

## **Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting**

**April 8, 2020 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)**

By teleconference

### **Committee Members Present via phone:**

Darryl Apperton, Maria Barlow, Maggie Bennett, Dawn Porter (for The Honorable Dorothy Brown), Trent Cameron, Howard Feldman, Geraldine Franco, Dr. Kirk Harris, Juanita Sanders (for Secretary Grace Hou), Elizabeth Lingle, Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, Christina Mahoney, The Honorable Sidney Mathias, Nicole McKinnon, Phil Mohr, Jessica Patchik, Christine Raffaele, The Honorable Judge Charles Smith, Vickie Smith and Richard Zuckerman

### **Committee Members Absent:**

The Honorable Kelly Burke, The Honorable La Shawn Ford, The Honorable Lindsay Parkhurst, and Derrick White

### **HFS Staff Present via phone:**

Ralph Abt, Mary Bartolomucci, Irene Curran, Hilary Felton, Gina Hemphill, Daun Perino, Sean Rosenthal, Sharon Shapiro, and Bryan Tribble

**Public Guests:** None

- **Welcome to CSAC members – Richard Zuckerman**
  - Roll call of committee members – Richard Zuckerman
  - Introduction of state employees and members of the public
  - All committee members, attendees and members of the public were asked to announce their name before speaking and to mute their phone if they are not speaking.
  
- **COVID-19 – Mary Bartolomucci**

Our HFS offices were closed to the public on March 19, 2020 due to COVID-19. We have over 400 people working remotely. We are handling all referrals. We are having weekly meetings with the State Disbursement Unit (SDU) to discuss working on posting payments remotely. We are testing UIB. On March 14<sup>th</sup> we stopped bank liens and lump sum settlements. We are being cognizant of custodial and non-custodial parents and their ability to pay. The Call Center has been brought back up. The Call Center representatives are able to work remotely. We are anticipating an increase in modification requests. We are currently gathering information available concerning the stimulus checks. We are the only entity that can intercept the checks. On joint ones we could take up to 50% of the payment. Dr. Harris asked if those who owe child support will get a stimulus check. They will receive it, but we will take it if they owe. Howard Feldman asked if the dependent will get credit for whomever gets the \$500, because they claim the child. There were several questions about the \$500 dependent credit. It was suggested that it get split when both parents claim. Nicole McKinnon asked if there had been an increase in custodial parent seeking HFS intervention because of this. Mary stated that yes, there has been an uptake in applications for services and UIB.

- **Approval of meeting notes from the November 12, 2020 CSAC Meeting**

Motion made to approve. Motion was seconded, Notes were passed.

- **Modification Workgroup – Daun Perino**

We are anticipating an increase of modification requests. There is limited access to the courts right now. In conjunction with our partners we developed a plan to expedite modification requests. We are taking steps to meet the need. We are going to get the word out. We are putting info on our web site that will link to the mod page. It will explain how they can go about requesting a mod. They will be able to file on their own. We will ask for a copy of any order that they may have. We will be addressing retroactivity due to the loss of access to the courts. We have been working with AOIC and Christina Mahoney with the Attorney Generals office. It is being taken into account that many do not have the ability to file electronically with the stay at home order. AOIC was positive. They are looking at it and taking it into consideration. Hoping for response or recommendation from AOIC, but we have not heard back yet. Maximus will assist in expediting modification requests. While developing this Maximus moved to working remote. They are also working with us to complete the legal action referrals (LAR). The timeframe to turn around cases by Maximus is shorter than their contracted time. This is a great start. When addressing retroactivity it will go back to date of filing. This doesn't give immediate relief. Many legal partners have made a commitment to assist. In order to provide more immediate relief, our legal partners are working with their judiciary to address child support dockets. Most have planned to address by tendering agreed orders. Still reviewing each case to make sure that it is needed. The info from the parties needs to be provided to us so that we can process the request in an expedited manner.

Darrell Apperton asked if cases are only being done if they get UIB and do they need to request? Daun Perino stated that they can ask for an upward or downward modification. We will look at any downward modification request that is related to COVID-19 for any number of reasons. If they do want to go through HFS those LAR's will be sent to our legal reps who would work the case.

Richard Zuckerman asked what notice will be given to the public so that they know they can file for a modification. Daun Perino stated that the AOIC and the judicial circuits are all going to work the same. It may be posted at court houses and on the HFS website.

Judge Loza stated that she appreciated the work with the AOIC, but they are not the legislative branch. They can't change the statute. She doesn't think that they can order them to do it. They aren't the state legislature. Supreme Court is one thing, but not AOIC.

Judge Charles Smith, yesterday Supreme Court speedy trial act will not cause people to not be able to go to court.

Howard Feldman stated that the AOIC working with Illinois Supreme Court should issue something to tell what to do. The AOIC should contact chief justice.

Maggie Bennett said that the Bradley Act statement prohibits activity from something to be filed. Bryan Tribble said that were waiting on info from OCSE.

Darrell Apperton asked when the 30-day clock starts ticking. Daun Perino said that it starts when the courts reopen. If they file a motion to modify within 30 days of courts reopening the judge has to go back retroactive to show March 16<sup>th</sup> date.

Richard Zuckerman said that you would only have until July 1<sup>st</sup> to file your motion. If you are in court, it depends on the date. It would be whatever the date is when the court reopens. It depends where you are.

Daun Perino stated that we are providing info through our website. Once we have received info from AOIC we are going to publish, post at court houses and send to the Bar Association and the private bar.

Kirk Harris asked if it was true that HFS filing other than snail mail. Daun Perino said that there is an FAQ link through our web site which advises of various alternatives. HFS can't tell them how to do things on their own. We can't give legal advice. Maximus is letting people know that they can use an app or be given special info to provide info on how they can provide their info quicker. Kirk also asked if we are reaching out to all cases. Daun Perino said no, it is only when they request a modification. New mods specifically related to COVID-19 and handled on an expedited basis.

- **Quadrennial Review Discussion – Bryan Tribble**

We are putting together a project plan for next steps. It will be circulated to the committee to be sure that we have everything on it. It should be sent around April 16<sup>th</sup>. A quick turnaround will be needed. We may need a procurement on a piece of this. We do not have an on-staff economist and will need to procure. He will be sending a link to HFS website of what we need to get familiar with as we go along. We need to understand how it was originally built, 2020 conversion and what elements will be taken into consideration. Richard Zuckerman said that everyone needs to keep a copy of February notes. There is a December 31, 2021 deadline.

- **Status of Pending Child Support Legislation – Richard Zuckerman**

Legislature is not meeting until May. The main issue will be the budget.

There were three bills that we were tracking:

HB 4169 – Directly affects HFS.

HB 4905 – Refunds on overpayments.

SB 2556 – Sent to Senate Judiciary Committee. It was on third reading.

None of these bills have moved. We do not expect anything to move unless there is a special session.

- **New Business**

No new business.

- **Public Comment**

No public comment.

- **Closing**  
Motion made to adjourn; motion seconded
- **Meeting Adjourned**