

# CHILD SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2004

## PRESENT:

### Co-Chairs

- Hon. Peter Hershberger
- Hon. James Waring

### Members:

- Hon. Manuel Alvarez
- Hon. Mark Armstrong
- Robert Barrasso
- Hon. Bill Brotherton
- David Byers (designee Karen Kretschman)
- Charles DiGeronimo
- Kim Gillespie (designee Janet Sell)
- Leona Hodges
- 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

## GUESTS:

Kat Cooper

Maricopa County Clerk of Court

## STAFF:

Megan Hunter  
Isabel Gillett  
Barbara Guenther  
Marianne Yamnik

Administrative Office of the Courts  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Senate  
House of Representatives

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by Rep. Hershberger and Sen. Waring without a quorum present.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members introduced themselves. Janet Sell, Office of the Attorney General, was introduced as Kim Gillespie's designee for this meeting.

Rep. Hershberger presented a plaque with a Certificate of Appreciation to Judge Armstrong for his many years of service to this Committee and to family court in general. Chief Justice Charles Jones also joined the meeting to extend his appreciation to Judge Armstrong for leading the Family Court in Maricopa County and for serving on this Committee in the role of Family Court Presiding Judge in an urban county. Judge Armstrong will be leaving Family Court on June 28<sup>th</sup> and serving as the State Tax Court judge. He served on the original Child Support Coordinating Council Subcommittee and existing Child Support Committee and served on many workgroups including chairing several of them.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were not approved due to the absence of a quorum. They will be considered at the September meeting.

### **2004 LEGISLATIVE RECAP**

Judge Armstrong reported on behalf of Kim Gillespie. The two bills produced by this Committee, SB 1332 and SB 1334, and introduced by Sen. Waring and Sen. Brotherton were both signed by the Governor. SB 1332 allows for reimbursement for child support overpayment and will take effect on August 25, 2004. SB 1334 adopts revisions to UIFSA laws as recommended by a national uniform laws committee. The law will go into effect either on August 25 or when a waiver is received from the federal government to repeal the existing laws.

The proposal brought before this Committee by the Morris Justice Institute dealing with retroactive child support in dissolution cases was also signed by the Governor with an August 25, 2004 effective date.

Rep. Hershberger thanked Senators Waring and Brotherton for sponsoring the bills and their dedication to seeing them through.

### **WORKGROUP ISSUES**

As a result of the Strategic Planning Workgroup's efforts, three new workgroups were formed to address specific topics. Michael Jeanes reported that since the last Committee meeting, changes have occurred with the Expedited Services program in the Clerk's office. A mutual decision between the Superior Court and Clerk of Court will move Expedited Services to the Superior Court effective July 1, 2004. There are no anticipated changes in the levels of service and Judge Davis intends to keep it operating. A report will be produced this summer resulting from a study that is going on now to look at overall family court operations in Maricopa County. Michael recommended that the Committee take a look at that report.

The new workgroups are:

1. **Child Support Solutions**, co-chaired by Michael Jeanes and Leona Hodges.  
The workgroup will look at the Maricopa Family Court report due out this summer. Rep. Hershberger asked this workgroup to look at the possibility of making all child support cases IV-D cases.
2. **Public Outreach/Customer Service**, co-chaired by Chuck Shipley and Russell Smoldon.  
The workgroup will discuss methods to improve customer service for the child support population and to develop ideas to get child support information to the general public.
3. **Automation/Funding**, chaired by Kim Gillespie.  
The workgroup will look into opportunities to get more funding for the state child support agency. The group will also look into automation options such as moving to a web-based environment rather than the existing mainframe system.

Megan will contact the chairs to schedule meetings and help the group develop timelines. The groups will meet independently and report back to the full Committee at each meeting. The groups should anticipate having recommendations formed by early fall in order to allow time for drafting legislative proposals, if needed.

The standing Statute Review workgroup, chaired by Kim Gillespie, began meeting this month and will continue meeting throughout 2004.

The ad hoc Guidelines Interim workgroup will begin meeting in January, 2005. Rep. Hershberger appointed Judge Monica Stauffer and Kim Gillespie to serve as co-chairs. Bianca Varelas and Janet Sell volunteered to serve on the workgroup.

#### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Danny Cartegena – Parent. Danny volunteered to serve on the Guidelines workgroup and the Automation/Funding Workgroup. He also suggested that two seats be created on this committee and the Domestic Relations Committee for two parents from never-married backgrounds. Currently, parents come from Dissolution of Marriage situations. A high number of never-married parents exist and are overlooked. He inquired about the formal process. Megan commented that the Statute Review Workgroup would be the appropriate group to review the request and she will forward the request to Kim Gillespie, chair of that group.

Judge Armstrong mentioned that the authorizing statute does not distinguish between married and never-married parents.

#### **BREAK/LUNCH/WORKGROUP MEETINGS**

The workgroups met during lunch. The meeting was called back to order at 12:13 p.m. without a quorum present.

## **WORKGROUP REPORTS**

### **Child Support Solutions**

Leona Hodges reported that they will start recruiting members from outside the Committee to join the group. The group will explore options such as making all child support cases IV-D cases. Many of the issues will have overlap with other workgroups.

### **Public Outreach**

Commissioner Repp reported that they will need to recruit additional members. They discussed two areas: (1) improving paternity establishment, and (2) providing information to the public, such as through the medical community, high schools and other non-governmental organizations that provide social services.

### **Automation/Funding**

Judge Armstrong reported that this was an organizational meeting. The group suggested adding more members to balance the workgroup with DCSE, Attorney General, court, clerk of court, county attorney, Clearinghouse (both ACS and DES) and possible tribal representation. They would like to start with a presentation of the existing automation system within DCSE. Leona Hodges commented that plans are underway for Colorado to share their automation system with Arizona. This could happen in the next 30-60 days. The group suggests looking at what other states are doing and any history in other states of privatization of these functions. The group will also discuss developing ways to achieve consistency between IV-D and non-IV-D child support and child support arrearage calculations. They will look at funding and grant opportunities for accomplishing these tasks. They will look at options such as changing the system incrementally and looking into systems that will not become obsolete within a few years. Public outreach could also be achieved through a web-based system. Volunteers include John Hinnant (DCSE), Don Aden (AG), Danny Cartagena (public).

Rep. Hershberger mentioned that he will be attending the National Conference of State Legislatures annual meeting in Salt Lake City next month. He serves as Vice Chair of the Human Services Committee and they will be discussing two new policies. He will report back to the Committee in September.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public submitted a request to speak.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on September 21, 2004, at the Arizona State Courts Building, 1501 W. Washington, Phoenix. The workgroups will meet in the interim.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Rep. Hershberger adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.