

September 23, 2011

Elder Law and Disability Rights Annual Meeting

Crystal Mountain MI

Approved Minutes

At this annual meeting and election of board members and officers, outgoing section chair Paul Sturgul declared a quorum present and offered a brief review of the year.

Thanks were due the officers and members of the council, Sturgul said as well as the people who helped pull together the seminar, and past chairs who helped give him guidance over the past 12 months. In a brief look at the year, Sturgul highlighted these section activities, both new and on-going:

--Successful litigation, guided by the litigation committee regarding the Medicaid pre-eligibility medical expense issue, as well as the review and support of other potential litigation going forward, regarding Michigan DHS policies on Medicaid not congruent with Federal law or regulation.

--Council meetings in a variety of settings and locations, including, for the first time, one in the U.P. (Marquette) during the summer and another at the Inn of St. Johns, following the section's spring seminar.

--Re-establishment of a section newsletter—distributed electronically now via the list serve, saving a good deal of expense on postage and paper.

--Continued legislative and policy monitoring and advocacy, where warranted, with the help of a lobbyist group and member activity including meetings and letters to state elected officials and department heads.

In other business, a brief legislative report was given. Possible amendments to the estate recovery law have been proposed, and this bears monitoring. New drafts of the estate recovery bills introduced by Senator Kahn may be coming out soon. If section members have ideas about the bill, or unanticipated problems with the bill, they were encouraged to weigh in. In addition, a packet of various bills surrounding "senior abuse" are gaining support from both parties, and some may become law soon. The section has been asked by various state representatives to give informal input on the idea of a "peace of mind" registry, where hospitals and others would be able to access completed designation of patient advocate forms and the like. Finally, it was noted the state has a planning grant to look at the better integration of services to "dual eligible", i.e. those who can access both Medicare and Medicaid for health care.

The treasurer and secretary presented short reports, and the treasurer noted that the section's account balance, as reported by the state bar at the end of August, was \$102,204.30. Section expenses and income for the annual meeting would typically trickle in over the next two or three months, she noted. The draft minutes from the August meeting, in Marquette, were approved, and the secretary mentioned

that a possible slate of new council members was being proposed, to fill vacancies and mentioned that there was also a proposal from the ad-hoc nomination committee, to ask Patrick Bond to become treasurer (typically officers have moved up or rotated yearly through positions, i.e., treasurer, then secretary, then chair elect, then chair, then immediate past chair, etc.).

A motion was made by David Kerr, with support by Jill Goodell, to accept by acclamation, the nomination of the following individuals, suggested by the nomination committee to serve on the council, as follows:

Beth A Swagman (3 year term)

Christopher William Smith (3 year term)

James B. Steward (3 year term)

Kelly J. McNerney Quardokus (3 year term)

Michael A. Mestelle (3 year term)

Robert J. Longstreet (2 year term)

In addition, a similar motion and support, was proffered to name Patrick Bond to the position of Treasurer for the coming year. Both motions passed unanimously.

Another motion, made by John Payne, and supported, was made to support the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care conference, which will be held in Grand Rapids, MI late this Oct. The support would be a \$2,000 donation to be a sponsor of the reception by those at the convention. The request came, in part, from John Weir, who works with and for the office of the long term care ombudsman of the state. Some discussion ensued. The motion passed, with one abstention and one no vote.

Paul Sturgul turned the remainder of the meeting over to Caroline Dellenbush, who thanked Paul Sturgul for his service, before announcing the next meeting date and location would be 10 a.m. to noon, Oct. 1, 2011 at her offices in Grand Rapids, MI.

The meeting then adjourned.

