

MINUTES  
PROBLEM SOLVING IN FAMILY SUPPORT MAGISTRATE COURT  
NEW HAVEN PILOT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM  
NOVEMBER 03, 2009

The Problem Solving in Family Support Magistrate Court New Haven Pilot Implementation Team met in Chief Family Support Magistrate Sosnoff-Baird's chambers at 235 Church Street, New Haven, CT.

Those in attendance: Chief Family Support Magistrate Sandra Sosnoff Baird (Chair), Ms. Dalia Panke (Vice-chair), Family Support Magistrate Linda T. Wihbey, Family Support Magistrate Christopher Oliveira, Mr. Joseph Greelish, Ms. Alice A. Bruno, Ms. Kristina MacPhail, Mr. David M. Iaccarino, Mr. Thomas Horan, Mr. Paul Bevins, Ms. Sherman Malone, Mr. Blannie Bostic, and Ms. Belinda Noebel.

### **1- Welcome and introductions of members**

The meeting was called to order at 2:14 p.m. by CFSM Sosnoff-Baird who thanked and welcomed everyone. She then explained how the implementation team fits in the strategic plan and reiterated the importance of the team's work given that funding is limited and the challenges great. She also discussed the mission and goal of the Child Support Enforcement Program.

All members introduced themselves and provided some feedback as to their work within Judicial or in the community.

CFSM Sosnoff-Baird recognized each member for the countless hours devoted thus far to this initiative, for their dedication and contribution to the community, and for the leadership and quality of service they provide. This helped make New Haven the pilot site of choice.

### **2- Implementation goals and objectives**

The Implementation Team has set a start date of January 2010 and will make communication and collaboration a key practice. Workgroups will be formed; all members will have an opportunity to participate in the workgroups in addition to the Implementation Team. Family Magistrate Linda Wihbey discussed the goals and objectives. Specifically, the Implementation Team is looking to increase collection rate of child support; assist obligors to successfully complete programs; change payment behavior and history; provide more access to the children; which will result in successful parenting plans, reduced recidivism in contempt process, successful applications for SSI; and the ability for obligors to secure steady employment.

### **3- Discussion of tasks and assignment of members to subcommittees.**

Four workgroups have been created to address the different aspects of the implementation. They are: Development of Local Resources, Court Logistics, Interagency Resources, and Management and Evaluation. The objectives of each workgroup were discussed and members were assigned to each group.

The important element of the Problem Solving Model was discussed. The model makes the Family Magistrate the central point in helping to formulate a methodology for assisting parents meet specific criteria, to be defined by the workgroups work, to alleviate the barriers obligors face. It was clarified that the goal is not to manage this group of people from the bench, but to focus on helping those who have the desire and willingness to be with their children by bringing them closer to the resources they need to succeed. CFSM Sosnoff-Baird encouraged everyone to attend each other workgroup meetings.

#### **4- Timeline for implementation**

The Case Management and Evaluation workgroup was informed that they are required, by statute, to provide a report in 2010 and 2011 to the legislature that includes measurable objectives. A more detailed timeline will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **5- Other business**

No other business was discussed.

#### **6. Future meetings**

The team agreed to meet on the following dates:

- Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at the New Haven Family Alliance located at 370 James Street, New Haven at 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 2:00pm. Location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.