

Minutes
Friend of the Court Bureau
Advisory Committee Meeting
State Court Administrative Office, Lansing, MI
August 20, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Howard, Lynn Bullard (ex officio), Kelly Walters, Anita Bilek, Amy Yu

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa Truscott, Peter Dever, John Frasik, Karyn Ferrick, Shauna Dunnings (ex officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Daniel Bauer, Jessica Kolongowski

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting came to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Administrative matters approving the minutes

- a. No quorum is present, so voting to approve minutes is deferred

3. Public comment – matters before the committee

- a. No public request to speak

4. Correspondence

- a. July 28th, Employer complaining about submitting payments to MiSDU
 - Payments being rejected when submitted to MiSDU
 - Not within the authority of the committee
 - Technology issue – forwarded onto the MiSDU
- b. Email- request for public comment
 - Public commenter did not appear today
 - Committee has copy of email
 - Concern that the federal government does not maintain an office for enforcement of custody matters, only child support
 - Accusation of 90 percent custody determinations to mother not father, “evidencing a clear bias towards mothers.”
 - Compares termination of Parental rights to a death sentence
 - Response to complaint:
 - Ms. Bullard suggested no response from the Bureau or the Advisory committee. Statistics about how Mom gets custody 90% of the time do not make allowances for how this decision came about (whether it was an agreement between parties or between legal/physical custody). The Bureau may want to see if more reliable statistics can be gathered.
 - Mr. Bauer plans to follow up internally through those who collect information for SCAO 41.

5. Old Business

- a. Revised Model FOC Handbook

Website for the FOC Handbook:

http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/manuals/focb/focb_hbk.pdf.

6. New Business

a. Underground Economy (UE) Taskforce

- Justice Corrigan put together this taskforce
- Identify how people are driven into the UE
- Make state agencies collaborate to help rid the UE
- Taskforce want to find those who do have ability to pay their child support, find them and make them pay for their children
- Make employers work “above ground”
- Broken into 3 parts: Prevention, Collaboration, Enforcement
- UE Taskforce Report available on our website (see agenda)
- Comments:
 - Ms. Bullard – Has there been any implementation by the Prosecutor’s office in local counties?
 - Mr. Bauer reported that PAAM received a copy of the report, but has not provided comment on it.
 - Mr. Howard asked if there there is anything that the committee should be provided for input
 - Mr. Bauer requested just general input.

7. Thoughts for things to consider for a future meeting

- a. Identify them as we find them.
- b. Next meeting date: Nov, 19th, 2010
 - Doug Howard has a conflict, and won’t be able to attend.

8. Closing

- a. No closing comments from committee members.
- b. No final public comment
- c. Meeting adjourned.