Legal / Mental Health Community Conference Thursday, November 6, 2014

Greenfield Community College Dining Commons One College Drive Greenfield, MA 01301 2 - 5 p.m. Free of charge Light refreshments

DESCRIPTION

This afternoon program of panel discussion and presentations is for therapeutic and legal practitioners who want a basic understanding of the local courts, of the court's interactions with individuals and families who have therapeutic needs, and of the guidelines for navigating the various court processes when there are legal and/or therapeutic reasons to do so. The information presented will highlight the similarities and differences between the Probate & Family Court, the Juvenile Court and the Housing Court, will describe the various roles for therapists and/or advocates, and will describe the resources available locally.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the program, participants will be able to:

- * Understand the various roles for the therapist in court, including testifying as a witness and becoming a court-involved therapist.
- * Understand the difference between privilege and confidentiality and the rationale for a guardian to manage a child's therapeutic privilege.
- * Understand the similarities and differences between the Probate & Family Court and Juvenile Court standards regarding custody and other family matters.
- * Identify parent education programs and local resources currently recommended by the local courts.

AGENDA

- **2 p.m. Registration** (required for individuals requesting CECs and CAFL credit, encouraged for others)
- 2:15 Welcome Hon. Beth Crawford

2:20 p.m. Their Day in Court: Understanding the Who, What and Why for Your Court-Involved Clients

An overview of the Juvenile and the Probate & Family courts, including their jurisdictions; their different standards regarding custody (best interest v. fitness); responses to mental health needs of litigants; and programs and resources available through the courts. Panelists: Hon. Beth Crawford, Hon. Gail Perlman,

Dorothy Meyer Storrow, Esq., Oran Kaufman, Esq.

3 p.m. Housing Court Concerns

A description of Housing Court options when an individual's mental illness disrupts

housing, and an overview of the resources available for mentally ill litigants in the Housing Court.

Presenter: Hon. Dina Fein

3:15 p.m. Communication Triangles: The Probate & Family Court,

The Client and You

What are privileged communications? What is the difference between privilege and confidentiality? Why does the Court need to appoint a guardian to waive or assert a child's therapeutic privilege?

Presenter: Hon. Gail Perlman (retired)

3:30 p.m Therapy for the Courts

What role does a therapist play in the Juvenile Court and the Probate & Family Court, if any? What should you expect if you have to testify? What is a court-involved therapist? How do the AFCC guidelines apply?

Presenter: Hon. Gail Perlman (retired)

3:45 p.m. Expecting More from Co-Parents

Only One Childhood, the new skills-based program for co-parents in chronic conflict, goes beyond standard divorce education. It teaches parents to move forward for the sake of their children and offers the skills and support to do so..

Presenter: Mark Nickerson, LICSW, Director of Parent Education, Hampshire County Bar Association

4:00 p.m. Questions and Answers

Moderator: Hon. Beth Crawford

4:15 p.m. Certificates available for individuals who signed up to receive CECs for social workers upon submitting the evaluation and signing out. Those requesting CAFL credit will need to sign out.

4:15 - 5 p.m. Informal Networking

Browse through tables with information from various providers, agencies and organizations. Meet legal and therapeutic colleagues over refreshments. Bring your business cards to hand out.

PRESENTERS

Hon. Beth Crawford

First Justice, Franklin Division of the Probate and Family Court

In addition to her experience as a judge, she helped create a number of Hampshire County programs, including the Hampshire Conciliation Program, For The Children parent education program for never married parents, and Standing Order 1-10 Special Procedures for Cases involving Children. Currently she serves as the co-chair of the Probate and Family Court ADR Committee.

Hon. Dina Fein

First Justice, Western Division of the Housing Court

The common theme of her professional life has been improving access to justice for all litigants, coupled with an understanding of the barriers to representation that certain classes of people experience. In addition to presiding over housing court sessions in Western

Massachusetts, she is the Special Advisor for Access to Justice Initiatives, appointed by the Chief Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Trial Court.

Hon. Gail Perlman (retired)

Retired First Justice, Hampshire Division of the Probate and Family Court

Her experience spans a Probate and Family Court judgeship, an active mediation practice, forays in academia, and volunteer initiatives focusing primarily on conflict resolution and social change.

Oran Kaufman, Esq.

Law, Mediation and Conflict Resolution Practices

For 25 years, he has practiced general law with a focus on families. In the last 20 years, he has expanded his practice to include collaborative law, mediation and conflict resolution. He teaches mediation courses on the college level and is a divorce mediation trainer for mediation programs. He is a frequent speaker and author about conflict resolution and family issues.

Mark Nickerson, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W.

Director of Parent Education, Hampshire County Bar Association

His professional life has focused on family issues, conflict resolution, violence prevention, combat veterans and trauma recovery. In addition to his work as Director of Parent Education for the Hampshire County Bar Association, he has been in private practice for over 30 years, co-founded the Men's Resource Center and is Board President for the EMDR International Association.

Dorothy Meyer Storrow, Esq.

Private Practice

In private practice since 1986, she has represented children and parents in the Probate & Family, Juvenile and appellate courts, has lectured extensively about issues involving representation of children and parents, has authored several articles published in MCLE and has been an appellate and trial panel mentor for the Committee for Public Counsel Services Children and Family Law (CAFL) Program. As the CAFL Program's regional coordinator, she provided advice and technical assistance to attorneys and was liaison between the Bar Association, the local courts and the community.

DIRECTIONS

Greenfield Community College (<u>www.gcc.mass.edu/</u>) is conveniently located near the intersection of Interstate 91 and Route 2. Take exit 26 off I-91 and follow the traffic rotary to Route 2 west. Once on Route 2, take a right at the first traffic light onto Colrain Road. Go 6/10 mile and turn left onto College Drive. Follow College Drive to the parking lot areas. The Dining Commons is in the main building at the end of College Drive.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Franklin County Bar Association 20 Federal Street, Suite 4 Greenfield, MA 01301 www.franklincountybar.org

This program is sponsored by the Franklin County Bar Association and underwritten by Greenfield Community College, Our Family Wizard and the Massachusetts Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts