CHILD SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2004

PRESENT: Co-Chairs		
•	Hon. James Waring	
Mem	bers:	
	Hon. Manuel Alvarez	
	Hon. Mark Armstrong	
	Robert Barrasso	
	Hon. Bill Brotherton	
	David Byers (designee Karen Kretschman)	
	Charles DiGeronimo	
	Kim Gillespie	
	Leona Hodges (designee Annmarie Mena)	
	Kym Hull	
	Hon. Michael Jeanes	
	Michelle Krstyen	
	Ezra Loring	
	Suzanne Miles	
	David Norton	
	Hon. Rhonda Repp	
	Chuck Shipley	
	Russell Smoldon	
	Hon. Monica Stauffer	
•	Bianca Varelas-Miller	
GUES	STS:	
Kat Cooper		Maricopa County Clerk of Court
STAF	F:	
Marianne Hardy		House of Representatives
Megan Hunter		Administrative Office of the Courts
Isabel Gillett		Administrative Office of the Courts

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Judge Armstrong

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m. by Judge Mark Armstrong without a quorum present. The co-chairs appointed Judge Armstrong to chair the meeting in their absence due to their required presence at the Legislature.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judge Armstrong

Members took turns introducing themselves.

The 2004 meetings will be held on the following dates:

June 15

September 21

October 19

November 16

Kim Gillespie announced that the Attorney General's Office opened three new offices in Prescott, Cottonwood and Nogales beginning March 31st. Previously, the child support programs in Yavapai and Santa Cruz Counties was contracted to a private contractor.

A quorum was reached at 10:23 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Judge Armstrong

MOTION: Russell Smoldon made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2003 meeting. Second by Chuck Shipley. Approved unanimously.

GUIDELINES WORKGROUP

Judge Mark Armstrong

Judge Armstrong reported that this Committee's recommendations for improvements to the guidelines have been approved by the Committee on Superior Court and Arizona Judicial Council, the advisory body to the Arizona Supreme Court (Court). The Court will take them under consideration next week.

STATUTE CLEANUP WORKGROUP

Kim Gillespie

Kim Gillespie reported on bills emanating from this Committee:

SB 1334 – UIFSA. This bill has experienced very little controversy, but one amendment has been tacked on which provides for a delayed effective date based on the request and receipt of a waiver from the federal government to replace the existing UIFSA laws with the new.

SB 1332 - Reimbursement for child support overpayment. This bill provides a mechanism for an obligor to request reimbursement (a judgment) for the overpayment of child support (beyond the date of the child's emancipation). This bill has not been controversial. The only amendment would require that a copy of the judgment be sent to the Support Payment Clearinghouse (DES) for their records. The bill was signed by the Governor.

Megan Hunter reported on other child support and domestic relations bills.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKGROUP Chuck Shipley

Mr. Shipley reported that this group began meeting in August and met for a total of sis meetings. The group developed a lengthy list of issues, then narrowed it down into items that were truly strategic in nature vs. those that should be deferred to other workgroups. The workgroup has met their charge; therefore, the

The four major initiatives proposed by the workgroup are:

- 1. IV-D and Non-IV-D issues
- 2. DCSE/AG Funding
- 3. Automation
- 4. Public Outreach

Funding is critical because it underlies the other strategic issues. Without funding, the other items probably cannot happen. Judge Armstrong suggested combining Funding with Automation.

MOTION: Russell Smoldon made a motion to accept the report, and form 3 workgroups: (1) Child Support Solutions, (2) Funding & Automation, and (3) Public Outreach/Customer Service. Chuck Shipley seconded the motion. Michael Jeanes suggested amending the name of the third workgroup from "Public Outreach" to "Public Outreach/Customer Service". Russell Smoldon accepted the amendments to his motion. Approved unanimously.

Kim Gillespie suggested that we forego studying the IV-D funding structure because it was studied a few years and has not changed since that time.

MOTION: Russell Smoldon made a motion to appoint the following members to chair the workgroups: (1) Child Support Solutions - co-chaired by Michael Jeanes and Leona Hodges, (2) Automation/Funding - Kim Gillespie, (3) Public Outreach/Customer Service - Chuck Shipley. Michael Jeanes seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

The following members volunteered to either serve on the workgroups or send others from their respective offices:

1. Child Support Solutions

Kym Hull

2. Funding/Automation

Stan O'Dell (AG's office) Michelle Krysten

3. Public Outreach/Customer Service

Russell Smoldon Hon. Rhonda Repp Michelle Krysten

Members thanked Chuck for his fine job leading the Strategic Planning workgroup. Chuck thanked workgroup members and Megan for their help.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No members from the public were present.

BREAK/LUNCH/WORKGROUP MEETINGS

After a short break, the meeting was called back to order at 12:45 p.m. with a quorum present.

The meeting reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

Kat Cooper reported for the Child Support Solutions workgroup. They discussed finding ways for the IV-D and non-IV-D communities to partner together to serve all child support customers in equitable ways. The group's objective is to ensure that child support is being paid regardless of what agency it comes from. It's all about serving the customer.

Kim Gillespie reported for the Automation/Funding workgroup. They began discussing child support calculators, including a uniform, centralized arrears calculator.

Chuck Shipley reported for the Public Outreach/Customer Service workgroup. They began discussing ideas and gathering volunteers.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on June 15, 2004, at the Arizona State Courts Building, 1501 W. Washington, Phoenix.

ADJOURNMENT

Sen. Waring adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m.