



Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2023

Call to Order: The meeting convened at 10 a.m. with the following participants:

Holly Kessler
Isabel A. M. Cole
Jack S. Eng
Brian Watkins
Kylee Redman
Anita Booker-Hay

Knowrasa Patrick
Jane Dale
Sara Sanders
Sarah Jackson
Sarah Kortokrax
Ryan Miller

Robert Silber
Michael Ratko
Diana Cartwright
Lonnie Ladenburg
Rose Gundersen
Dane Henager

Mailing Update/Check-in: Anita reported we haven't had major issues recently. Have you experienced any problems?

- Ms. Cartwright commented that when she reaches out to Beth Blue with a concern, Beth always answers right away.
- Mr. Miller had previously reported to Brian that a PDO adopt order was issued too soon. Was this investigated?
 - Yes, computer glitch fixed right away, plus Brian has been training the new staff person how to doublecheck the computer calculations.

If you see anything unusual, please reach out to us.

Court Reporting: Anita reported in July we switched to B&A Litigation Services. We have heard positive results from judges; do you have any concerns?

[None reported.]

Judicial Survey: Anita reported this was raised at the last meeting. In the past we contracted with WSU, we are continuing to look for alternatives for conducting a survey. Holly emphasized this continues to be a priority for us.

- Mr. Silber questioned whether we have a general estimate?
 - We hope within six months to a year.
- Mr. Miller commented this is very important to the community. There are a lot of new judges and new styles. For example, a judge who is uber formal, such as requiring formal motions with a lay representative.

Anita reminded everyone you don't have to wait for a survey—please contact her when you have concerns.

Seattle Office: When we last reported, we were looking for Seattle North and Seattle South locations. OFM then intervened and told us we could not have two Seattle offices. For now, we are relocating to 707 S Grady Way in Renton, Triton Towers Two. We anticipate that some of you may be upset. Please understand we are also upset; we had been preapproved for two locations.

- Mr. Miller noted a lot of practitioners are on the north end, could we signal to the Board we would prefer Everett even though it is not the right county?
 - Yes, that is fine if parties waive venue and there is space. You can put it in your notice and also raise it with your mediation and hearings judges.
- Mr. Silber questioned whether we should ask for change of venue earlier before the case is assigned to a King County judge?
 - You may ask, but it does not mean your case will be assigned to a different judge. Cases are assigned geographically. Your judge may be willing to travel to Everett.
- Mr. Ladenburg noted that Renton is potentially hours of commuting, will the parties be given reasonable accommodations to do proceedings virtually?
 - Yes, definitely.

Judicial Bios: Holly reported this came up at the last meeting. We are looking into posting bios but not photos. We are currently reviewing the proposal with the judges' union.

Rulemaking Early Comment: Brian reported we do an early feedback phase and today is the deadline for comment. In September we will publish our formal proposal for rules, which will start the timeline for written comments. Then we will have a rulemaking hearing.

Stakeholder Q&A:

- Ms. Cartwright passed on kudos to Judge Kysar. She was very professional and calming with an upset pro se party.
- Mr. Silber, what percentage of hearings are live vs. Zoom?
 - Example, last week out of 35 hearings, 3 were in person.

Next meeting: We proposed November 17, 2023, at 10 a.m. Please email jay.raish@biia.wa.gov if you have conflicts.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Jay Raish,
Confidential Secretary