

Minutes
Commission on Civil Court Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
May 23, 2011
2:00 PM
225 Spring St.
Wethersfield, CT

A meeting of the Commission on Civil Court Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) was held at 225 Spring St., Wethersfield, CT, in Room 4B at 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Hon. Linda K. Lager (chair), Hon. James W. Abrams, Hon. Kari A. Dooley, Hon. Robert L. Holzberg, Hon. Elliot N. Solomon, Hon. Dawne G. Westbrook, Attorney Christopher Bernard, Attorney Agnes Cahill, Attorney Sarah F. DePanfilis, Attorney Timothy S. Fisher, Attorney Irene Jacobs, Attorney Patricia Kaplan, Professor Carolyn Wilkes Kaas, Attorney Jeffrey T. Londregan, Attorney Duncan MacKay, Attorney David A. Reif, Attorney Robert Simpson, Professor James H. Stark.

At 2:13 p.m. Judge Lager called the meeting to order.

Agenda Items

I. Welcome by Judge Lager

Judge Lager welcomed the commission members to the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 31, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Updates

A. ABA ADR Spring Conference:

Judge Lager, Roberta Palmer and Attorney Sarah DePanfilis attended the ABA ADR Spring Conference and shared conference notes and highlights with the members. Conference highlights mentioned included a presentation on the use of a "Conflict Diagnosis Tool", which is a method for looking at every case and determining which ADR path works best; discussion of new ways of providing ADR, including online and by teleconference; and agreement that there is a lack of best practices and data on ADR. It was noted that all conference material is available online.

B. Wikispaces:

Members were encouraged to use the ADR Commission Wiki. The Wiki has been updated to reflect that the commission has moved past the initial information gathering phase. A PowerPoint presentation re: current Judicial Branch ADR programs has been added as well as previously reviewed survey results and an operational definition of success. The homepage will continue to be updated to reflect latest status of the commission's work. It was noted that there is now a page for each subcommittee and members were again encouraged to use it, especially for discussion threads. Each page permits discussion and shows any changes that are made to the page. There is also the ability to lock a topic when no further discussion is desired. Members were reminded to consider copyright issues before posting any articles to the Wiki.

IV. Subcommittees

A. Assignments

Assignments for the four subcommittees (Utilization; Delivery; Training; Evaluation) were reviewed. The four subcommittees will be grouped into pairs: Utilization with Delivery; and Training with Evaluation. A lead and a secondary staff member have been assigned to each subcommittee to assist the chairs and members. Staff will begin describing the substance and delivery of existing programs for the Utilization and Delivery subcommittees. Staff will begin to focus on research as directed by the chairs for the Training and Evaluation subcommittees.

B. Process

A template for use by the subcommittees in making its findings and recommendations was discussed. It was noted that the template will provide the Commission members with a uniform way of looking at the process and recommendations of each subcommittee when the subcommittees report back to the whole Commission.

Judge Lager reminded the members that all subcommittees are subject to FOI requirements, and therefore, members of the public may attend, but not participate in subcommittee meetings; also an agenda must be posted in advance of the meeting. Teleconferences must be accessible to the public in the same manner. Minutes will be posted to the Judicial Branch website, not the Wiki.

Subcommittees will present draft recommendations to the whole commission at the next meeting on 9/19/11.

B. Break-out

Break-out sessions for the four subcommittees were held.

V. Other Business

None

VI. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Monday, September 19, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.