

FOCB Advisory Meeting – Friday, May 15, 2015

In Attendance: D. Howard; L. Bullard; A. Yu; K. Walters; S. Hodits; R. Shareef; J. Frasier. E. Stomski

1. Call to Order

2. Administrative Matters:

- a. Minutes from November 21, 2014 reviewed and approved by Committee.

3. Public Comment:

- a. Robert Kerr -- Addressed comment made by Steve at the last meeting regarding the “urban legend” that FOCs have a bias against fathers. Discussed points made in his Request for Public Comment.
 - i. Responses given by D. Howard, A. Yu, J. Frasier, R. Shareef, E. Stomski, S. Capps
 - ii. Overall recommendation: FOCs must understand there is a public concern regarding a bias in their treatment of fathers.

4. Correspondence: None

5. Old Business:

- a. Legislative Update – highlight of SB 0009/HB 4071 and HB 4482. All other pending legislation in committees.
- b. New Child Support Laws – highlight Paternity Act and Genetic Parentage Act. Suggestion to Steve that MCR 3.218 be updated for broader proof of service.
- c. UIFSA 2008 – must be passed and effective January 1, 2016, or the state will lose federal funding. The big change is due to the Hague Convention. Will be reviewed at the next session so everyone has time to look it over.

6. New Business:

- a. FOCB Update:
 - i. *Incentive Funding Model Proposal* – due to uncertainty in the present system, will be proposing \$27 million appropriation per year so counties know what to expect. Will also propose appropriation for an improvement fund through the grant, where the money would be awarded to counties for projects updating their child support programs, which will help the state raise its performance.
 - ii. *Muskegon SEED Project* – “swift and sure sanctions” where families agree to participate in the program for two years. The family is screened at the beginning to find any possible threats to their success, and the program does what it can to prevent

threats from happening. Hearings are immediate, and support orders and parenting time are adjusted as the families succeed through the program.

- iii. *Genesee Adapt Program* – works with pregnant women on public assistance to inform them of what is going to happen once the child is born, their responsibilities, and what they will experience in the court system. Provides a “magic form” which lays out a prenatal plan, waiving formal summons and complaint, so when DHHS enters, the case is ready to go.
 - iv. *Van Buren Early Intervention Program* – the assumed biological father is contacted as soon as he is served and a DNA test is available immediately. Defaults have been reduced to below 10%.
 - v. *MCSF Committee* – meetings have started. Comments are to be sent to Bill or mcsf@courts.mi.gov, and the instructions to submit comments are on the FOCB webpage.
 - vi. *IVR Card Update* – OCS has approved a fold-out card with specific contact information for each county, explaining who to call and when and spaces to fill out case number and IV-D number. Final approval should be in 4-6 weeks. Each county will let Liz know what information it wants on the cards. OCS will pay for each county’s cards and shipping.
 - vii. *Custody/Parenting Time Manual* – has not been updated in 12 years, so it is being revamped for investigators regarding which questions to ask and what to look for; also includes a case law supplement that will be updated annually. Publishing goal is the end of July.
- b. Vacancy – committee decided not to pursue applicant
 - c. Public Comment Policy – has not been updated in 10+ years, so it is being sent out to all committee members to discuss at the next session.

7. **Closing:** None

8. **Future Meeting Dates:**

- a. August 21, 2015
- b. November 20, 2015
- c. February 19, 2016
- d. May 20, 2016
- e. August 19, 2016
- f. November 18, 2016