

Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting

November 13, 2018 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)

By video conference and teleconference

Committee Members Present:

Margaret Bennett, Kimberly Rossini (for Scott Black via phone), Dawn Porter (for The Honorable Dorothy Brown via phone), Howard Feldman, Kirk Harris, The Honorable Lindsay Parkhurst (via phone), Nicole McKinnon, Margaret Stapleton, Juanita Sanders (for DHS Secretary James Dimas via phone), The Honorable Judge Charles Smith (via phone), Richard Zuckerman

Committee Members Absent:

Darryl Apperton, The Honorable Kelly Burke, Tanya Council, The Honorable La Shawn Ford, Geraldine Franco, Sequane Lawrence, The Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, The Honorable Sidney Mathias, Derrick White, Zeophus (Zee) Williams

HFS Staff Present: Mary Bartolomucci, Gina Hemphill, Barb Radtke, Christine Towles, Ralph Abt, Yvette Perez-Trevino, Irene Curran, Daun Perino, Hilary Felton, Bryan Tribble, Mike Vespa, Richard Campbell

Public Guests: Present in Chicago: Mick Gerhardt, Barbara Sterling and Jessica Patchik
Present in Springfield: Lara Markovitz

- **Welcome to CSAC members – Mary Bartolomucci**
Mary welcomed meeting participants. She announced that the feasibility study has been approved for the DCSS system modernization and that the name for the new system will be EPIC. This name was created by a DCSS employee and was voted in by DCSS staff.
- **Remarks – 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 sign in
 - Approval of meeting notes from the August 14, 2018 CSAC Meeting
- **CSAC Quarterly Numbers – Mary Bartolomucci**
Support Order Establishment has exceeded 83% in FFY16 and we expect to maintain this high percentage in the future. Current Collection Percentage is at 62.4%. Arrears Debt Percentage is expected to maintain its annual percentages as well. Caseload will continue its decline as it has across the nation. We expect this number to trend with the national average and continue to slowly decline.

- **Clean Slate Subcommittee – Kirk Harris and Bryan Tribble**

- Kirk Harris, the chair of the Clean Slate Subcommittee, reported that the Clean Slate Subcommittee has been meeting. Research on this project is continuing. Kirk discussed clean slate modernization:

- Principles
- Potential Eligible Population for Outreach
- Program design elements and considerations
- Next step

Many issues, thoughts and ideas were brought up and discussed:

- The term fathers should be replaced with non-custodial parent or obligor.
- How are we defining low income? Dr. Harris explained that the info that they currently have is outdated and they are working on this. Nicole mentioned the function of HFS in their Admin rolls, how we integrate the judiciary into some of these components. Dr. Harris stated that there is practice beyond the admin work to be done that cannot be ignored.
- Margret Stapleton asked how current clean slate works. Mary Bartolomucci responded that the person must have a current support obligation. There is an application process. We determine if they qualify and respond via letter. Bryan Tribble explained that in the current process we do it administratively.
- Nicole McKinnon finds that people want an order. She thinks that this idea is great. She wants to know what other ways they can accomplish the goal. She thinks that the judiciary needs to be involved and that someone will need to follow up. There needs to be melding of the system that does not yet exist.
- Maggie Bennett asked if we have evidence with respect to new legislation if this has eased the burden. Dr. Harris and Bryan Tribble both responded that we do not have enough data to respond to this due to the newness of the statute. It is a little early to have a lot of data. We need to see who we would do outreach with and if they would benefit from the program.
- Maggie Bennett asked what happens when someone is incarcerated. Is there still an obligation for that person to pay support? Mary Bartolomucci responded that there is currently a mechanism in place for this. Irene Curran responded that in some courts our legal reps have been getting zero-dollar orders. HFS/DCSS have been trying to modify orders to zero while in prison. Bryan Tribble stated that we need a process that is easy for

people to apply for and we are looking at removing debt that is due to the state. First, we must find out if the person has the ability to pay. If not, the department may be able to help. For those that cannot pay, how do we help them overcome barriers they have to payment.

- Nicole McKinnon is concerned about Clean Slate doing anything with current support. It is one thing to help the noncustodial parent, but what about the custodial parent? Dr. Harris stated that co-parenting may be the way to make this all work. There are policy choices to make that are not easy. We hope to enhance the outcome for all members of the family.
- Maggie Bennett mentioned that it is very difficult for the noncustodial parent to get out from under their child support debt. Then we are adding interest at 9% annually to that debt. Bryan Tribble stated that it is clear that we have a lot to work on. The committee has touched on many of the issues that the subcommittee have been discussing. We want to make sure that there isn't anything that we have missed. We will soon be having a meeting for the focus group.
- Richard Zuckerman stated that when this was first brought forward there was hope that something would be ready to present for the January 2019 session. This is much more involved than originally anticipated. Not sure if we as a committee are ready to make a recommendation yet. We are looking at going in with a shell bill and continue to work on this. Kirk Harris asked the committee to voice if they feel that we are going in the right direction. The committee agrees that we are going in the right direction and that we need to continue moving forward.

- **Shared Parenting Threshold Subcommittee – Richard Zuckerman**

- Howard Feldman, the chair of the Shared Parenting Threshold Subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee has been meeting. They have been looking at what other states use. They are considering the impact of 146 overnights vs time equivalency and how to possibly implement change. Costs associated with expenses related to parenting time are not necessarily seen, by and large, until the non-custodial parent/obligor has 126 overnights, or more. This is difficult to explain to customers. The subcommittee will be moving forward and will continue to meet on this subject. Back in 2010 CSAC met with a consultant that does child support for 25 other states. The Family Law Subcommittee's recommendation was 35%. It almost works out to the 40%. Everyone gets credit for the time they have. Future meetings are being planned.

- **Info on State Interest Rates – Bryan Tribble**
 - Most states are in the same boat as Illinois. The average is 8.8%, most used is 12%. It goes anywhere from 4% to 12%. 35 of 50 state do not charge interest through their IV-D program. Low income is having this interest added. Those who make more money and do not use IV-D services go to court to address interest. It is not fair that IV-D people have interest to deal with, but non IV-D only have interest if it is brought up in court. All are well aware of the 9% interest. We will continue to look at this.
- **New Business**
 - No new business was brought forward.
- **Public Comment**
 - Barbara Sterling spoke about clients trying to enforce getting money for college. She would like to see this addressed at a later date.
- **Closing**
 - Motion made to adjourn, motion seconded
- **Meeting Adjourned**