

MINUTES
PROBLEM SOLVING IN FAMILY MATTERS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 12, 2009

The Problem Solving in Family Matters Committee of the Implementation Plan met in the Chandelier Room of 400 Grand Street, Waterbury, CT at 9:00 a.m.

Those in attendance: Hon. Lynda B. Munro, (Chair), Chief Family Support Magistrate Sandra Sosnoff Baird, Mr. Andrew Clark, Family Support Magistrate John E. Colella, Mr. Stephen Grant, Mr. Gregory Halzack, Atty. Charisse E. Hutton, Mr. Patrick Hynes, Mr. David M. Iaccarino, Mr. David Mulligan, Ms. Dalia Panke, and Family Support Magistrate Linda T. Wihbey.

Judge Munro called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

1- Judge Munro welcomed and thanked the committee members. She provided a brief overview of the matters to be discussed during the meeting and a broad definition of the Magistrate Court. She explained her role in the committee and asked all members to introduce themselves. She stated that Ms. Zampano was absent but had offered her services. She noted that the committee may require more stakeholders.

2- The next agenda item was a review of the committee charge. While the committee agreed the Branch is doing a good job reaching out to people involved in Family cases, there is a need to develop ways to help people become more involved in figuring out how to support families. One way to do that may be to incorporate transferable pieces of a model for Problem Solving Court, similar to those used in Community and Drug court, Judge Munro said. The Committee agreed that while some Family programs, including STRIVE and The Fatherhood Initiative, are working, more emphasis is needed on programs to support relationships between the obligor and the child. The Committee also suggested the Branch may want to consider collaborating with external family resources to bring those resources directly to Family courts for ease of access to the parties and families. The Committee did note its concern about the cost of expanding programs given the state budget climate.

3- The next agenda item was a discussion of the committees planning process. Judge Munro stated that the problem needs to be addressed at two levels in order to function. As part of the planning process, the committee identified and created two sub-groups:
Group 1 – “Identification, Assessment, and Recommendation” work group
Group 2 – “Overlap” work group

Judge Munro will assign members to these groups and will notify them via email.

4- The final agenda item was the establishing of a meeting schedule and timeline. After discussion, the committee agreed to meet on the following dates: Monday, February 23, 2009 and Monday, March 23, 2009, both in the Chandelier Room of 400 Grand Street, Waterbury, CT at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.