

MINUTES
PROBLEM SOLVING IN FAMILY MATTERS COMMITTEE
JUNE 29, 2009

The Problem Solving in Family Matters Committee of the Implementation Plan met in Courtroom 4B at 400 Grand Street, Waterbury, CT.

Those in attendance: Chief Family Support Magistrate Sandra Sosnoff Baird, Family Support Magistrate John E. Colella, Mr. Andrew Clark, Mr. Brian Coco, Mr. John Dillon, Ms. Barbara Geller, Mr. Joseph Greelish, Atty. Charisse E. Hutton, Mr. David M. Iaccarino, Ms. Debra Kulak, Atty. David Mulligan, Family Support Magistrate Linda T. Wihbey, and Mr. Edgar Young.

Chief Family Support Magistrate Sosnoff-Baird stated Judge Munro could not be present.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the last meeting held on May 18, 2009 were approved by the committee.

Progress Update - Work Group 3 (Funnel)

The Funnel Work Group met twice. The draft of the final report was prepared by Ms. Dalia Panke. The draft was carefully reviewed, paragraph by paragraph, at the second meeting.

Review of Interim Report

The Interim Report contains all recommendations made by the Overlap Work Group and the Identification, Assessment, and Recommendations Work Group.

Mr. David Iaccarino reported on the Overlap section of the report. The Overlap Work Group identified agencies, computer systems, and a list of information that can be made available to the court which follows two tracks – to *coordinate scheduling* and *coordinate services*. The report contains, as an attachment, the details and categories of information the group brainstormed about. The Work Group's recommendations are broad in nature and are included in the report as articulated at the time the Interim report was finalized.

Magistrate Wihbey reported on the Identification, Assessment, and Recommendations section of the report. This Work Group focused on identifying the barriers faced by inmates who will be re-entering society and will need to meet their child support responsibilities as parents; and making recommendations regarding available resources. All recommendations made by the work group are included in the Interim report. They were forwarded to the Funnel Group for assessment and inclusion in the Final Report. It proved challenging to try not to be extremely specific since this is not the implementation phase.

Chief Magistrate Sosnoff-Baird asked the committee members to look at the flow of the report – description of the charge, list of members, the process followed, the work of the groups – and vote on it. The Interim report was approved by the members.

Review of Final Report

Ms. Dalia Panke wrote the final report draft. All members agreed that she did a great job at setting forth the work of the committee in the draft. The draft was reviewed page by page by the Funnel Work Group. To accomplish the task of the large committee, the Funnel Group found that problem solving techniques are appropriate for our courts. However, everyone agreed that a separate court model is not necessary.

The committee members feel that the details and efforts of the work conducted by all work groups are well articulated in the report. Mr. Iaccarino stated the recommendations from the Overlap group were well woven into the report. Magistrate Wihbey stated Ms. Panke was concise when expanding the ideas and all categories of the barriers were well explained. As a result, the final report is a cohesive one.

The committee moved to review the entire document paragraph by paragraph. Some revisions were suggested. Ms. Greenfield will make the revisions to the document and will email to Ms. Lugo Gines for final distribution. Then, all members approved the final report as revised.

Chief Family Support Magistrate Sosnoff-Baird thanked all members of the committee for their hard work and invaluable contribution. She stated the committee's work has ended and that the implementation phase is a Judicial Branch process in consultation with the General Assembly. She thanked Ms. Charisse Hutton for being the driving force behind this initiative and for making her staff available. In addition, she expressed her appreciation to those committee members who represented other agencies.

New Business – any other background work required

No new business or background work is required.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.