

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
CHILDREN'S LAW COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 27, 2016
Louisiana Bar Center, New Orleans, LA**

Participants:

Franchesca Hamilton-Acker
Jesse George
Jacqueline Gilles
Karen Hallstrom
Margot Hammond
Hope Hughes
Lakeisha Johnson
Martha Maher
JoAnn Nixon
Angela Smith
Cherrilynne Thomas

Guests:

Jamie Gomez, LSBA Leadership Class

ATJ Staff:

Linda Johnson
Rachael Mills
Michael Schachtman

1. Welcome & Introductions

Approval of February 24, 2016 Minutes – Karen Hallstrom moves to approve. Martha Maher second. Approved.

2. Legislative Report

Karen Hallstrom reported on the Public Defender funding issues relative to CINC. She stated there is about a \$300,000 shortfall right now. The Public Defender Board may be consolidated, but this may also eliminates a fair amount of expertise from the board. She stated she is still trying to find an opportunity to require one Board Member to have expertise and experience, but it's a work in progress. There are also a number of potential bills relating to CINC and DCFS. The bill concerning re-connecting adopted children failed. She reported that legislative funding for CINC and children related legal funding remains at the same level.

Ariel Test wanted to report on the "raise the age" juvenile jurisdiction bill, but was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Thomas reported that this bill, Senate Bill 324 authored by JP Morrell, will go to the Senate floor shortly.

3. Children's Law Award Ceremony

This year's Pro Bono and Children's Law Award Ceremony will be held on May 24 at the Supreme Court. This year's award is going to Zebulon Winstead. Nicole Louque asked committee members that plan to attend email her their name, before May 20th, so that she can add them to the guest list.

4. Educational Rights Program at Southern Law Center

Ms. Thomas reported that the committee is co-sponsoring a CLE with the Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities (LSPD) at Southern Law Center on “special needs education rights.” Southern Poverty Law Center, who litigated a case on this against the Orleans Parish School Board, will be presenting along with Department of Education attorneys. The session will be marketed to the public, but available for CLE credit to attorneys.

5. “Coming of Age” Brochure Expansion Project

Ms. Thomas reported that the brochure will be completed by the end of this calendar year. Another subcommittee meeting will be scheduled to continue to collect edits to the text. The committee also hopes to create a mobile website with the same content. Florida has a great example similar to this called “Just Adulting.” The brochure will also be presented as in years past at the National Youth Transition Database Events.

6. Pelican Center Report

At the last committee meeting, there was discussion of Mental Health Advocacy Center joining the PRIME case management system administered by the LSBA. Linda Johnson explained that Mental Health Advocacy is currently in the process of adopting their own version of PRIME, and they are in the initial stages of building this version of the software. Mental Health Advocacy’s version of PRIME will be different from the version used by LA’s Legal Services Programs because of the unique data needs of Mental Health Advocacy. Ms. Hallstrom reported that these parallel versions of PRIME will still be beneficial for data collection.

7. 2016-2017 Committee Projects

Ms. Thomas reported that the brochure and the corresponding website will be a committee project as well as the idea suggested by Karen Hallstrom.

Ms. Hammond suggested doing educational outreach to the law schools similar to what is done by the Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities (LSPD) committee. Ms. Thomas stated that she has presented to SULC on careers in children’s law. Mr. Schachtman stated that the LSPD committee has done this in two ways: a formal lunch and an informal session with students. He stated that August would be a good time to schedule something like this. Ms. Hammond suggested doing this in conjunction with the LSPD committee.

8. Adjournment