

AGENDA
FRIEND OF THE COURT BUREAU
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Michigan Hall of Justice
925 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, Michigan
Friday, May 17, 2019

x	Elizabeth Stomski	x	Peter Dever	x	Doug Howard	x	Lindsay Vogelsberg
x	Lynn Ann Bullard		John Frasier	x	Guy Jacobson		Amy Yu
x	Dr. Julia Cunningham	x	Sara Anderson	x	Gail Towne		

1. Call to Order

2. Administrative Matters

- a. Review minutes from November 2018
- b. Correspondence as of last meeting (November 2018) – None
- c. Request to update Sara Hodits’ name to Sara Anderson on Committee correspondence and website.

3. Public Comment

- a. **R. Kerr: FOCB Advisory Committee Composition**
 - i. FOCB Advisory Committee Charter discussion
 1. Issue with the definition of “attorney” and if it must be a practicing attorney, judge, referee, etc. Concerns about impartiality of Committee members in their committee and professional roles.
 2. FOCB Director Capps indicated via message that he is happy to discuss the composition of the committee with Mr. Kerr outside of the meeting.
 - ii. MCR 3.217(D) and potential gender bias

4. Old Business

- a. **Domestic Violence Best Practices Guide Update:** Set to be published by end of the summer.
- b. **Training updates**
 - i. **MJI FOC Staff Training**
 1. January 2019, covered over 2.5 days, had over 150 people in attendance.
 2. Presented on parenting time, domestic violence, intergovernmental issues for beginners, customer service, and (for the first time) held an “Advanced Child Support Formula” track
 3. January 2020 will be next MJI – FOC Employee training. Topics to be determined.
 - ii. **ERICSA 2019 Training (Niagara Falls, NY)**
 1. FOCB presenting on UCCJEA/UIFSA, Parenting Time within Support Cases Panel, and Social Media
 2. Over 40 Michigan caseworkers/representatives will be in attendance, as well as state IV-D directors and officials from OCSE.
 - iii. **ACES presentation:** Director Capps will be able to present on the ACES topic to the Committee during the August 2019 meeting.

5. New Business

- a. **FOCB Update**
 - i. **New Staff Member (N. Withrow)**
 1. Former law clerk with FOCB, worked as analyst at OCS
 2. Started March 2019

- ii. **Publications:** all updated December 2018/January 2019, including handbook.
- iii. **Michigan Child Support Formula Committee Update:** MCSF Committee is scheduled to complete the review and make recommendations to the State Court Administrator by the end of the year.
- iv. **MiFile**
 - 1. Domestic Relations Advisory Workgroup meeting May 13 (Monday) to talk about what is needed to process a case between the FOC, the child support program as a whole, and clerk's office.
 - 2. Roll out schedule available on the SCAO website under "MiFile."
 - 3. Court rule changes due to MiFile: Communications to the court will roll out in coming months.
- v. **Parenting Time Guidelines Revision**
 - 1. The revision effort seeks to reflect changes since 2000 in family dynamics, law, court access and representation.
 - 2. A 16-member advisory committee was convened with membership as nominated by stakeholder groups including MJA, RAM, FOCA, MACM, and the State Bar Family Law Section. There is a court administrator, a psychologist, and a domestic violence expert also serving on the committee.
 - 3. The advisory committee was split into subcommittees to focus on recommendations for the Guideline revision, each subcommittee looking at sections particularly relevant to their interest and expertise.
 - 4. The advisory committee will meet again at HOJ on June 10th to approve changes to the Guideline draft, with the goal to finalize the document by Fall 2019.
 - 5. Once the Guideline is finalized, we will begin Phase 2 of the revision project to create a mobile- and web-friendly version of access.
- vi. **State Fatherhood Planning Group**
 - 1. Michigan received a small grant from the Fatherhood Research & Practice Network to convene an interdisciplinary planning group to review the current state of "fatherhood" in Michigan and outline what gaps could use filling. A requirement of the grant was to involve the IV-D director and examine how the state's child support program works with fathers.
 - 2. The group will meet monthly for about 9 months (Feb. 2019 – Sept. 2019), led by a team of U of M researchers.
 - 3. There is OCS representation, SCAO-FOCB representation, working on adding FOCA representation, plus: IV-A, CPS, foster care, WIC, local Strong Start Healthy Start programs, Head Start, and other father group representatives.
 - 4. The group plans to interview a growing list of fatherhood stakeholders across the state, plus interview fathers, and use this qualitative data and the group's conversations to shape a plan for the future of fatherhood in Michigan.
- vii. **Court Rule Updates**
 - 1. **MCR 3.201/ MCR 3.230 Summary Support and Paternity Act:** The proposed amendments provide procedural rules to incorporate the Summary Support and Paternity Act to establish a parent's paternity or support obligation through a summary action.
 - 2. **New MCR (3.22X) - FOC ADR:** The proposed rule establishes procedures for ordering parties to mediation, objecting to mediation, and how to enter orders after mediation, and clarification re: conciliation.

6. Standing Agenda Items for Update

- i. Legislative Update
- ii. Case Law Update
 - 1. *Luna v. Regnier* (COA October 2018)

2. *In re AGD* (COA March 2019)
 3. *Seifeddine v. Jaber* (April 2019)
 4. *Sadfar v. Aziz* (April 2019)
- iii. OCS Policy Releases and Updates

7. Closing

a. **Members Closing Comments**

b. **Public Closing Comments: D. Lasley**

- i. MCSF position on Social Security Disability payments (including lump sum payments).
- ii. Recommendation for logging communications between FOC staff and local attorneys.
- iii. Purpose of psychological examinations of parties, children.

c. **Adjourn**

2019 Schedule

August 16, 2019

November 15, 2019