

Licensed Paralegal Practitioner Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2022

Zoom Meeting

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Judge Mettler, presiding

Attendees:

Judge Amber Mettler, Chair

Susan Morandy, LPP,

Recording Secretary

Leslie Staples, LPP

Tonya Wright, LPP

Matthew Page

Steve Johnson

Jacqueline Morrison

Julie Emery

Monte Sleight

Guests:

Carolynn Clark, S.J. Quinney College of Law

Staff:

Scotti Hill, Utah State Bar

Chairperson Judge Amber Mettler called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1. Action—Welcome and approval of the draft meeting minutes: (*Judge Mettler*)

Judge Mettler welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for approval of the minutes.

Steve Johnson moved to approve the January 18, 2022 minutes with changes. Tonya Wright seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Discussion—Update from LPPs on current casework and projects.

Susan Morandy advised that she had many new client calls and now has about 10 active cases. Tonya Wright advised that she also got several new client calls but a few were outside the scope and she had to refer other cases to other LPPs. She had mediated two cases and has an enforcement hearing coming up. Leslee Staples advised that she has also been busy with lots of calls. Everyone recognized the increase in need for LPP services. Matthew Page advised that the Bar did the Grandview segment towards the end of January. The Licensed Lawyer link for LPPs was shared as a source for other LPP referrals. Matthew Page informed everyone that the Bar was working on redoing its website.

3. Discussion—Update from LPP Innovation Subcommittee. (Scotti Hill)

Scottie forwarded notes from the survey data that was collected. The biggest issue is the forms that LPPs have to use. The innovation subcommittee will be meeting with the I4J group and Stacy Butler Wednesday this week. Steve Johnson wanted to know if there were any LPPs on the Forms Committee and was advised that Scotti Hill and Amber Allman are on the Forms Committee but the Committee only meets every other month and the meetings are excruciatingly long and unproductive. Discussion on stand alone forms and how frustrating the court forms are for LPPs, and how much extra time an LPP has to spend to get forms out of OCAP and formatted to efile correctly. Suggestion to contact the court's IT department directly. Judge Mettler informed everyone that the court's IT department is literally years behind. Suggested to have LPPs have separate access that they can log into a portal to get approved forms that have been reformatted and are not in OCAP. Suggested to possibly have someone create something in the Sandbox to make forms that are approved by the Judicial Council. Scotti will talk to the I4J group about possibly taking on this type of project. Matthew Page suggested possibly having this run through the Bar through the Licensed Lawyer program as they have some of the software available to do the login and can house the forms and the Bar has money left over in a software budget that the Bar could possibly use to help create a LPP forms portal, but further discussion on maintenance of such a portal would need to be figured out.

4. Discussion—Update from Bar/Innovation Subcommittee.

Scotti Hill will be leaving the committee to take another position within the Bar. The Bar is actively seeking her replacement who will take her place on our committee. Scotti will still be available to answer any Ethic's questions through the Bar's Ethic's hotline. Scotti advised that there are five applicants taking the Bar exam in March.

Scotti advised that the Spring Convention has been changed to virtual and the first virtual session will be March 10th at noon regarding civility between lawyers and LPPs. Tonya Wright, Commissioner Sagers, and attorney Holly Nelson will be the panelists for the session. Scotti will send out the link for registration.

Matthew Page advised that there is a t.v. appearance planned for later in March regarding access to justice that will include LPPs.

5. Discussion—Update on rural outreach: (Steve Johnson)

Steve Johnson presented the LPP information brochure that is now completed and looks very nice. He will be holding off on distribution as the legislature is still considering

changing the small claims limits. Once the legislature has concluded the small claims' limits then the brochure will be good to distribute.

Matthew Page advised that he attended a meeting in Sixth District - Richfield, on the Snow College campus and talked about the LPP program. He learned that while people had heard of the program they didn't have knowledge of details. Suggested to schedule some time to go down to the Snow College campus and talk about the LPP program.

6. Discussion—Update on outreach efforts: (Monte Sleight)

Monte Sleight advised that the UVU courses were going strong with 13 participants in the Ethics courses, but that there may need to be a review of the course material soon.

7. Discussion - Other Business: (Scotti Hill)

Scotti advised that she received a call from Oregon who was interested in the ethics and courses for LPPs, and that she had also had inquiries from Minnesota. Discussion on California's regulation of paralegals and how the company Barbary affected that regulation.

8. Adjournment and next meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.