

**FRIEND OF THE COURT BUREAU
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Michigan Hall of Justice
925 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, Michigan 48909

MINUTES
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020

1. Call to Order

2. Administrative Matters

- a. Review minutes from November 2019
- b. Correspondence as of last meeting (November 2019)

3. Public Comment – R. Kerr: Request for FOCB Advisory to track and review (Federal) Senate Bill to allow authorization of IV-D funds on FOC enforcement.

4. Old Business

- a. Training
 - i. Michigan Judicial Institute’s Friend of the Court (FOC) Seminar (January 22-24, 2020).
 - ii. Training under new ADR Court Rule.
 - iii. FOCA Winter Conference (February 18-21, 2020).
 - iv. National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) 2020 Conference (February 6-8, 2020).
 - v. PAAM Establishment Annual Conference (March 2020).
 - vi. Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association (ERICSA) 2020 Conference (May 17-21, 2020).
- b. Parenting Time Guidelines Revision Update
- c. State Fatherhood Planning Group Update
 - i. MDHHS TANF benefits group member is pitching the group’s idea of Michigan using some TANF funds (perhaps \$1M like OH in FY17) for noncustodial parent employment efforts. This is currently an internal proposal to MDHHS.
 - ii. Funding may be available for use in FY 2020 – more to come as budget is sorted out.
 - iii. Mapping father involvement resources across the state – prototype complete.
- d. MDOC Project Clean Slate Workgroup
 - i. This MDOC-led group includes other agencies as needed to address barriers to successful reentry. SCAO has become a standing member of the group, which has led to joint presentations on the criminal justice-child support overlap and now state-to-state conversations with Wisconsin, Ohio, and Georgia, regarding Michigan’s best practices in this collaborative approach.
 - ii. Goal of expanding child support communication process to an additional six “In-Reach” MDOC facilities (pre-release facilities). Timeline for expansion not yet set.
 - iii. Next meeting April 16, 2020, at Ionia Richard Handlon Correctional Facility Vocational Village (with facility tour).
- e. Michigan Child Support Formula Committee Update (for 2021 or 2022)

5. New Business

- a. FOCB Update
 - i. [FOCB Memorandum: Friend of the Court Case Closure Policy](#) (January 2020)
 - ii. Case Transfer Policy

1. Liz is in the process of rewriting this policy at the request of FOC Directors and the SCAO Regional Directors.
 2. Field is experiencing issues including, but not limited to, post-judgment transfers passed between counties without permission and determining what FOC office should handle case enforcement when a visiting judge is requested (file should follow the judge in their new county, but may be inconvenient for the parties).
 3. Policy rewrite may involve changes to the existing court rule (MCR 3.212) – if that is the case, the policy will not come out until the rule is through. Otherwise hoping to have revised policy in Spring 2020.
- iii. Employment Pilot Project (OCS)
 1. Pilot project with St. Joseph, Berrien, Calhoun, and Kalamazoo Counties.
 2. The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) will be supplying funding from its FY 21 budget.
 3. OCS will be able to apply for a waiver to supply a 66% match to the funds provided by LEO once we have a budget and estimated number of participants set up.
 - b. OCS Ticket Closure Project
 - i. OCS recognized that there were thousands of open tickets requesting MiCSES system fixes that are still showing as “open.” The belief is that many of the open tickets have since been resolved due to system updates, but have not been closed out by the assigned ticket analyst.
 - ii. Follow-up done so tickets are not just closed by the system designers; want to make sure that issues are being addressed if the issue has not already been discussed.

6. Standing Agenda Items for Update

- a. Legislative Update
- b. Case Law Update
- c. OCS Policy Releases and Updates

7. Closing

- a. Members Closing Comments
- b. Public Closing Comments
- c. Adjourn

2020 Schedule

February 21, 2020

May 15, 2020

August 21, 2020

November 20, 2020