

Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting

August 14, 2018 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)

By video conference and teleconference

Committee Members Present:

Darryl Apperton (via phone), Margaret Bennett, Scott Black, Turyia Clay (for The Honorable Dorothy Brown via phone), The Honorable Kelly Burke (via phone), Honorable La Shawn Ford (via phone), Kirk Harris, The Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, The Honorable Lindsay Parkhurst (via phone), The Honorable Sidney Mathias, Nicole McKinnon, Margaret Stapleton (via phone), Derrick White, Juanita Sanders (for DHS Secretary James Dimas via phone), Richard Zuckerman

Committee Members Absent:

Tanya Council, Howard Feldman, Geraldine Franco, Sequane Lawrence, Zeophus (Zee) Williams, The Honorable Judge Diane Winter

HFS Staff Present: Mary Bartolomucci, Gina Hemphill, Christine Towles, Ralph Abt, Yvette Perez-Trevino, Norris Stevenson, Irene Curran, Sharon Shapiro, Hilary Felton, Bryan Tribble, Mike Vespa, Richard Campbell, and Sean Rosenthal

Public Guests: Present in Chicago: Mick Gerhardt
Present in Springfield: Jim Widdigen

- **Welcome to CSAC members – Richard Zuckerman**
Richard welcomed meeting participants and introduced Mary Bartolomucci as the Administrator of HFS, DCSS
- **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 May 22, 2018 CSAC Meeting
- **CSAC Quarterly Numbers – Mary Bartolomucci**
Support Order Establishment reached above 82% in FFY16 and we expect to maintain this high percentage in the future. Current Collection Percentage has been in the 62-63% range since FFY15 and we expect this to continue. Arrears Debt Percentage is expected to maintain its annual percentages as well. Caseload will continue its downward trend as it has across the nation. We have been decreasing at a rate slower than the national average so it may not be surprising if we are just lagging and the decreasing may accelerate.

- **Clean Slate Subcommittee – Kirk Harris**

- Kirk Harris, the chair of the committee, reported that the Clean Slate Subcommittee has met. The next sub-committee meeting is scheduled for August 23rd. Thank you to Bryan Tribble for his hard work. Research and results have been provided and are being reviewed. The subcommittee would like to come to a consensus with a plan/goal regarding a pathway to arrears forgiveness for State balances with documented information on inability to pay. The subcommittee is reviewing the models of 4 other states (Minnesota, New York, Oregon, and Kentucky) which include the following: 1) Obligor had documented inability to pay w/ no current support accruing; 2) Obligor making payments toward unassigned to forgive the assigned; 3) Obligor's whose family was always receiving assistance - reviewing past/present inability to pay; and 4) assigned arrears and interest only.
- Maggie Bennett stated that we need to address 9% interest on arrearage. She believes that it is excessive and causes problems. Bryan Tribble will do a spreadsheet regarding interest charged in other states.
- Sidney Mathias stated that he believes that interest should be based on ability to pay.
- Nicole McKinnon mentioned suspending other collection efforts.
- Richard Zuckerman requested that a recommendation be made by the Clean Slate Subcommittee at the November meeting to be considered for the next legislative session.

- **Shared Parenting Threshold Sub Committee – Richard Zuckerman**

- Richard asked if there was interest on the part of the Child Support Advisory Committee to look at the shared parenting threshold. Several committee members are interested in being a part of the subcommittee to address this issue. Those that are interested in participating are as follows: The Honorable Kelly Burke, The Honorable Lindsay Parkhurst, The Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, Maggie Bennett and Turyia Clay from The Honorable Dorothy Brown's office are looking into someone from their office participating on the subcommittee. If there are any other committee members interested they were instructed to email Richard Zuckerman.

- **New Hire – Bryan Tribble**
 - We are adding a new feature (New Hire) to the Child Support website. It should be up and running by September 1st to provide customer service. This will allow people to engage in a web chat. This will act as an additional form of service. Customer Service staff will be working on the web chat. The pilot project will continue until the end of the year. Then the other employer pages will be rolled out.
 - Maggie Bennett stated that when an obligor changes jobs there is a seven day window to inform HFS of the new employer. 95% of employers do not know that they need to do that. Bryan Tribble stated that HFS will see what they can do with outreach. It was suggested that HFS possibly do public service announcements, etc. Judge Loza suggested that we change the uniform order of support to make the “new employer” statement more visible, or possibly move the statement to the front page. This may help people to better understand the importance of the employment information.

- **New Business –**
 - Nicole McKinnon mentioned that there are issues with the State Disbursement Unit (SDU) that she would like clarification on. Mary Bartolomucci stated that we would look into the issues and get back to her.

- **Public Comment – Members of the Public**
 - Mick Gerhardt asked about a few things. He asked if we could get a total amount of what the total arrearage is owed to the state of Illinois. He asked about Clean Slate and talked about his feeling that the CSAC and the Illinois courts have a gender bias when discussing shared custody. Judge Loza stated that she must look at what is best for the children and that we need to keep in mind what they need.
 - Jim Weddigen asked a few questions. He asked when interest commences. Richard Zuckerman responded that it commences 30 days on each payment as it comes due. He also asked how receptive the courts are to calculating in extracurricular activities. Judge Loza responded that she does it according to % of income on the parties. It is what is equitable. He also mentioned wanting to get away from the 146 day cliff in regards to parenting time with the child.

- **Closing**

Motion made to adjourn, motion seconded; Motion unanimously passes.

- **Meeting Adjourned**