Director's Message

As you may be aware, the NCSEA Board of Directors decided earlier this year to devote some resources to developing comprehensive public policy positions or documents to inform legislators and regulators, as well as to hopefully inspire the child support community. A number of dedicated individuals spent a weekend in April distilling and discussing the pages of information and ideas collected during the February Policy Forum crowd-sourcing exercises and the resultant closing plenary session. The Emerging Issues and Best Practices subcommittee of the Policy & Government Relations committee has further defined these issues into five broad areas:

1. NCP Services
2. Improved Enforcement Tools
3. Program Funding
4. Social Media/21st Century Technology Communication and Payment
5. Collaboration

Since NCSEA’s vision is to Serve as the Voice of the Child Support Community, we are now turning to you to assist in prioritizing and further defining the policy issues, challenges, and opportunities for the IV-D community within those five broad areas. We have developed a survey and hope you will take about 10 minutes to complete it. The survey asks you to rank priorities within each category, as well as to share some thoughts on why you feel they are top priorities.

We will be using the feedback from this survey in crowd-sourcing discussions planned in Denver during the NCSEA Annual Conference. Those sessions will further inform and define the work of the committee and NCSEA Board for the rest of the year. We plan to provide a number of opportunities for NCSEA members and constituents to comment and provide feedback as this work continues and hope you will continue to watch for our notices inviting your comments and participation. This will help us to indeed Serve as the Voice of the Child Support Community.

Customer Feedback Survey

I look forward to seeing many of our members in Denver for our Annual Conference—and am excited about the great sessions that will take place over the two and a half days the child support community comes together for the conference.

I hope that each of you has an opportunity for some rest and relaxation with family and friends this summer, and that you stay well and safe in this summer of extreme heat and other natural disasters.

National Council of Child Support Directors Meeting in Little Rock

Arkansas

Mary Ann Hilliard, Vice President, Child Support Operations, Young Williams

Last month, child support leaders from around the country convened in Arkansas, “The Natural State,” for the annual conference of the National Council of Child Support Directors (NCCSD). Arkansas IV-D Director and NCCSD President Dan McDonald warmly welcomed the attendees, and opened portions of the meeting to federal and private sector actors. The topics of those open plenary sessions included:

- A report by OCS Commissioner Vicki Turetsky
- Oklahoma’s Healthy Families Program
- Predictive Analytics

Read full article

Maryland Child Support Case Stratification Pilot

Letitia Lopez, PhD, Clinical Research Manager, University of Maryland School of Social Work

Recently, news media, talk radio, and internet outlets were abuzz with stories about a relatively new and different form of media—social media. The focus of this interest, of course, was Facebook or, more specifically, that company’s initial public stock offering. While the direction of the company’s stock price (mostly downward as of this writing) may be of prime concern to those with investments at risk, members of the bench and bar have other reasons to pay attention to events related to the explosion of online congregation vehicles such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

Letitia Lopez discusses how the Maryland Child Support Case Stratification Pilot is a tool that provides a quick insight into the Northern Arapaho Child Support Program, and why it was developed.

Read full article

Strategies to Improve Child Support Compliance: Proposed Vermont Legislation

Alicia Nahmer, Staff Attorney, Vermont Office of Child Support

In Federal Fiscal Year 2010, families receiving Office of Child Support (OCS) services were entitled to an annual total of approximately $55,600,000 in current child support payments for minor children. Obligors pay almost 70% of child support as ordered each month, but the remaining 30% has led over time to an accumulation of nearly $100 million of unpaid support on the books. Vermont Senate Bill S. 203, if enacted, will significantly affect the companies that provide a large portion of that public stock offering. While the direction of the company’s stock price (mostly downward as of this writing) may be of prime concern to those with investments at risk, members of the bench and bar have other reasons to pay attention to events related to the explosion of online congregation vehicles such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

Letitia Lopez discusses how the Maryland Child Support Case Stratification Pilot is a tool that provides a quick insight into the Northern Arapaho Child Support Program, and why it was developed.

Read full article

Tribal Child Support on the Wind River Indian Reservation

By Lee Spoonhunter

Nationally there are more than 50 federally approved Tribal Child Support Programs, each uniquely tailored to their tribal needs, traditions, and customs. I hope to provide a quick insight into the Northern Arapaho Child Support Program by explaining the history, jurisdiction, in-kind support (non-cash), and partnership with the State of Wyoming Child Support Program. Originally the Northern Arapaho lived in Colorado in what is now the area of Boulder and Denver. In 1877, the Arapaho were forced to locate to the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Read full article

For more information about sponsorship opportunities at the NCSEA 2012 Annual Conference, please contact Shangela Giracca at sgiracca@ncseaonline.org.