

## **Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting**

**November 3, 2015 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)**

By video conference and teleconference

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Irene Curran, Margaret Bennett, Casey Porter for Beth Johnson, The Honorable Sidney Mathias, Nicole McKinnon, Diane Potts, Margaret Stapleton, Erin Bognar, The Honorable La Shawn Ford, Sequane Lawrence, The Honorable Judge Andrea Schleifer, The Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, Dr. Ada Skyles, Zeophus (Zee) Williams (via phone), Richard Zuckerman (via phone), Monique O'Toole for The Honorable Patricia Bellock (via phone), Dawn Porter for The Honorable Dorothy Brown

**Committee Members Absent:** The Honorable Kelly Burke, Geraldine Franco, The Honorable Robert Martwick, The Honorable Cynthia Soto, The Honorable Donna Jo Vonderstrasse

**HFS Staff Present:** Pam Lowry, Gina Hemphill, Mike Vespa, Joan Weiss, Sharon Shapiro, Theresa Orozco, Ralph Abt, Norris Stevenson, Hillary Johns and Yvette Perez-Trevino via phone

**Public Guests:** Mick Gerhardt and Dan Tracy

- **Welcome to CSAC members - Pam Lowry**  
Pam Lowry welcomed meeting participants. Pam noted that the quarterly performance numbers were inadvertently left off the agenda and would be addressed in this meeting and posted on line.
- **Remarks by Chair – Irene Curran**  
Roll call was taken for all Committee members. State employees and members of the public were asked to introduce themselves.
- **Approval of August Meeting Notes – Irene Curran**  
Approval of the notes was recommended. Meeting notes were unanimously approved.
- **Ethics Training Information – Kiran Mehta**  
Appointees and Employees of State of Illinois Boards and/or Committees must complete the ethics training by December 18, 2015 for processing by HFS. The instruction was to send the certificate of completion to John Cernich in Springfield.
- **Cost Efficiency of Income Shares with Standardized Net as the basis for Income – Norris Stevenson**  
We have determined that the complexity of individual cases does not readily lend itself to the notion that this will save the state any money by transitioning to income shares. However, it is likely that it will save money and/or generate additional incentive down the road in increased compliance. It may also reduce the number of requested

modifications. We do not think that a cost savings argument can be made. We do think that there will be long-term efficiencies. The bottom line is not that the new methodology will save the state money. Rather, the current model does not allow for the 21<sup>st</sup> century model of parenting that includes 2 working parents, more unmarried parents, and shared parenting.

- **Workgroup Reports – Irene Curran**

There was a survey sent out and the committee narrowed it down to these three groups:

1. **Guidelines Outreach Workgroup:** Irene Curran (lead), Maggie Bennett, Richard Zuckerman, Zee Williams, and Sidney Mathias.
2. **Process Improvement related to legal referrals:** Erin Bognar (lead), Zee Williams, Diane Potts, and Judge Vonderstrasse. Pam Lowry will come to the first meeting to assist in determining what materials if any the workgroup may need from HFS. It was suggested that the group may want to reach out to Roxy Schumann for her expertise.
3. **Responsible Fatherhood and Practices that acknowledge Inability to pay:** Maggie Stapleton (lead), Judge Schleifer (co leader) Irene Curran, Beth Johnson, Ada Skyles, Sequane Lawrence, Geraldine Franco and. Pam Lowry and Norris Stevenson will attend the first meeting to provide information if needed.

The Department cannot devote staff to these initiatives at this time. Committee members will need to schedule their own meetings. HFS staff will do their best to attend the meetings, but cannot take the lead.

- **New Business – Committee Members**

Pam Lowry spoke about Quarterly Statistics Performance Numbers. Support order establishment – 81.7% of cases have orders. Current Collections – 62.2% and Arrears debt collection is at 62.5%.

A member asked for information about the DHS Child Care Assistance program and a second member asked a follow up question. Department staff responded that questions about DHS program would need to be asked of DHS staff.

- **Public Comment – Members of the Public**

One member of the public briefly discussed a federal document. Another member of the public had a case-oriented question.

- **Closing**

A thank you was extended to all committee members and attendees. Motion to adjourn was offered and approved.

- **Meeting Adjourned**

(Addendums to the meeting notes are on the following page).

## **CSAC Meeting – November 3, 2015 - addendums to the minutes**

During yesterday's meeting we were asked if HFS-DCSS had any information or data about the impact of the statute change regarding maintenance. In the new provisions of the Act concerning the determination of child support, the Act provides that obligations pursuant to a court order for maintenance in the pending proceeding actually paid or payable to the same party to whom child support is to be payable shall be deducted from net income. HFS doesn't have a viable, fiscally neutral way to research this. It would require quite a lot of time and even at that we aren't sure we could come up with enough reliable data to estimate impact.

A question arose as to whether the workgroups needed to observe the notice requirements of the Open Meeting Act. It appears the notice requirements are triggered if a *majority of a quorum* gathers to discuss CSAC business. For the CSAC, that would mean that any workgroup with more than 7 members.