

**Minutes of Meeting of Legal Aid Special Interest Group Committee held on  
Tuesday 5 November 2019 – 8pm to 10pm**

Present: Bob Baker  
Paul Seddon  
Rachel Perkins  
Charlotte Flanders

Apologies: Steve Jepson

**1. CCG agenda point**

BB advised this was the same as point 2.

**2. LAA POA**

CF raised the issue that the LAA do not assess disbursements at point of POA which causes issues in relation to final billing, and what could be done in relation to the LAA and also providers to encourage them to apply the same principles to POA as are applied to billing. BB advised that he did not feel this should be raised with the CCG, but more like the SPG.

Discussion took place whether this should be raised with Rob Damiao, escalate to the LAA or raised with PET. Could this be something that the LAA could build into the replacement for CCMS which is being worked on? Also, possible LAA Eventbrite training session.

Decision was that an ACL LAG communication should be circulated, based on draft prepared by CF, and whether similar communications could also be requested from LAA/various rep bodies [AP1]

Issue could also be possible subject matter for spring seminar.

**3. ICA position**

BB will send reminder email to Mark Crosskill [AP2]

**4. SPG/CCCG**

BB will attend meeting 13/11 meeting and report, and will provide RP with dates for next year [AP3]

**5. Next year's events**

Discussion took place whether there was enough content to hold a spring event.

Dates proposed are Mondays 24/2 2/3 and 9/3. BB to remind DP to make venue/price enquiries [AP4]

Suggested content:

- Rebecca Bidwell – marketing
- Q&A – Rob Damiao and Stephen Barker from LAA
- Budgeting in LA cases – BB/CF to collaborate on this
- Hints & Tip on Court assessed Bills – BB to contact DJ Middleton as possibility on this
- SCCO e-filing – will affect all Legal Aid London Courts family escape/COP matters from early 2020

Autumn:

Discussion re LAA visit to Liverpool, as DP had obtained good DDR for a hotel. RP raised query whether CPD would be properly allowable for a visit to the LAA and this will need to be investigated. RP suggested, if CPD was an issue, a talk/session could be given by the LAA or the Q&A took place there then this may make CPD allowable.

Discussion re whether LAA Jarrow was an option, in view of distance from Newcastle City Centre and the difficulty of a split venue day. BB to make enquiries with LAA Jarrow whether there was any room available for seminar session so whole day could be held there.

**6. AP from last meeting**

CF to provide BB with reject reasons and rectifications **[AP5]**

**7. AOB**

PS reported on LAPG conference.

Discussion re CCMS duplicate claims – provide screen shots to get rejection overturned.

LAG communications to be circulated re:

- VHCC appeal members
- SCCO filing
- LAPG/LAA decision making survey reminder **[AP1]**

BB raised Bar Council email re non-family VHCC difficulties. Discussion regarding whether this is something we can assist in. BB will make further enquiries with Kathy Wong at the CCCG and revert thereafter. **[AP6]**

CF advised she had been in discussions with Stephen Barker re outcomes including LA and IP recovery. SB had confirmed that the quickguide was under revision and CF will circulate to committee for comment upon receipt. **[AP7]**

Elections – BB with diarise to email DP re this 9/12/19. **[AP8]**

**Next committee meeting – Tuesday 7 January 2020.**

Actions from this meeting		Owner	By when
AP1	LAG communications	CF/PS	
AP2	ICA reminder email to Mark Crosskill	BB	Done
AP3	CCCG report/ CCCG/SPG 2020 dates	BB	Done
AP4	Spring/autumn seminar venue/price / speaker enquiries	BB/DP	Being done
AP5	Reject reasons and rectifications	CF/BB	
AP6	Investigations re Bar Council non-family VHCC difficulties	BB	In hand – meeting 13/11
AP7	Outcome quick guide	CF	
AP8	Elections	BB	9/12/19