoint in the interim. There was discussion surrounding the number of openings and Board members soliciting interest from members. Ellen, Frank, Melinda and Roberta agreed to work as a committee. It was agreed that information on candidates should be funneled to the nominating committee. There was additional discussion regarding how to approach new candidates, and the areas of strength the Board would be looking for in new Board members particularly in areas of conflict resolution beyond mediation. Ellen suggested the Nominating Committee begin putting together a list of what we may be looking for in new Board Members.

### Legislative Committee

Sally began a discussion on the committee's goals and the committee getting sidetracked when the bill for the development of the Office of Mediation and Arbitration went to hearing. There was additional discussion on "taking a position" with upcoming legislation vs. "sharing information" about upcoming legislation with members. Carol suggested that there may be upcoming bills that the Board may want to take a position on. The Board discussed steps being taken in the court system in promoting mediation and concerns regarding confidentiality and other areas where the Board should have a voice. Melinda questioned what we as a Board could and could not do regarding lobbying and advocating based on our nonprofit status. She added that John Sparkman, Esq. could be used as a resource in determining this.

Sally agreed to coordinate a meeting to discuss where the committee wanted to go and who would chair the committee.

Frank questioned how the committee could better serve Community Mediation by providing support and other resources and where in the context of the Association we could accomplish that. Carol noted that there was no liaison between the Board and Community Mediation. There was additional discussion on groups within the state meeting regularly and lists of centers on the mediation list. Frank agreed to further explore ideas with both Carol and Ellen.

### Communications Committee

Wendy discussed limits on time and the need for more committee members. At the present time Wendy and Bobbi are the only members of the committee. Sally agreed to switch from the Legislative Committee to the Communications Committee and Roberta agreed to join the committee as well. Wendy agreed to schedule an initial meeting. Melinda suggested using Suzanne Dorgan from her office as a resource person for desk top publisher. Ellen requested that the committee meet before the next Board meeting.

### Education Committee

Carol gave a summary of workshops over the past years. A special thanks was given to Phyliss Benoit and Terri Morrissee. A training session on Domestic Violence with a focus on screening and managing tools to terminate or continue mediation sessions will be scheduled after Thanksgiving.

### V. Board Meeting Schedule

The new meeting schedule was reviewed. It was determined that all meetings can be held in the Devine, Millimet Concord office.

### VI. New Business

Marital Mediation Certification Board - Ellen announced that there was an open seat on the Marital Mediation Certification Board which needed to be filled. There was discussion regarding John Cameron. Melinda moved to elect John Cameron to the Marital Mediation Board NHCRA seat. Wendy seconded. Sally and Frank abstained as they are not familiar with John Cameron. All remaining voted in favor.

Liability Insurance - There was discussion over the need for liability insurance since the Hartford Insurance Plan was dropped last month. Melinda agreed to contact Elizabeth regarding the insurance. Melinda requested Board members review their homeowner's policies for coverage in working on a nonprofit board. With the guidance of Melinda, the Board will review the Board's insurance needs at the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**