

**AFCC TEXAS CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**January 12, 2007**  
**Tarrant County Family Law Center, Fort Worth, Texas**

**MINUTES**

I. Meeting Call to Order

AFCC Texas Chapter Board of Directors met on January 12, 2007 at the Domestic Relations Office of Tarrant County, Fort Worth, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by Aaron Robb, President, AFCC Texas Chapter

II. Introduction of new and returning Board members

Officers in attendance were: Aaron Robb, M.Ed., NCC, LPC, President; Martha Musselman, JD, President-Elect; Jack Bannin, MS, Second Vice-President; and Louise Lee, JD, Secretary

At-Large Directors in attendance were: Rocky Deutscher, LBSW; Gilda Bowen, LMSW; Mary Fogel, MS; Vicki James, MS; and Trevor Townes, MA

Aaron Robb brought AFCC brochures and fliers for International conference in Washington, DC for board members to distribute in their local areas

- a. Board member packets distributed to members
- b. General board member policies – **attached** to these minutes
  - i. Most communication will be via email.
  - ii. Reimbursement for board travel up to \$125.00 – **attached** to these minutes
  - iii. Liaison position – It is mainly an opportunity to communicate with other chapters in North America. The task is split between President and President Elect during the year.
  - iv. Confidentiality – We all work in family law in some form, so there is a need to disclose our individual positions in regards to our various fields and goals of the organization to avoid any conflict of interest
  - v. Financial and operating procedures – There is a reimbursement form that needs to be filled out for Scott Clarke
  - vi. Position descriptions were briefly discussed
    1. nominations
    2. secretary

- III. Minutes from September 21, 2006 Board Meeting
  - a. Minutes approved after change reflecting Scott Clarke's dissent under education committee
  - b. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent

IV. Financial Report

The Treasurer's Summary was presented by Aaron Robb, and is **attached** to these Minutes

a. 2006 Summary

i. Treasurer Summary as of January 12, 2007:

1. Current Accounting Balance\*: \$13,423.08

\* assuming all deposits and withdrawals have cleared the bank

2. Current Bank Balance\*\*: \$13,423.08

\*\* as of January 10, 2007

b. 2007 Budget – Board spent some time reviewing the 2007 Budget

- i. Aaron Robb moved to accept the budget
- ii. Rocky Deutscher seconded the motion
- iii. Motion passed by verbal vote

c. Financial Policies update

Aaron Robb reported that normally, the Board should approve the new budget BY JANUARY of the new year period. Also, we should have Finance/Audit committee, but it has not been implemented at this time.

Aaron Robb distributed Proposed revisions to the Texas AFCC Financial Policies and Procedures to the Board and is **attached** to these minutes. Proposal was discussed.

- i. Jack Bannin addressed a grammatical error in the second paragraph.
- ii. Aaron Robb moved to accept proposed revisions
- iii. Gilda Bowen seconded the motion
- iv. Motion to adopt the Revised Texas AFCC Financial Policies and Procedures was passed by verbal vote

Trevor Townes suggested idea to raise income. The idea was to include AFCC marketing through merchandise at conference. Aaron Robb requested for a follow up to that idea. The board also discussed the possibility of marketing through the web page. Discussion was tabled for further investigation, research, and study.

V. Old Business

a. Conference update

- i. The conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin located near the intersection of I-35 and 290. It was the best hotel that fit the needs of our organization. Meeting space will be complimentary. AFCC needs to meet 80% of the 85 room block per night of the conference to avoid additional fees. The sleeping room rate is \$85.00/night for a single; \$135.00/night for a double. The hotel lowered the self-parking rate for our conference to \$4.00/night instead of \$8.00/night. During this process, we learned that because Austin and San Antonio are such tourist attractions, they are heavily booked in the Fall and weekends. The hotel provided excellent customer service.
- ii. Theme of the conference will be a litigation focus
  1. Child custody evaluations will be addressed, including what attorneys should expect from mental health professionals, and what mental health professionals should expect when giving testimony
- iii. John Gould has confirmed that he will be speaking at the conference. His honorarium is usually \$3,500.00, but he is coming to our conference for \$1,000.00. His presentation will have a focus on child-centered evaluations . . . somewhat focusing on conflict resolution
- iv. Tim Tippens is a consultant to other attorneys for cross examining mental health professionals. Aaron Robb is still working on obtaining confirmation from him. He is also coming for a deeply discounted rate. He usually charges \$7,500/day.
- v. We will hopefully get both speakers for \$1,000.00 each.
- vi. Discussion ensued regarding the litigation focus of the conference
  1. Rocky Deutscher voiced concern about litigious aspect of the conference. AFCC is interdisciplinary focused and we may be going in the other direction
  2. Aaron Robb and Trevor Townes voiced concern about the audience population being saturated with collaborative law, parenting plans/coordination, etc. and concern about burnout on those subject matters. Also, parenting coordination statute may be gone after the upcoming legislative session

3. Trevor Townes brought up an idea to have a discussion about the NEW Dallas area judges. The board discussed the judicial revolution. The idea is to have panel to have discussion tentatively called “The Young and the Restless”. Also, there was a discussion about bringing in some sessions for mental health professionals
- vii. Committees
    1. Rocky Deutscher and Trevor Townes offered to help with registration
    2. Mary Fogel offered to help with local arrangements and coordination
  - viii. Brochures will focus and highlight AFCC organization as opposed to the title of the conference and the speakers
  - ix. All other conference committees are ready to go
  - x. Sponsorship levels almost set
    1. Susan McMillan and Laurie Nowlin are heading up the committee to get additional funds for the conference
    2. Austin committee to set the levels for the sponsorships
  - xi. Recognition/appreciation – Discussion about special recognition for Scott Clarke and the keynote speakers
- b. Chapter Council Update
    - i. Linda Fieldstone sent us a nice compliment re: Texas chapter influential on some international policies
    - ii. Nominations for Chapter Council Liason – The international organization is looking for a person who will communicate with the chapter council and coordinates with the international chapter. No one came to mind as someone the Texas Board would like to nominate for the position.
  - c. Committee Reports and Assignments
    - i. Finance – Treasurer is a member of the committee, but there is another person who is the chair
      1. As discussed earlier, there are no other members on this committee at this time
    - ii. Conference – see above
    - iii. Membership – David Eaker is the chair; Louise Lee is on the committee
      1. The main purpose of this committee is additional recruitment
      2. Committee wants to have marketing forum to get our name out

- iv. Education – Louise Lee is the chair; David Eaker is on the committee

Aaron Robb suggested that the membership committee and education committee merge into one committee since the goals of these two committees are very similar.

Louise Lee reported that the committee is creating guidelines for training programs to have “recognized by AFCC” in the marketing materials. Goals for this committee have been loosely discussed. Also, there is a need to discuss and figure out the subject matters for the trainings. We are working on how to actually implement programs. We need to address the needs of ALL counties in the state because each local area is different and unique.

Martha Musselman suggested that we partner with the law schools around the state to use it as a vehicle to spread the word. Gilda Bowen also suggested doing the same with Schools of Social Work. Trevor Townes discussed how he is on a project with Baylor School of Medicine.

A discussion by the board that we would try to assemble a team in each area (locals) who could present a plan/goals to the educational institutions. Aaron Robb has had good discussions with TADRO (Texas department of domestic relations offices) to develop some educational programs. Board members are to submit by January 26, 2007, the following:

- a. educational institutions who they have contacts with who may be interested in getting involved as vehicles for these trainings
  - b. brainstorm list of professionals in those local areas who would be the “team” to facilitate presentations
- v. Publications – Jack Bannin to chair the committee and maintain the newsletter. Jack Bannin does his own webpage, so he will be all right. Aaron Robb asked board members to submit various articles for the newsletter. Trevor Townes will hand over the website reigns to Jack Bannin. Aaron Robb will continue to submit Presidential section for the newsletter
  - vi. Regional groups – This is not really a committee, but more of an opportunity to get an update from various members to report on great things happening in their area
  - vii. AFCC Chapter Council Representative
    - 1. President and President elect (see above)

viii. Nominations

1. Aaron Robb has a strong desire to push for nominations for a new treasurer. Board members were asked to see if anyone is interested in the position.
2. Another goal involves recruiting new member of judiciary
3. Aaron Robb requested that if any board members know of anyone interested in chairing this committee that they contact him. He would like a new chair before start of next summer in order to have the opportunity to talk to attendees at the conference about joining/becoming Board member

d. Minimum Qualifications for Conducting Court ordered studies

- i. Aaron Robb provided the Board with the legislative proposal for social study evaluations, which is **attached** to these minutes. Rep. Dutton will be carrying the bill through. Aaron is working on asking Senator Wentworth (Bexar County) to help carry it through the Senate.
- ii. A discussion regarding Master's degree requirement ensued. Rocky Deutscher voiced concern with that standard for the smaller counties. There was a discussion on various standards and requirements for various organizations and independent studies v. studies completed under DRO program At the end, there was an agreement for the need to have standards as to WHO can conduct social studies

e. Goals for 2007 – In lieu of discussing these issues at the meeting, Aaron Robb reported that he intends to facilitate discussion through email exchanges

- i. Board member individual goals
- ii. Establish priorities

VI. New Business

a. Formal webpage linking policy

- i. Aaron Robb presented proposed minimum guidelines for resolving this potential problem, and they are **attached** to these minutes. There has been some confusion regarding who can use our webpage as a possible vehicle to post various professional links.
- ii. Aaron Robb moved to have the guidelines approved
- iii. Rocky Deutscher seconded the motion
- iv. Motion carried by verbal vote

b. “Resource directory” project – future directions

- i. Aaron Robb reports that we are redoing web pages at this time
    - c. 2008 Conference planning
      - i. Martha Musselman reported that South Texas College of Law has agreed to co-sponsor the 2008 conference in Houston with us. They are willing to donate the meeting space, pre-negotiated rates with hotels, caterers, audio/visual, etc. The only thing they want is to review the program and stamp it with their approval.
      - ii. Louise Lee moves to have the conference at STCL on October 2-4, 2008, if there are no scheduling conflicts.
      - iii. Aaron Robb seconded the motion
      - iv. Motion carried by verbal vote
    - d. Set meeting schedule for remainder of 2007
      - i. April 20th, Houston, Texas – STCL; 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. tentative time
      - ii. August 24<sup>th</sup>, Austin, Texas – The Doubletree Hotel, Austin
      - iii. October 4, Austin, Texas – at the annual statewide conference
- VII. Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.