

Minutes
Subcommittee on Juvenile Matters
Public Service and Trust Commission
Committee on Expectations of the Public

February 4, 2009
3:30 PM

Those in attendance: Atty. Cynthia Cunningham, Atty. Regina Dowling, Hon. Mark Gould (chair), Atty. Brandon Pelegano, and Atty. Dawne Westbrook.

The meeting was called to order at 3:36 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2009 – Upon motion and second, the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2009 were unanimously approved.
2. Discussion of member suggestions on ways to assist the public in juvenile court – A discussion ensued as to the suggestions of the members of the committee. Suggestions included: providing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the web and at juvenile court facilities to provide information to the public; providing docket access to attorneys, Department of Children and Families (DCF), attorneys general, states' attorneys and public defenders; investigating the possibility of a modified children's center in juvenile court facilities; providing juvenile-related information in the court service centers and at public information desks; providing information on public transportation (i.e., bus routes and schedules) in the clerk's offices; setting up an information area in juvenile court facilities (in the absence of court service centers) where FAQs and other information could be provided; providing a greeter in the courts; improving directions to the juvenile courts; improving signage and directory information in the courts; consider providing a pre-recorded video explaining the process; and providing a guide to the acronyms used in juvenile courts.

Discussion of how to distribute this information ensued, including the involvement of DCF on the civil side in juvenile courts (i.e., neglect and abuse petitions) and the police on the criminal side. Some of the suggestions for distributing information included providing the information through the police, contract attorneys, DCF and the Child Advocate.

3. Assignment of tasks – Atty. Pelegano and Atty. Cunningham will draft FAQs for juvenile matters. Staff will obtain information from New York regarding the children's center. Atty. Pelegano will also look at the acronyms and legal terms.
4. Future meetings – The next meeting will be March 11, 2009 at 3:30 PM. The place will be determined.