

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

**MINUTES**  
**Friday, November 15, 2019**

X	Elizabeth Stomski		Peter Dever		Doug Howard	X	Gail Towne
	Lynn Ann Bullard		John Frasier	X	Guy Jacobson	X	Amy Yu
X	Dr. Julia Cunningham	X	Sara Anderson		Rahman Shareef		

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Administrative Matters**

- a. Acting chair: Amy Yu
- b. Review minutes from May 2019
- c. Correspondence as of last meeting (May 2019) – None

**3. Public Comment – R. Kerr**

**4. Old Business**

a. **ACES Presentation**

b. **Domestic Violence Best Practices Guide Update**

- i. Published in July 2019, available on the FOCB website  
<https://courts.michigan.gov/Administration/SCAO/OfficesPrograms/FOC/Documents/FOC-DV-ResourceGuide.pdf>
- ii. The purpose of the Friend of the Court Domestic Violence Resource Guide is to provide practical information about screening, detecting, and responding to domestic violence at various stages of the FOC case process.

c. **Training**

i. **MJI FOC Staff Training:**

- 1. January 22-24, 2020, will be next Michigan Judicial Institute (MJ) – FOC Employee training.
- 2. Seminar description and course overview available through MJ's training portal.
- 3. Formal announcement will be going to courts in next 1-2 weeks.

ii. **National Center for State Courts- Court Innovation Fund Training, *Effective Training for Court Staff*** (Austin, TX)

- 1. Invited to attend by Michigan Domestic and Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment Board.
- 2. 2-day training focused on how to appropriately plan training sessions on sensitive topics with adult learners.
- 3. Session was free and travel was handled through the Access to Justice grant.

iii. **Michigan Family Support Council (October 2019): SCAO/FOCB Topics:**  
<https://mifsc.org/document-links/734-2019-mfsc-fall-conference-draft-agenda-071519/file>

**5. New Business**

a. **FOCB Update**

- i. **Michigan Child Support Formula Committee Update:** Proposed changes to mirror federal law, no *big* changes, just minor tweaks.

## ii. Parenting Time Guidelines Revision

1. The current guideline dates back to 2000, and we are updating/revising it with a focus on: plain language; changing/dynamic family structures; accessibility of information for self-represented litigants; content and structure which can be easily translated to the next phase of the project, which will further enhance accessibility most likely through online dispute resolution.
2. There is a 16-member advisory committee revising the guidelines with membership from the Friend of the Court Association (FOCA), Referees Association of Michigan (RAM), Michigan Judge's Association (MJA), Michigan Association for Court Managers (MACM) MACM, the State Bar of Michigan Family Law Section, a domestic violence expert, a psychologist, and a court administrator.
3. The advisory committee split into subcommittees to focus on recommended improvements and additions within their areas of expertise to the initial SCAO/MSU Chance at Childhood draft.
4. The "final draft" is being prepared for review by the advisory committee and any further editing prior to SCAO's document publication process.
5. **Publication goal: by the end of 2019.**

## iii. State Fatherhood Planning Group - Michigan Action Plan for Father Involvement (MAP-FI)

1. In December 2018, Michigan's Office of Child Support (OCS) received a mini "planning grant" of \$10,000 to collaborate across agencies on identifying a plan for better service to Michigan fathers. The state's child support program was a required participant for the grant, and MI was one of 11 states to receive this grant from the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network.
2. Michigan partnered with University of Michigan's (U of M) School of Social Work to research the issues and needs of fathers across the state, determine existing services available for fathers, and identify potential gaps in service and opportunities for better service through policy changes.
3. The grant was used to survey programs serving fathers about their work and to conduct stakeholder interviews to learn about current services and additional needs.
4. The result of the grant work will be a policy brief detailing the findings and proposing policy changes.

## iv. Policies and Memoranda

1. **Updated Family Division Case Inventory Form:** On September 11, 2019, the court adopted changes to MCR 1.109 and 3.206(A)(3) that make the case inventory confidential, meaning it is no longer subject to service requirements in MCR 3.203, and it is available only to the party that filed it, the filing party's attorney, the court, and the friend of the court.
2. **Implementing FOC Alternative Dispute Resolution Plans – presentation by Tim Cole, FOCB Management Analysts**
  - a. **Associated documentation:**
    - i. **SCAO Administrative Memorandum 2019-04:** This memorandum provides guidance for courts submitting FOC ADR plans to SCAO for approval as required under new court rule
    - ii. **MCR 3.224:** to make the ADR processes used by Friend of the Court offices more uniform
  - b. Local Administrative Order Deadline extended: December 13, 2019

- c. Workshops on the new court rule will be hosted during the MJI Annual Training (January 2020)
- d. FOCB met with SCAO Forms team in hopes to get the necessary forms released by the January 1, 2020 effective date.

**6. Standing Agenda Items for Update**

- i. Legislative Update
- ii. Case Law Update
- iii. OCS Policy Releases and Updates

**7. Closing**

- a. **Members Closing Comments**
- b. **Public Closing Comments**
- c. **Adjourn (3:10pm)**

**2020 Schedule**

February 21, 2020

May 15, 2020

August 21, 2020

November 20, 2020