

CHILD SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2005

PRESENT:

Co-Chairs

- Hon. Peter Hershberger
- Hon. James Waring

Members:

- Hon. Manuel Alvarez – via teleconference
- Robert Barrasso
- Hon. Bill Brotherton
- David Byers (designee Karen Kretschman)
- Hon. Norm Davis
- Charles DiGeronimo
- Kim Gillespie
- Leona Hodges
- Kym Hull
- Hon. Michael Jeanes
- Michelle Krstyen
- Ezra Loring
- Suzanne Miles – via teleconference
- David Norton
- Hon. Rhonda Repp
- Chuck Shipley
- Russell Smoldon
- Hon. Monica Stauffer – via teleconference
- Bianca Varelas-Miller – via teleconference

STAFF:

Megan Hunter	Administrative Office of the Courts
Annette Mariani	Administrative Office of the Courts
Javan Mesnard	Senate
Courtney Riddle	Legislature

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Sen. Hershberger called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. without a quorum present.

STATUTE REVIEW WORKGROUP – KIM GILLESPIE

Ms. Gillespie reported that both workgroup proposals, A.R.S. § 25-320, disability and A.R.S. § 25-800, paternity, passed the majority, were put in bill format and are moving forward appropriately. Representative Hershberger will sponsor the bills and plans to circulate for signatures soon.

CHILD SUPPORT SOLUTIONS - MICHAEL JEANES AND LEONA HODGES, CO-CHAIRS

Mr. Jeanes reported that the group did not meet in December. The group's primary project is to analyze the flow of documents and orders from the court to DES, specifically as they refer to payment processing issues. A meeting is scheduled to help focus on the details of the specific workflow, identify any blockage or issues that may exist and discuss any automation changes that would help improve the process. The group is also looking at other priorities such as interaction of work between the clerks from around the state and DES.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/CUSTOMER SERVICE – MEGAN HUNTER FOR CHUCK SHIPLEY, CHAIR

Megan Hunter reported in Mr. Shipley's absence that the group did not meet in the past month. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At 10:32 a.m., a quorum was reached and the minutes were approved.

Motion: Approve the November, 2004 minutes. The motion was seconded.

Vote: Minutes approved unanimously.

AUTOMATION / FUNDING – KIM GILLESPIE

Ms. Gillespie reported that the workgroup has been meeting on a regular basis. The group has two projects – short-term and long-term. The short-term project will entail transferring code from the existing mainframe in the ATLAS system and re-creating it on the non-IV-D side. The group acknowledges that with the help of the Administrative office of the Courts (AOC), there will be funding (\$40,000) for a qualified programmer to perform the work. Programming will start up in about a month and then testing will be done.

The long-term project is expected to be a large project. Through JAD Sessions (Joint Application Design), clear business rules will be developed. Some of the issues include:

- Getting as close to real time information as possible;
- Online help;
- The platform being big enough for adequate performance and reporting; and
- The IV-D and non-IV-D be as similar as possible for seamless integration.

The recommendation is to first offer a prototype it to judges and their staff with the ultimate goal of making it available for everyone. The group had discussed putting the concept on paper and then costing it out. The options that were discussed for this year were:

- Present a bill seeking legislative appropriation, (firm financial data will not be available by this timeframe);
- Utilize this as an educational year. Possibly putting together information and speak to legislators letting them know that this is being worked on and could be presented next year as something beneficial to the public or;
- Seek start-up monies which will require firm cost estimates.

The group will continue to meet and have JAD Sessions regardless of whatever approach is taken. Because ATLAS is a huge system and translating over to a web application is a major task, an estimate will take awhile. Judge Davis stated that perhaps getting the best estimate, putting a cost limit on it, and moving ahead could be a workable plan. Rep. Hershberger agreed with Judge Davis and stated that he would be willing to go forward. Some of the issues include: if this is addressed through an increase handling fee, would a stop date be attached to it once the project is completed, and, would it revert?

Rep. Hershberger is willing to work with individual members to pursue legislation asking for funding with the knowledge that there will be limitations. An appropriation bill would have Prop 108 implications. Legislative Council and JLBC will be asked for assistance in developing a proposal.

Motion: To allow the Child Support Committee to form a committee to pursue and draft a legislative proposal. The motion was seconded.

Vote: Motion was approved unanimously.

MARICOPA COUNTY FAMILY COURT UPDATE – JUDGE NORM DAVIS

Attempts are ongoing to process cases more efficiently, including:

- An aggressive plan to address 29 different priority areas;
- Better handling of cases and statistics;
- Development of reports that identify and pull out the cases that do not meet case management standards;
- Operating default on demand program,
- Statistics: 2400 cases filed, 4200 terminated last month; and
- eCourt project went online December 1, 2004.

Senator Brotherton raised a question as to efficiency of handling of cases if the allowance of fault divorce is presented with marital misconduct. Would this increase litigation? Discussion ensued on what is the definition of marital misconduct and whether the addition of a fault element would reduce efficiency. **Members agreed that fault divorce would have an adverse impact on efficiency.**

Michael Jeanes reported that eCourt is going well. The response from the public is that the forms are helpful and easy to use, but they want the option of electronic filing. Judge Davis added that major changes in the rotation of younger judges to Family Court is taking place, which will result in having a different kind of experienced bench.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public requested time for comments.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in June, 2005, date to be announced.

ADJOURNMENT

Rep. Hershberger adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.