

**Approved Minutes**  
**Friend of the Court Bureau**  
**Advisory Committee Annual Meeting**  
State Court Administrative Office, Lansing, MI  
Thursday, October 12, 2006

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. William Brooks, Fred Lebowitz, Murray Davis, Erin House, Patti Holden, Suzanne Hoseth and Lynn Bullard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Hon. Mabel Mayfield, Anthony Paruk, Shawn Perry and Dr. Numa Cabrera

**STAFF PRESENT:** Daniel Wright and Steven Capps

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m.

**2. Routine Business**

a. A motion was made to accept the July 13, 2006 Minutes as amended to include Shawn Perry as present, at the meeting, and Patti Holden and Erin House as absent at the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Farewell to Members – Mr. Wright acknowledged and thanked the following members who are finishing their terms and who have contributed so much to the child support program. The following members were presented with plaques: Dr. Bill Brooks, Hon. Mabel Mayfield, Patti Holden, Murray Davis, and Fred Lebowitz in recognition of their dedicated service to the families and citizens of Michigan, by serving as a member of the Friend of the Court Advisory Committee.

c. Introduction of New Members:

- Douglas Howard, Vice President of Policy Studies, Inc.- Human Services Professional Member
- Karyn Ferrick, MI Senate Policy Advisor - Public Member
- Amy Hartmann, Founder & CEO of the Michigan Children’s Law Center - Public Member
- Pete Dever, Chief Assistant for Legal Services at Oakland County Friend of the Court – Attorney Member
- Kathryn O’Grady, Director of Policy and Resource Development, Wayne County Department of Children & Family Services – Human Services Professional Member

d. Public Comment – None.

e. Correspondence

- i. Jennifer Jerkins – a non-custodial parent had a complaint about the Wayne county FOC and her child support order. A customer service clerk responded to her correspondence informing her to contact her local FOC office with case specific questions and concerns.
- ii. Derrick Lynn Scott-Farnsworth – he had a complaint about his Allegan county FOC case regarding custody issues and decisions. He did receive a response from the Allegan county friend of the court director. A customer service clerk responded informing him that the FOCB cannot intervene in court cases and the FOCB is not granted the authority to overturn grievance responses.

**3. Unfinished Business**

- a. Child Support Program Funding
  - i. Update on Murray Davis’s Recommendations to CaSPER [section A&B] –The Committee will receive a copy of the final report upon completion.
  - ii. Update on Fees on Marriage License, Birth Certificates, and Affidavit of Parentage – The matter was discussed in a CaSPER meeting and these are not likely to be included in the recommendations to the Program Leadership Group.
  - iii. Variance in Parenting Time Orders by County – The Committee discussed how guidelines vary county by county. Dr. Brooks recommends that the future Committee look at and review the state Parenting Time Handbook and determine if there is any value or consideration in updating it and making some modifications and/or additions taking into consideration the counties that write their own handbooks draw upon the state handbook.

**4. New Business**

Ms. Holden made a motion that Mr. Paruk serve as interim Chair of the Advisory Committee until the election of new officers take place at the next meeting for continuity. Motion seconded by Ms. House. Motion passed unanimously.

- a. Hot Topics – None

**5. Closing**

- a. Members Closing Comments – Mr. Davis stated that there is a definite shift in the new membership coming on board, and he has some concerns about the changes, but he does wish the new committee well.

Ms. Holden stated that from a public member point of view, she hopes that the State Court Administrative Office continues to create an open avenue for members of the public.

Ms. Hoseth welcomes the new Committee members.

Mr. Lebowitz has had a pleasure serving on the Committee, and working with the FOCB. He is disappointed that he was not elected for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term.

Dr. Brooks stated that he has enjoyed the time he has served on the Committee. He hopes that the work continues.

- b. Final Public Comment – None.
- c. Next Meeting Date: January 11, 2007.
- d. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darla Brandon  
Family Services