

# *FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM*

The Official Newsletter of the Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association

---

---

**Vol. 26**

**September, 2014**

**No. 2**

---

---

## *IFSEA Website Upgrade!*

By Barb Smithers

When President Stevenson described his vision for the future of IFSEA it included bringing the IFSEA Website up to date and to provide more services to members from it. Drew Aschenbrenner and Maurice Franklin have worked diligently to increase the information on the site and investigated several vendors to host the new IFSEA website. Since the Board approved the new service provider they have been transitioning the information. Please be patient as this site is constructed to its full potential, which will include a member's only section in the future.

For the first time in IFSEA history, the annual conference registration and payments will be handled by an online event registration provider, Eventbrite! This service was utilized with a CLE session recently with great success.

The annual conference registration site will launch very soon and all members are encouraged to use it for registration to the 2014 Annual Conference in Bloomingdale. From this site attendees can select full or partial attendance, and purchase guest tickets to the Sunday Banquet. Payments can be made with a credit card, and there is also an option to mail their payment to IFSEA.

These advances to the technology of the IFSEA website will allow more communication with members and for additional training opportunities. If you have a suggestion for a topic to be highlighted on the IFSEA Website please submit in an email to [info.ifsea@gmail.com](mailto:info.ifsea@gmail.com). Thank you all for your continued efforts to grow and improve this wonderful organization.

### *- In This Issue -*

IFSEA Website Upgrade!	1
IFSEA President's Update	2
IV-D Update	3
What's Everybody Talking About?	5
Unclaimed Property	6
Case Law Updates	7
Changing a Child Support Order	10
Chicago Veterans Project	11
DCSS/Cook County Jail Project	12
IFSEA By-Laws Changes	13
IFSEA Officers and Directors	16



*From the President . . .*

## **. . .IFSEA UPDATE**

---

Dear Friends,

As we rapidly approach our annual conference, “Stepping Into Tomorrow”, I want to reflect back onto some of the highlights of this past year. I had three goals when I was elected president of the Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association (IFSEA). Those goals were to Educate, Inform and Expand: you have made those goals become reality.

This year, we have convened more educational workshops and seminars (eligible for Continuing Legal Education Credit) than we had in any previous year. We’ve covered topics such as a Guide to the Child Support Process, Understanding the Administrative Appeals Process and a Review of the Department’s Administrative Enforcement Remedies and understanding the Administrative Driver’s License Suspension Process. In the future you can look forward to us covering other topics which are of interest to you, our members. I encourage you to continue to let IFSEA know what topics or issues you are interested in hearing about.

Secondly, we have redesigned our website and made it much more informative and user friendly. The IFSEA website has been transformed from the static site that it once was to a bright interactive site that is dynamic and multi-functional. The IFSEA website contains areas of interest that members can go to secure specific information they seek. I would be remised to not acknowledge the work of Drew Aschenbrenner and Maurice Franklin in the design of our new look.

Finally, participation by the membership has increased as I find more and more of you participating on the many new committees that have been established. I will note the new Conference Planning Committee lead by Sharon Quarles as one that has garnered much support and participation. The Conference Planning Committee and its numerous sub-committees have spurred renewed interest in the conference and IFSEA in general.

In this edition of the FORUM, you will be provided with recommended changes to the IFSEA by-laws that will be considered at this year’s annual meeting. The changes (explained in the section that outlines them) are the result of the accomplishment of my three goals: Educate Inform and Expand and emphasize the changing needs of the organization and its members. “Stepping Into Tomorrow” will be upon us soon and I am looking forward to celebrating this year’s successes and propelling us into next year’s.

See you soon.

Sincerely,

Norris A. Stevenson, President  
Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association



*From HFS...*

## **...ILLINOIS IV-D UPDATE**

---

Hello, everyone! It's hard to believe it is nearly the end of summer. I always think this is one of the hardest times of year for the families we serve. So many are on tight budgets and the beginning of the school year – with the attendant need to buy supplies and new clothes – can be very stressful. It seems that our service requests always increase about now. Please be patient, if you have experienced a surge lately!

It is nearly time again for the IFSEA annual training conference. I am looking forward to attending all of the interesting sessions the conference organizers have lined up. I understand some of the session planners are being innovative, so perhaps there will be a few surprises.

During last year's conference we announced a new strategic cross-organizational strategic direction – Leading the Nation. The groups have been quite busy and are meeting again in person as a committee of the whole later this month. I will be sharing information about each group's strategies and progress during the IFSEA conference.

The Spring Session of the Illinois General Assembly included several interesting legislative proposals. Among the proposals were House Bill 1243 ( a rewrite of the Parentage Act) and House Bill 1452 (a rewrite of the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution Act,) which continue to be of interest to many groups. These bills arose from the House Family Law Study Subcommittee's work. Both bills have been amended at various stages of deliberation as a result of discussions and debates about the best way to bring the Acts up to date. Though neither of the bills passed both chambers during the session, I expect they will continue to move next year. Senate Bill 3216 proposed adoption of an expanded pass through to TANF families. This proposal – to increase pass through from \$50 to \$100 monthly based on collections to one-child families and to \$200 for families with two or more children – was based on a federal option. The bill passed the Senate but did not pass the House prior to adjournment. Also of interest to the IV-D community was Senate Bill 640. This bill would preclude the charging of a fee to a consumer when the consumer is using an ATM machine to withdraw cash held on a reloadable SDU card, similar to constraints on ATM fees for LINK card users. The provisions apply only to the holders of an Illinois SDU-issued e-card. The bill passed both chambers and is at the Governor's office for consideration.

The United States Congress has also debated legislation relevant to the Title IV-D program. Both the Senate and the House had versions of legislation that affected federal child support statute. The provisions were reconciled into a bill titled HR 4980, which has now passed out of the House and is awaiting a vote in the Senate. Since this is a compromise bill, the chances for passage are high. The bills' provisions include:

- Authorization for the President to ratify the Hague treaty on international child support
- A mandate that States pass UIFSA 2008
- Some provisions for tribal child support agencies

- A requirement that states be able to process e-IWOs (which is already accomplished in Illinois)
- A requirement that the HHS Secretary establish an interagency workgroup on data standardization and produce a report to Congress in 24 months
- A requirement that the HHS Secretary produce a report to Congress by June 30 2015 addressing the effectiveness and performance of the child support program; analyze practices; identify strategies to hold parents accountable; build parental capacity; and improve front end services, case management, and collections.

The provisions related to the Hague Treaty and UIFSA 2008 are already being closely reviewed by experts in interjurisdictional case processing, and a legislative proposal to conform Illinois law to the federal law will be drafted.

Finally, a quick update on the “Big 3” multi-year initiatives: Service Delivery Improvements in Cook County, Income Shares, and KIDS Modernization. Many Cook County service delivery improvements have been implemented over the past four years, and last year’s re-location and re-engineering of business practices was the last of the big tasks in this initiative. It has now been closed in favor of “Leading the Nation” strategic goals statewide. Of course, we will always continue to look for ways to improve our business practices and our relationships with our partners in Cook County, but the major projects identified in this project have been accomplished and the overall project has been closed. Congratulations to everyone who participated, but most notably to Norris Stevenson, Z Williams, Angie Stassi, and Debbie Packard. Angie Stassi’s work with the Clerk of Court of Cook County on electronic document exchange has been beyond successful. The way we do business now is light years ahead of our previous practices. Norris and Z have worked together (and with their staff members) on changes large and small to improve the effectiveness of services to families in Cook County, with great results. Debbie Packard’s deep dive into the Cook Account Resolution Inquiry Unit, along with the great information provided and positive approach to change by the CIRU staff, led to significant innovations and improvements.

Income Shares is still on the table. A group of attorneys has been drafting a detailed legislative proposal throughout the Spring and Summer, and is narrowing down to the final provisions. I have been deeply involved with the drafting group, and feel the proposal is very near completion. KIDS Modernization is progressing quite well. We are making great progress on the feasibility study we have to provide to the federal government. Our document generation system replacement project is moving very well on two tracks, and in fact our Division of Information Services has identified an in-house solution for one track of our document generation modernization. All in all, very good progress.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in October. Until then, enjoy the remaining summer days and best of luck in your work and life (and achieving the balance of both!).

Sincerely,  
Pam

## What's Everybody Talking About?

By: Debbie Packard

Over the course of the past few months, I have had the benefit of attending child support conferences outside of Illinois. I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you what hot topics our colleagues around the country are discussing.

In May, I attended the ERICSA (Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association) conference held in Greensboro, NC. The theme of the conference was "Taking Flight for Children and Families". The conference consisted of 4 plenary sessions and 45 different workshops covering 4 days. The conference was followed by an Employer Symposium. The forty-five workshops covered a wide range of subjects including Advanced UIFSA Scenarios, Weekly / Bi-Weekly Orders; Personnel Challenges for Managers; Predictive Analytics; State & Tribal Collaboration; Interjurisdictional Case Law Update; Fatherhood Initiatives; Locate / Social Media; Civil Contempt; The Modern Family, and Ethics of Technology just to name a few.

On a daily basis, I was faced with the difficult decision of which sessions I would attend. In the end, I attended a session on Electronic Document Exchange via OCSE's State Services Portal as a speaker, Predictive Analytics, Customer Service, Successful Use of Automation, Affordable Care Act, Intergovernmental Case Law Update, UIFSA, Interstate Round Table and a session on Lame Duck Jurisdiction.

Of the sessions I attended, I was most intrigued by the Predictive Analytics session. The presenters were from Los Angeles County, California and Berks County, Pennsylvania. While the two counties utilize different applications and software, the results of their analytical research was impressive. In both instances, the goal was to determine the likelihood of payment of current child support before it becomes past due. There are various metrics that are used in the formulas for calculating the likelihood, but one factor that really caught my attention was the geographical distance between the obligor and the child. The further apart, the less likely to pay.....these analytics are used as a proactive measure to prevent a case from "failing" as opposed to being reactive after a case has "failed."

I attended a session on The Affordable Care Act in both Greensboro and at the Indiana State Conference held in Florence, Indiana. After attending the session at ERICSA, I was more confused than before the session started. I was optimistic that going to a second session in Indiana may help me understand the impact of ACA on child support a little bit better. I was wrong. It seems that there are still a lot of unanswered questions and we as child support agencies don't know how this will all shake out. I suspect that we may see some clarifying policy from OCSE down the road.

The structure of the Indiana State Conference is much different than that of ERICSA or even our IFSEA conference. Several sessions are actually training sessions for front-line staff and supervisors to learn how to perform various aspects of their jobs. However, the topics that were covered that were not "training" in nature were much the same of those at ERICSA. Not surprisingly, the sessions covered at ERICSA align with the proposed agenda for the Upcoming Region V Urban Jurisdictions Meeting that will be held in Chicago at the end of August as well as our 2014 IFSEA Conference. It just goes to show that although child support agencies scatter the globe, we are all faced with similar challenges.

# UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Written by Rodney Kyles

There are several occasions where the State Disbursement Unit (SDU) will have to resolve stale and/or unclaimed transactions. Stale and unclaimed transactions falls into three distinct categories: Unidentifiable Receipts, Stale Dated Disbursements and Pending Addresses Disbursements. If the SDU is unable to resolve these transactions, they are forwarded to the Illinois Treasurer as Unclaimed Property instead of being sent to the rightful owner of the funds. During the FY14, the SDU sent 16,309 transactions totaling \$657,941.67 to the Illinois Treasurer. An overview of the different types of stale and/or unclaimed transactions is below.

Unidentified Receipts are receipts that cannot be processed due to the lack of posting information provided by the remitter. In addition the payments cannot be returned to the remitter due to the absence of a return address. The most common example of this payment type is a money order. When the unidentified receipt ages one year, they are sent to the Illinois Treasurer as Unclaimed Property. This allows ample time for the remitter to call the SDU to inquire on the transaction.

Stale Dated Disbursements are checks that have been mailed to custodial parents and are not returned to the SDU due to a bad address and are not redeemed by the custodial parent. When this occurs the check is stale dated and the SDU will re-issue the check after the original disbursement has aged 180 days. If the reissued check also ages 180 days, the check will be sent to the Illinois Treasurer.

Pending Addresses occurs when the SDU mails a disbursement to a custodial parent and the disbursement is returned to the SDU by the United States Postal Service the check will be processed by the SDU as a return check. This process will inactive the address to prevent additional checks from being disbursed to a bad address and the child support case status will be "pending address". Another instance when a case can become a pending address item is when the case is loaded without an address and a payment is applied to it, the disbursement will become pending address. If the pending address disbursement is not able to be resolved and has aged one year, the funds will be transferred to the Illinois Treasurer. However prior to sending transactions to the Illinois Treasurer additional actions are taken to ensure all means of locating custodial parent has been exhausted.

For FY15 the SDU will begin to forward all items eligible for Unclaimed Property to the Illinois Treasurer each quarter.

Unclaimed Property is a good example of the necessity of having accurate client data which will allow monies to be disbursed timely to the families of the State of Illinois.



*From the Courthouse . .*

*. . .Case Law*

By: Diane Potts

On June 19, 2014, the Illinois Supreme Court issued two important decisions affecting parentage and child support law in Illinois: *In re N.C.* and *In re Marriage of Turk*. The *N.C.* case involved whether the State in juvenile court proceedings has standing to challenge an acknowledgment of paternity. In the *Turk* case, the Court examined whether a custodial parent could be ordered to pay child support to the non-custodial parent.

***In re N.C. (People v. Nichole G.), 2014 IL 116532***

Nichole gave birth to N.C. in February 2012. At the hospital, Nichole and Alfred signed a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity (VAP) for N.C. A few days later, the State removed N.C. and filed a petition alleging that she was a neglected minor. At the temporary custody hearing, the State recognized that Alfred was N.C.’s legal father pursuant to the VAP but requested genetic testing to verify that he was her biological father. When the testing excluded Alfred, he fought to remain N.C.’s legal father, arguing that the State did not have standing to challenge the VAP under Illinois law.

The trial court granted the State’s motion to disestablish paternity, but the appellate court reversed, holding that (1) the State lacked standing to challenge a VAP and (2) exclusionary genetic tests do not constitute a material mistake of fact. When the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services intervened to defend the appellate court’s decision.

The Supreme Court first examined whether the State generally has standing to address parentage issues in an abuse and neglect proceeding. ¶¶ 42-47. After reviewing the provisions of the Juvenile Court Act and the State’s general *parens patriae* power to protect minors, the Court concluded that the State did have an interest in parentage issues but must comply with the Parentage Act. ¶ 47.

The Court then looked at whether sections 6(d), 7(a) or 7(b) of the Parentage Act allowed the State’s action against Alfred. As to section 6(d), the Court recognized that this provision “details the only permissible way to challenge a VAP.” ¶ 54. The three express grounds for relief—fraud, duress, or material mistake of fact—are similar, in the Court’s view, “to the equitable grounds used by parties to a contract to rescind the contract and restore the parties to their initial status.” *Id.* Section 6(d) “provides no basis for the State, who did not sign the VAP, to employ the[se] contractual-based grounds.” *Id.*

Interpreting section 6(d) narrowly also is consistent with the holding in *People ex rel. Department of Public Aid v. Smith*, 212 Ill. 2d 389 (2004), that a legal father must challenge the voluntariness of the VAP and exclusionary genetic testing alone is not sufficient. ¶¶ 55, 58. The Court stated:

Our recognition in *Smith* of the limited nature of a section 6(d) challenge brought by a man who agreed to be legally bound by a VAP comports with our conclusion here that the legislature intended section 6(d) to be used by the VAP signatories because they,

unlike the State, are legally obligated to provide financial support to the child under the VAP. . . . Certainly, the enforcement of child support orders based on a VAP could potentially be hindered if the State is permitted in a juvenile neglect proceeding to use section 6(d) to invalidate a VAP with DNA evidence, as the State attempted here.

¶ 58. The holding that the State cannot challenge paternity under section 6(d) does not mean, however, that “a man presumed to be a father under a VAP is forever shielded from a paternity contest” because section 7 permits an action to establish or disestablish a father-child relationship regardless of a VAP. ¶ 59.

The Court then recognized that section 7 of the Parentage Act allows actions to determine parentage and disestablish parentage. ¶ 61. Section 11 authorizes the trial court to order genetic testing in any type of section 7 action. *Id.*

Section 7(a) “broadly authorizes a variety of individuals” to bring a paternity claim and the only requirement is that it name the person alleged to be the father of the child. ¶ 63. The Court held that the State’s action cannot be construed as an establishment because it solely sought to remove Alfred and did not identify another man as N.C.’s father. The Court then expressly reserved the question of whether the State in a juvenile court proceeding is authorized under section 7(a) to bring an establishment action. ¶ 64.

Finally, the Court held that the State was not authorized under section 7(b) of the Parentage Act to file a disestablishment petition—although a guardian ad litem (GAL) for the child does have that authority. ¶ 66. If a GAL files a petition to disestablish paternity under section 7(b) in a juvenile court proceeding, the State assumes the responsibility for prosecuting that petition. ¶ 67. “That does not mean, however, that the State obtains standing to initiate a subsection (b) disestablishment action vicariously through the GAL.” *Id.* (emphasis in decision).

Justice Theis filed a special concurrence, which was joined by Chief Justice Garman. ¶¶ 75-85. Agreeing with the majority’s decision that the State could not seek to disestablish parentage, the concurrence would have held that the State has no standing to address parentage issues in a juvenile court proceeding. ¶¶ 76-80. The concurrence also disagreed that the State was required to prosecute a GAL’s petition to disestablish paternity. ¶¶ 81-83

### **In re Marriage of Turk, 2014 IL 116730**

Steven and Iris Turk had two children during their marriage. When they divorced, the Circuit Court of Cook County entered an agreed judgment that provided for joint legal custody, with Iris having primary residential custody and Steven paying \$4,000 per month in unallocated maintenance and child support.

In October 2010, the court granted Steven primary residential custody. Steven then sought to terminate his support obligation based on the change of physical custody. After a hearing, the trial court ordered that Steven pay \$600 per month in support based on the income disparity between Steven, who earns \$150,000 per year, and Iris, who earns less than \$10,000 annually. On appeal, the appellate court rejected the argument that a parent with residential custody can never be ordered to pay support, but remanded the case for a new determination of the support amount.

The important issue before the Supreme Court was whether a parent without residential custody may collect child support under the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act



from the custodial parent. The Supreme Court answered in the affirmative.

First, the Court explained that the support of a child is “the joint and several obligation” of both parents. ¶ 14. Looking specifically at the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act, the Court noted that “section 505 expressly confers on courts the option to order either or both parents owing a duty of support to a child of the marriage to pay an amount reasonable and necessary for the support of the child.” ¶ 16 (emphasis in decision); see also ¶ 32 (“By its terms, section 505(a) does not restrict child support obligations to noncustodial parents.”).

The Court found further justification in the deviation provisions, noting that “[i]n setting forth the relevant factors a court should take into account in making that determination, the General Assembly spoke broadly.” ¶ 18. Far from custody being dispositive, section 505 sets forth a “range of considerations that may affect the court’s assessment including the means, needs and capacity to produce income of both parents, custodial and noncustodial alike, with ultimate objective of serving the best interest of the child.” Id.

The Court recognized that, in many custody situations, a parent technically labeled as “noncustodial” may have extensive visitation rights that rival the care provided and cost expended by the “custodial” parent. ¶ 24. If custodial parents are automatically precluded from having to make any child support payments, “the noncustodial parent could end up having to pay a significant portion of the costs of raising the child without any regard to that parent’s financial resources and needs” and without comparison to the other parent’s financial situation. Id.

The Court held that income disparities between parents and extensive visitation schedules required the ability to apportion support appropriately to serve the best interest of the child. ¶ 25. Otherwise, the child could be subject to “instability resulting from having to live a dual life in order to conform to the differing socio-economic classes of his or her parents.” Id.

### **In re Marriage of Shores, 2014 IL App (2d) 130151 (May 16, 2014)**

Father appealed the trial court's order increasing his child support obligation, based in part upon a bonus for work he performed prior to the child’s emancipation that was not received until after the child emancipated. The appellate court reversed, finding that the trial court erred by including the bonus in father’s net income. Documents admitted into evidence stated that the bonus was not a contract or a guarantee and that the company “reserves the right to revise, alter, amend or terminate the [bonus] and ... at any time, and retains sole and complete discretion to pay or not pay any ... award.” This discretion in paying the bonus made it speculative until it was received. Speculative income, such as income at the discretion of the employer, is income for purposes of child support not when it is earned but instead when it is received.

## **IFSEA Fund Raisers**

At this year’s conference IFSEA will host the following fund raising events for future scholarships. There will be two 50/50 drawings, with prices of tickets as follows: 1/\$1.00; 7/\$5.00; 16/\$10.00; 40/\$20.00. A traditional silent auction will be held for higher valued items and Tickets will be sold for other items to be raffled, the buyer will drop the tickets in the container that corresponds to the item on which they are bidding. Winners will be drawn from those tickets.

# Changing a Child Support Order

By Adrienne Noti, OCSE

Parents can now find help to request a change in their child support order through OCSE's new guide "Changing a Child Support Order." The guide explains how to seek a change when a parent's financial situation changes. It also offers state-specific modules to help parents, and people who work with parents, understand the child support review and modification processes.

## Why we produced the guide

The multi-year project to produce the guide was the brainchild of OCSE's federal partners on the Federal Interagency Reentry Council. Concerned about rising debt for incarcerated parents, the council was looking for information to help parents ask for a change in a child support order. The council also wanted parents to know that orders do not automatically reduce when a parent enters prison, even if he or she no longer has the ability to pay. If parents wait until they get out of prison, they will accumulate a past-due balance.

The guide's message to incarcerated parents who have a child support case: If your income or living situation changes significantly, contact the child support office as soon as possible to ensure that the order reflects the new circumstances.

## Partnership with the Bureau of Prisons

OCSE worked with the Bureau of Prisons and the Illinois child support agency to field test the guide with Bureau of Prisons staff and incarcerated parents in an Illinois federal correctional facility.

Joanie Weiss of the Illinois child support agency frequently visits the state federal institutions to help incarcerated parents with the order modification process. She describes her experience with the pilot test: *"I really appreciated the opportunity to be part of the pilot, and because of our partnership with the Bureau of Prisons staff and the in-reach we have been doing in Illinois' federal prisons, we understood the need for the guide and the help it was going to provide. The incarcerated parents who participated in the pilot said that the guide was easy to read and had the answers to their questions about child support, and they were looking forward to sharing this information with their families."* OCSE also developed materials to help Bureau of Prisons staff (unit team leaders, reentry coordinators, and staff in residential reentry centers) demonstrate the guide to incarcerated parents. Through the OCSE partnership with the Bureau of Prisons, every federal correctional facility will display hard copies of the guide.

# Chicago project gains trust among homeless veterans

By Geraldine Franco, OCSE Region V

Under a national collaboration that began in 2010 among OCSE, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the American Bar Association, Chicago is one of nine pilot cities across the country addressing child support issues among the homeless veteran population. Marian Scott-Steele, liaison for homeless veterans at the Illinois Division of Child Support Services, is coordinator for the Chicago Child Support Project. Her work with veterans in the past four years, together with her team, has gained her trust among the homeless veteran population in Chicago and its suburbs.

## Presence in community

At the project's start, staff set up information sessions at the city's two VA hospitals. During one of the first sessions, the project reached 17 homeless veterans with unresolved child support issues and scheduled follow-up appointments; nine of them followed through with the appointment. Project coordinators were pleased with the turnout, given the transient nature of homeless veterans and the struggles and instability they face.

Since then, the Chicago Child Support Project has coordinated monthly visits to VA hospitals in the Chicago area. Coordinators also attended VA-sponsored Stand Down events and resource fairs, which are the most successful venues to reach veterans who are homeless because they draw large numbers of veterans at one time.

The constant presence of project staff at the VA hospitals and their regular attendance at the Stand Down events and resource fairs has contributed to project success. Homeless veterans who frequent these venues become familiar with project staff and are less afraid to seek assistance. Those who get help often share their positive experience with fellow homeless veterans. Word of mouth referrals has helped others feel comfortable with staff and ultimately end up seeking assistance with their child support cases as well.

## Referrals rolling in

The project has received 500 to 600 referrals from VA hospitals. Among them are homeless veterans, veterans at risk of homelessness, and veterans receiving care at their facilities. According to Scott -Steele, every referral receives individual attention, and each case is "cradled until it is resolved."

Staff labels each case to clearly identify it as a homeless veteran. Cases are never automated and do not follow conventional case-closure criteria. Instead, case managers work closely with child support staff to ensure each case receives appropriate follow-up. VA staff helps to locate homeless veterans when child support staff is unable to reach them, since homeless veterans are more likely to seek assistance from the VA than the child support office.

Because each case gets individualized attention, many homeless veterans have their orders modified, helping them to fulfill their child support obligations. Others, who were unable to work because their driver's licenses were suspended, had the license reinstated with help from the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

Scott-Steele emphasized that this work would not be possible without the individual case -management attention, the partnership with the VA and the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and the support of the Illinois child support program. Project staff feel rewarded when a homeless veteran gets the help to fulfill his or her child support obligation. The project's ultimate goal is to help the homeless veterans become self-sufficient and current on their child support obligations.

The Chicago Child Support Project also partners with the John Marshall School of Law and the American Bar Association. Homeless veterans receive assistance with visitation issues and legal matters outside the realm of child support from these two partners respectively.

## Work ahead

The latest report on homeless veterans in Illinois indicates that in 2013, they owed more than \$12 million in past due-child support to the custodial parent, the state, other states, and foster care. Scott- Steele knows more work is needed to reach out to the homeless veteran population, and she continues to explore venues frequented by homeless veterans. Her latest efforts include discussions with Cook County judges who oversee Veterans Courts—an important venue to reach homeless veterans with unresolved child support issues.

In the meantime, the Chicago Child Support Project continues to serve all case referrals from the VA, Catholic Charities, Volunteers for America, and other nonprofit organizations serving homeless veterans.

## DCSS Staff Now Interviewing Alleged Fathers in Cook County Jail

By: Joan Weiss

As a result of multiple collaboration meetings between CCDOC and DCSS staff, for the first time ever, Joan Weiss and Dolores Matias of Parent Support Services conducted paternity interviews with inmates on June 27, 2014. The Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC)/Cook County Jail is one of the largest pre-detention facilities in the United States. Primarily holding pre-trial detainees, CCDOC admits approximately 100,000 detainees annually and averages a daily population of 9,000.



Pictured (L to R): Nneka Jones Tapia, Psy.D, First Assistant Executive Director, CCDOC, Joan Weiss, Acting Deputy Administrator for DCSS/PSS, Dolores Matias, DCSS/ARO PEL, Richard Garcia, Community Outreach Coordinator, CCDOC.

### ILLINOIS FAMILY SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION 2013-2014 Application for Membership / Address Correction

Please:  accept my application for membership in IFSEA.  correct my address as noted below.

- Regular membership - please enclose \$25.00 annual dues.
- Subscription membership - please enclose \$25.00 annual fee.
- Affiliate membership - (dues to be determined by Directors upon acceptance).

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Office \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Forum to E-Mail Address

Is this a  New Application  Renewal  Address Correction ONLY?  
Please return with dues to: IFSEA, 335 E. Geneva Road, Carol Stream, IL 60188

(FEIN: 37-1274237)

## Proposed By-Law Changes

The proposed changes to the IFSEA By-Laws have been approved by the Executive Committee and are presented to membership in this August 2014 Forum. The changes are highlighted below and the full Proposed Amended By-Laws are also included. Members will vote to accept or reject the proposed by-laws at the Annual Meeting on October 22, 2014.

The following is the list of changes proposed by the By-Laws Subcommittee and approved by the Board on July 16, 2014.

### ARTICLE IV: Membership.

- A) ~~Regular~~ Membership: ~~Regular~~ Voting Membership in the Association shall be open to
- 2) Any Circuit Clerk, Deputy Circuit Clerk or other **current or former** employee of a Circuit Clerk
  - 4) **The Attorney General and any current or former employees of the Illinois Attorney General engaged in activities related to family support enforcement and State's Attorney's and any current or former employee of a State's Attorney's engaged in activities related to family support enforcement;**
  - 6) **The Director and any current or former employees of any Illinois government agency engaged in activities related to family support enforcement;**
  - 8) **Any individual or employee of an agency, association, business or other entity engaged in activities related to family support enforcement;**
- 10) Representatives of parent or **children's** advocacy groups.

~~B. Affiliate Membership: Any individual, agency, association, business or other entity engaged in activities related to family support enforcement, not otherwise entitled to Regular Membership in the Association, may obtain Affiliate, non-voting membership by approval of the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Membership Committee.~~

**B. Term of Membership:** The annual term of membership in the Association shall extend from commencement of the Association's Annual Training Conference until commencement of the Association's next Annual Training Conference, or for one year, whichever is longer, and shall be indefinitely renewable for additional yearly terms upon tendering of the appropriate renewal application and dues.

**C. Dues:** Annual dues for membership in the Association shall be \$25.00 per member or such other sum as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

~~Regular Membership: \$20.00 per member~~

~~Affiliate Membership: Such sum or other consideration as may be determined by the Board of Directors.~~

At the discretion of the President, payment of dues otherwise required may be waived and ~~Regular~~ Membership granted to individuals otherwise eligible for membership in recognition of their contribution to the Association.

Any dues received on or prior to July 31 shall be credited for membership in the existing membership year of the association, unless the payor specifically indicates the payment is intended for the next term of membership. Any dues received after July 31 shall be credited for the term of membership commencing with that year's upcoming Annual Training Conference.

#### **ARTICLE V: Annual Meeting**

A Special Meeting may be held at such other time and place as may be determined by majority vote of the Officers or by vote of at least one-third of all Directors.

Notice of the date and location of the Annual or Special Meetings shall....

A Special Meeting may be held in person, via video- or teleconference or in any other electronic format as determined by the Board of Directors that allows for the proper recording of any votes taken and cast.

C. Meetings: The Board of Directors shall meet at least ~~quarterly~~ ~~once annually~~,

#### **ARTICLE VII: Election of Directors.**

B) Eligibility to Serve as Director: Only ~~regular~~-members in good standing may be appointed or elected to the Board of Directors.

C) Meetings: The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly once annually,

E) Vacancies:

Should an individual entitled to be an appointed Director pursuant to Article VI, Section A 1 (a), not meet all requirements for ~~Regular~~-Membership in the Association, and not designate a representative entitled to ~~Regular~~-Membership in the Association

#### **ARTICLE VIII: Officers.**

A) Designation and Duties of Officers. The Officers of the Association shall be:

- 1) President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and at the Association's Annual Meeting **and at any Special Meetings**. The President shall be ~~Chairman of the Nominating and Resolutions Committee~~ and ex officio member of all ~~other~~-standing committees.
- 2) First Vice President: In the absence, disability or refusal to act by the President, the First Vice-President shall assume the responsibilities and authority of the President. The First Vice-President shall be Chairman of the Conference **Planning/Training** Committee and shall perform such other duties as the President or Board may delegate.
- 3) Second Vice-President: In the absence, disability or refusal to act by ~~both~~ the President and First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President shall assume the responsibilities of the President. The Second Vice-President shall be Chairman of the Legislation Committee and shall perform such other duties as the President or Board may delegate.

- 7) Immediate Past President: The Immediate Past President shall be Chairman of the Nominations and Elections Committee, oversee the standing committees and perform other such duties as the President or Board may delegate.

C) Eligibility to Serve as Officer: Any regular-member in good standing may be elected an officer.

#### ARTICLE IX: Committees.

- 3) Conference Planning/Training Committee: Chaired by the First Vice-President, the committee will be responsible for planning training-conferences to be held at least annually and overseeing an Awards Subcommittee for annual recognition of child support leaders, professionals, judicial partners and programs. In conjunction with the Media Publications Committee, the committee may also prepare educational materials for distribution to the membership or for general publication.
- 4) Media Newsletter and Website Committee: Chaired by the Technology Officer, the committee will be responsible for publication of a regular newsletter for distribution to the membership and maintenance of a website. In conjunction with the Conference Planning/Training and Professional Development Committee, the committee may also prepare educational materials for distribution to the membership or for general publication.
- 6) Nominating and Resolutions Committee: Chaired by the Immediate Past President, the committee will receive and review nominations for election to the Board of Directors, review proposed resolutions for action by the Board and membership, and may make recommendations thereon.
- 7) Professional Development Committee: Chaired by the First Vice-President, the committee will be responsible for planning professional development sessions, including continued legal education, in conjunction with the Media Committee, the committee may also prepare educational materials for distribution to the membership or for general publication.

# ***FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM***

is the official newsletter of the

## **ILLINOIS FAMILY SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION**

335 E. Geneva Road  
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Published and distributed free to members of the Association.

### **Officers 2013 - 2014**

<i>President</i>	<b>Norris Stevenson</b>	HFS, DCSS, Chicago
<i>First Vice President</i>	<b>Loretta Ursini</b>	Cook County SAO, Chicago
<i>Second Vice President</i>	<b>Scott Black</b>	OAG, Springfield
<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Christine Towles</b>	HFS, DCSS, Carol Stream
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Christa Ballew</b>	MAXIMUS, Inc., Chicago
<i>Technology Officer</i>	<b>Drew Aschenbrenner</b>	HFS, DCSS, Springfield
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	<b>Angela Williams</b>	HFS, DCSS, Peoria

### **Directors**

#### **Appointed Directors**

**Pamela Lowry** – HFS, DCSS Administrator  
**Diane Potts** - OAG, Chicago  
**Zeophus Williams** - Cook SAO, Chicago  
**Chris Kachiroubas** - Circuit Clerk, DuPage County  
**Barb Smithers** (At Large) – HFS, DCSS, Springfield  
**Anna Leonard** – AAG, Joliet

#### **Region 1**

**Maurice Franklin** - MAXIMUS, Inc. Chicago  
**Norris Stevenson** - HFS, DCSS, Chicago  
**Loretta Ursini** – Cook SAO, Chicago

#### **Region 2**

**Jeffrey McKinley** - SAO, Rock Island  
**Lori Medernach** - HFS, DCSS, Aurora  
**Mary Morrow** - HFS, DCSS, Aurora  
**Deborah Packard** - HFS, DCSS, Rockford  
**Sharon Quarles** - HFS, DCSS, Joliet  
**Angie Williams** - HFS, DCSS, Peoria

#### **Region 3**

**Kimberly Rossini** - Asst. Atty. Gen'l, Belleville  
**Lyn Kuttin** - HFS, DCSS, Belleville  
**Mary Miller** - HFS, DCSS, Springfield  
**Angela McCubbins** - HFS, DCSS, Springfield  
**Sherrie Rungie** - HFS, DCSS, Marion  
**Bryan Tribble** - HFS, DCSS, Springfield

#### **Newsletter Editor**

**Christine Towles**

335 E. Geneva Road  
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Ph: 630-221-2329 Fax: 630-221-2332

e-mail: [Christine.Towles@Illinois.gov](mailto:Christine.Towles@Illinois.gov)