

To: MassUMA Working Group Members and Others Interested in the Process

From: The MassUMA Working Group Coordinators:

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Date: October 3, 2006

Re: Next Meeting and Next Steps

Attached are the minutes of the initial meeting of the MassUMA Working Group, which was held on September 8, 2006 at Suffolk University Law School. Attended by approximately 50 people, there was a great deal of interest expressed in moving forward to explore the issue of a change in the current legislation related to mediation in Massachusetts. Since the Uniform Mediation Act (UMA) has been previously introduced and will be the subject of much discussion going forward, many of the participants requested that the next step be a meeting to explain the UMA.

Josh Flax, Commissioner of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service (FMCS), volunteered his services to facilitate the process and a Process/Outreach Committee was designated, consisting of representatives of a number of organizations present at the meeting.

NEXT STEPS

A UMA Explanatory Session is scheduled as indicated below in the hopes that as many people as possible will be able to attend to have their questions answered. David Hoffman will lead this informational session. In an effort to keep to the proposed schedule outlined at the September 8 meeting and to have the informational meeting occur as quickly as possible, it has been scheduled to take place in Boston. However, we are hoping to be able to record the meeting with the technology available at Suffolk University Law School and make it available for those who cannot attend.

Tuesday, October 17, 2006, 9:30 am to 11:30 am at Suffolk University Law School, 120 Tremont Street, Boston, MA, Room 275.

PROCESS PLANNING

Josh Flax will be contacting those who volunteered to serve on the Process/Outreach Committee in the very near future to begin designing the process and to assist with 1) identifying one point person from each Committee who will serve as a point of contact to convey progress to the larger group; 2) setting goals and timelines for each Committee; and 3) setting meeting agendas and defining the purpose of each meeting. Josh has generously offered the FMCS's collaborative workspace on the web that will assist in allowing committees and the larger group to work together more easily. More information on this will follow shortly.

COMMITTEES

Those of you who weren't able to attend the meeting or who attended but didn't sign up for a committee and wish to do so may indicate your interest by contacting Israella Brill-Cass at ibrillcass@BostonLawCollaborative.com

The committees are as follows:

Process/Outreach
Confidentiality/Privilege and Exceptions
Laws and Records – Public/Open Meeting
Training/Definition of Mediation/Mediator
Legislative Liaison
UMA in Practice
Marketing/Outreach

Please RSVP to Israella Brill-Cass at ibrillcass@BostonLawCollaborative.com by *Thursday, October 12th*, if you are able to attend the meeting on the 17th. We hope to see you there.