



**MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 13, 2021**

**Present (via Zoom):** Judy Hackler, Diane Hoffman, Joyce Martin, Courtney O’Hara, Irene Osei, Paula Kupstas, Christine Stone, Daveena Sexton, Michele Sorenson, William Shackelford, Susan Umidi, and Joyce Walsh

- **Welcome and Introductions**

**Susan Umidi** called the meeting to order and all roll call was performed.

- **Review of Minutes**

Minutes of the November business meeting were provided to members via email prior to this meeting. **Judy Hackler** noted one typo and asked that it be corrected: on page 2, the word “entire.” **Margie Marker** and **Joyce Walsh** moved to accept with that one correction. There was no opposition.

- **Treasurer’s Report** – Total account balances as of December 31, 2020 were \$113,009.74 including checking (\$29,311.86) savings (\$12,042.20), and investments (\$71,655.68). Joyce Martin provided the full Treasurer’s Report via email, prior to meeting.

- **Annual Conference Committee** –

2021 planning:

**Joyce Walsh** shared August 25 – 27, 2021 are the new dates the conference hotel offered after she shared the letter from the DARS Commissioner stating that employees are not to return to person until at least July 2021. **Margie Marker** and **Courtney O’Hara** will work to notify participants, speakers and sponsors of the change. We’ll revisit if this date seems feasible, given the pandemic, at our next meeting in March of 2021. **Susan Umidi** asked that members please contact speakers to gauge their interest

in providing virtual programming should we not be able to gather in person this year.

- **Other business**

- Elder Justice Coalition (EJC)

- **Margie Marker** shared that she has been asked to join the coalition. Information is as follows: members meet quarterly for 90 minute meetings. The agenda includes a presenter on topics of national interest, spotlighting a member and discussing programmatic issues that they're struggling with. EJC also take a few minutes to share what each member is working on. At our upcoming meeting in March, we'll be talking about the role of state legal assistance developers. Coalition leaders and/or an interested member or two are welcome. EJC are also exploring ways to provide a voice for state EJ programs in national policy discussions, as we feel there's a gap. NNSEJC has been keeping our members apprised of developments in the field (most recently, these have included anticipated cuts to Victim of Crime Act, or VOCA) that we believe members of our network can benefit from. EJC are also planning convenings with leaders in the field to share their insights. EJC is currently planning a session for next spring on how state legal services developers are making a difference in their states. The EJC hope is to provide a voice for those of us who are doing advocacy at the state level to federal policy makers on states' needs. There are no dues, so the commitment is minimal. After discussion between members, it seems to be a poor fit as VCPEA is not a legal organization.

- Silence Isn't Golden Discussion

- **Daveena Sexton** shared this is a public awareness campaign addressing elder abuse. She notes she's working to secure funding to disseminate it in Southwest Virginia. The board is very supportive of this effort and would be willing to consider TAPAS funds if necessary.

- Constant Contact subscription

- **Courtney O'Hara** would like to secure a Constant Contact account so that she can utilize it to communicate with members and allied professionals about VCPEA's work. The cost is around \$600, which the board unanimously approved. Note that **Chris Stone** made the first motion and **Margie Marker** seconded it.

- By-laws revision RE: board approval of new members outside of the conference business meeting

- Susan Umidi noted that we will need to create a workgroup to make the change to our by-laws that allows us to approve new board members outside of the conference business meeting.
- VCPEA newsletter update
  - **Susan Umidi** states that we will table the newsletter to focus on virtual component of the conference.
- ACL funding update
  - **Susan Umidi** reports that we lost the \$12,000 secured for 2020 conference scholarships due to the fact that the conference postponed and, therefore, not utilized. She noted that we have in-roads for the future.
- Helen Knapps award discussion
  - **Susan Umidi** recommended the board push this award to 2022 given the pandemic, to ensure we are able to provide the award in person.
- Request from Susan.
  - Susan Umidi stated our opening speakers have been working on an updated roll out to their documentary Gen-Silent and would like to know of any groups that would be interested in receiving information and possible training using the new documentary. The original was presented at our conference in the past and was well received. Please email Susan Umidi with anyone you think may be interested.

Meeting was adjourned at **12:08pm**.

### **Future Meetings...**

March 10, 2021

May 11, 2021

July 14, 2021

September 8, 2021

November 9, 2021