

Standing Committee on Self Represented Litigants January 12, 2016 minutes

A. Present: Michele Snowberger, Kayre Chatellier, Kay Pace, Toni Castellanos, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, Ed Higgins, Abby Brown, Randy Snyder, Kay Lynn Lee, Ann Goldes-Sheahan, Erin Farris-Olsen

B. Approval of minutes- one correction which Abby will correct, motion to approve and seconded, December minutes approved.

C. Strategic Plan Review- amend or change strategic plan to focus on specific areas

1. Abby - a number of the tasks are already completed and rather than amend or scrap the whole thing, let's focus on specific areas because of time available- what do we have the time/resources for and we need to focus on what we can get accomplished with the resources we do have

2. Goals to focus on:

- a. education/training
- b. legislative area

D. Forms- dissolution forms- response/parenting plan form

1. Response form- problem was that it did not instruct people to file their own proposed parenting plan-

2. Have forms been fixed? Report from Erin that because the standard of the forms won't be changed, is it ok if not changing the substance, that the forms subcommittee can fix and change language to be correct so that the forms can be completed before the next meeting?

a. Motion brought and seconded

3. Test the forms in Gallatin County? Should they just be submitted to Gallatin for the Pilot program or given to everyone?

a. Erin - if we put them out, don't do it to remove current form because we don't have that power, but we should make them available somewhere- maybe on the law library's website

b. Kayre- can we join the forms committee- yes, and it would be good to have a self-help coordinator to give feedback to the forms committee

c. The SCSRL e-mail address MUST be monitored so that we can see if there are issues that need to be fixed

4. Both forms will be posted-

a. If already started- use old forms,

b. If not started, use revised forms

c. Q? Will clerks of courts accept these forms? They aren't to refuse

any form

- If clerks know and are on board that is good, but we should give them a heads up

- Randy- no central location for forms to be posted and no authority for their use- needs to go to the full commission who needs to go the Supreme Court
- Michele- what do other committee members think about this proposition?
- Abby agrees that we should do this, we spend so much time and need mechanism to make these mandatory forms or those Supreme Court says WILL be accepted at least
- Erin agrees that this is a good idea but time consuming so we should move ahead with the release of the forms
- Motion made by Erin to post on state law library site and encourage their use in Cascade/Gallatin County after approval by clerks of court in those locations
 - Also, inform all clerks/judges/self-help centers across the state about new forms and encourage their use
 - Motion seconded: discussion
 - Randy and Abby – why state law library site and not SCSRL site? Limits use a bit, not on easy access places
 - Forms Committee will take final look at red lines/problems and then send them out via Lisa
 - Do we want link from current forms page (re: 2016 revised forms)
 - Kayre suggests doing it in stages- committee determines forms committee can decide

E. Self-Help Law Centers- Jim Taflan is gone

1. Kay- Yes, and the Admin office is thinking about getting a contractor just to work on forms- Kay will manage self-help centers for about 3 months

F. Introduction of new co-chairs- Ann Goldes-Sheahan and Abby Brown

G. Next Meeting- April 12th, 1:30-3:00 pm