A wanion to google and a pox on its houses for failing to send or save much of the original attempt at this minutes. Perhaps it was interference from Santa's sleigh that interfered! But my apologies for the delay and potential brevity. Had I failed to check my sent-mail, perhaps we never would have realized.

MINUTES:

WCP Meeting, December 8, 2014. Noonish

*'Twas the meeting 'fore Christmas, and through the courthouse*

*few creatures were stirring with click of the mouse,*

***Leon****,****Pam****, and****Adella****hung near the table with care*

*In the hopes that St. Patrick and all would soon be there*

*Sick****Penny****was nestled sick-snug in her bed*

*while****Laura's****mad schedule got straight to her head*

*and Kira with Jared and****Roy****with no cap*

*had settled in late from a small Jared-nap*

*When out of the lobby arose such a clatter*

***Rob****ran to the door to see what's the matter*

*He ran to the door as flew like a flash*

*Treasurer no more, he well-spewed out cash*

***Mimi****and****Kathryne****but not****Eric****(oh no)*

*Gave luster of mid-day, our meeting ago*

*When to my wandering eyes should appear*

*But miniature list with agenda so clear*

*Now****Patrick****was absent! No****Chris****, no Vixen!*

*But****Betsy****and****Sandy****flew in on good Blitzen*

*To the shrugs about****Kathy,****perhaps lost at the mall*

*and the queries of Shannon, well dash away all.*

*As dry leaves that before a wild dissolution fly*

*When they meet impasse, collaborators fly*

*So up to the house tops the coursers they flew*

*with a child-centered process and paradigm-shifts too*

*And then in a twinkling, Kira opened forsooth*

*With prancing and pawing of lawyerly hoof*

*As the list drew its conclusion and was wheeling around*

*did cases and questions and dialogue abound*

*Earnest, sincere, from her head to her foot*

*Betsy asked about coaches and where do we put*

*their talents to best use. And we answered back*

*With thoughtful reflection Pat opened her pack*

*How her handouts shone! Her stages papers so very*

*wise and uncanny, great cause to be merry*

*The stages of grief in divorce we all know*

*but tied up succinctly in a collaborative bow*

*And Kira recounted, while flashing her teeth*

*Of couples so focused on children they sheath*

*their simmering conflict though it be quite smelly*

*their kids they can laugh, like a bowlful of jelly*

*Containment is hard work with full team to help*

*But oh how it's worth it to no longer yelp*

*In places of fear lowered IQ*

*When help-mates no longer wish for one to be two*

*We spoke many a word, and went straight to our work*

*embracing our differences and loving our quirk*

*Laying a finger aside Jared's nose*

*Giving a nod to Suncadia, Roy arose*

*And sprang to encomium of Tessler's brilliance*

*In helping our reptile clients with resilience*

*And I heard them all yell as we shuffled from sight*

*Happy Holidays to all, Collaborate, don't fight!*

Translation:

**Whatcom Collaborative Professionals December 2014 Meeting, Noon at the Whatcom County Courthouse on December 8.**

**Present**: Pam Englett, Adella Wright, Leon Henley, Kathryn Resnick, Mimi Mawson, Roy Martin, Kira Lieberman, Betsy Brinson, Sandy Voit,

**Absent with regrets:** Patrick Gallery, Laura Weight, Eric Weight, and Penny Henderson (regrets given by proxy via Mimi)

**Most likely crushed in a Black Friday frenzy:** Shannon Montoure, Kathy Westover, Sandra Andress.

**Business:**

Graphic Timelines: The graphic timelines put together by Patrick are available for purchase at a package rate per ten. The group **approved**having ten additional forms produced on the WCP treasury's dime. Leaving eleven to distribute in total.

Noted for the record that Jared may not have approved, and could possibly be the sole nay vote on this process.

**Patrick will go forth and prints these out.**

IACP Brochure Logos: Patrick has these now. We need somebody to purchase some clear labels and print out the WCP name and Website address, to attach to these. **Kathryne**was nominated and eventually caught up to speed on her task. She is encouraged to communicate with Patrick (since he has them) and Laura (since she's done this before). Technically she agreed only on the condition that she get a turn holding Jared, which has yet to manifest. But we hope she'll accept treasury compensation in lieu of cute baby cuddling.

**PARTY!!!!**

The board benightedly suggested getting together for Happy Hour at Anthony's on December 19th! Silly board! That is like *the worst day ever*.

Since Patrick was absent and  he was the only one who particularly preferred doing this all before the New Year, our exiting president was overruled.

**Post-Holidaze Get-Together will be on January 9th from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Anthony's!!**

Our second half of the meeting was devoted to discussion of our actual cases (confidentiality duly respected of course), particularly in the effectiveness of teams in which both coaches and child specialists have been brought in to contain high conflict. Kira remarked with wonder that she was blown away by a high-conflict couple's dedication and commitment to their children. Despite a very high degree of hostility, the child himself has no sense of conflict. He feels that discipline is consistent, the households are continuous. He is thriving. This takes constant maintenance.

Others remarked that this is exactly the model case of collaboration. Where strong containment can prevent what could have otherwise be turned quite ugly in a litigious model.

In more general terms, Betsy admitted that she is still trying to wrap her head around the role of the coach, the best time to use coaches, and the logistics around including team members.

Roy brought back some of his revelations from the IACP Forum. Particularly the reminder that our clients are not in their best brains. A study of very minor social rejection indicated subjects lost several IQ points. This is only exacerbated when the rejection is so close. Despite best intentions, divorcing clients are not always able to think reasonably and revert to their animal instincts, the so called "reptile brain."

Pat supplemented this idea with sheets describing the stages of divorce, a helpful and familiar roadmap for professionals as we watch our clients struggle, grow, change, revert, and hopefully move forward.

Kira focused the question to highlight what coaches are able to do that attorneys may not be able to, and what is the interplay between coaches and attorneys.

Rob added that he would like clarification on what the coach *doesn't do*, and what the *financial planner doesn't do* (and what to do as attorneys if one of the team members steps past the expected role).

As he explained in some detail during our last professional development portionm Sandy sees himself as having not two, but four clients. His role is determined with the attorneys at the offset.

One of the preventative ways to avoid a team member overstepping an expected role (e.g. giving advice that the clients will be unlikely to ignore going forward) is to keep in good team contact. Communications throughout the process between team members are critical. Team members should be cc'd for every aspect of the case, not merely the issues directly related to them. Professionals should also write their own notes of meetings for the attorneys to review. The less the team compartmentalizes, the more unified it becomes and the more each professional can back the other professionals up during their portion.

When professionals interplay, there are many wrinkles to what configuration of professionals works best. Sometimes it is helpful to have the coach at the meetings with the financial planner. Sometimes a coach is an essential part of the fourways. Because the coach has done work with the clients outside of the meetings, they are able to educate the clients and built up a common vocabulary. This allows a single word or reminder to be an effective lasso when an emotional moment takes a client stampeding towards her lizard brain. The amount of time clients work with coaches will vary widely. In some cases where the need for containment is high, clients have had weekly visits over months to keep things stabilized and help them resist their hurt and fear from ripping them away from their higher goals.

The presence of team members may be flexible and cannot be forced on a client. If a client no longer wishes coaches to be a part of the four-ways, this does not mean that they cease to be a member of the team. It may also be important to make certain that the other client is also ready for the coach to step back.

Even where the professionals don't interact, the more inter-team unity there is (through universal communication), the more they are able to reinforce each other.

Sandy has more information on a book by Karen Bonnell and Kristen Little about the interplay between coaches and child therapists if need be.

**And with a final adieu,** Adella actually ran to the bathroom, and missed the final minutes of the meeting

But lest you have overlooked Roy's email (or reference to it in the last minute minutes),

The CPW is having a Conference in Suncadia March 7-8 in Suncadia. [Sign up early here for a discount](http://www.collaborativeprofessionalsofwashington.org/information-and-resources-for-professionals/annual-conference/).

This will have CLE credits and will feature some really amazing speakers at a nice location. How could you not want to go?

