

FAMILY SUPPORT FORUM

The Official Newsletter of the Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association

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IFSEA 2014 Conference in Review

The 2014 Annual Meeting and Training Conference held at the Hilton Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale was attended by over 200 people! The interesting workshops drew attendees for the Monday only session that increased both membership and attendance.

President Norris Stevenson opened the conference with the presentation of the Child Support Professional of the Year Award which was given to Mark Ferguson of the Policy Unit. Nancy Emberton, Assistant Deputy Director of Downstate Field Operations was presented with the Outstanding Leader Award. Mark and Nancy were not given advance notice of these honors and were also surprised by having family members present as guests. Professor Tonya Brito was the keynote speaker and gave an enlightening presentation during the Sunday Banquet. After the banquet, attendees were able to recess to an adjoining venue where many learned to “step” dance while catching up with their colleagues from around the State.

Monday’s plenary session opened with the first debut of “Good Morning IFSEA” which provided updates from OCSE, HFS, and the AG in a talk show format. The session, complete with the IV-D Forecast, Roving Reporter and News of the Strange, was extremely entertaining while also being informative. Comments were along the lines of, “didn’t want to leave to miss a moment”; and “we need to do more of this” and “I actually listened to the updates!” Congratulations to Debbie Packard and Shannon Clay for being the hosts and providing attendees with a great start to what was a great day of workshops!

All workshops were well attended. The “Interview with the IV-D Director” and “The Truth about Lies” were the most talked about sessions in the weeks that followed the conference (after Good Morning IFSEA!). The technical and legal sessions were also very informative providing attendees with a view of what legal assistance, community organization groups and child support agencies from other states are doing to help families navigate the child support roadway from paternity to post-emancipation judgments. During the lunch break, President Stevenson presented the Child Support Program of the Year Award to the Springfield Regional Office. SRO Manager, Shannon Clay, accepted the award on behalf of SRO.

On Tuesday, the Jurist of the Year Award was presented to Cook County Judge Jorge Ortiz. The Judge’s Panel and Strengthening Illinois Families Plenary sessions were extremely educational and allowed participation from the audience. The Annual Meeting and Elections was held which resulted in new faces joining the IFSEA Board of Directors. New electors were Sue Dalton, Lorelei Frost, John Harris and Monique O’Toole. All will serve terms until 2017. Debbie Packard was also elected to her final term. A complete list of the 2015 Board Officers and Members is provided later in this newsletter.

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From the President

...IFSEA UPDATE

Dear Fellow Members,

What a great time we had at the last conference in October 2014! That conference has set the stage for the future conferences. While the theme last year was “Stepping into Tomorrow”, this year’s theme has not yet been announced by the Conference Planning Committee, chaired this year by Scott Black.

At the conclusion of last year’s conference we announced that the 2015 Conference was to be held in O’Fallon, Illinois but due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to change those plans. No worries, we will indeed be having a conference. This year’s conference has been relocated to Springfield, Illinois. In addition to the change in venue, exciting new changes are planned for the conference format. We are still in the planning process and more information on this will be forthcoming.

As we move forward, my vision is to increase our opportunities to share information about trends and events transpiring in our industry. In addition to increasing the number of IFSEA sponsored events, webinars, Continuing Legal Education (CLE) workshops and seminars, I would like to incorporate more Healthcare and Family Services presentations to promote more educational development through Soft Skills training. We have found that the webinars for our Legal Representatives have had fantastic turnouts, enabling attorneys an opportunity to earn CLE credits while interacting with practitioners and their peers.

I would also like to see IFSEA partner with other government or private entities such as the Illinois Departments of Employment Securities and Human Services as well as the Illinois Bar Association, just to name a few, so that all could have a better understanding of how the business of child support affects their industry.

Lastly, I look forward to the further refinement of our reservation and check-in process for conference attendees. I want to especially thank Maurice Franklin and Drew Aschenbrenner for their continuing work on the website to make it more user friendly with updated information available.

I’m looking forward to this year’s Conference and hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Quarles, President
Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association



From HFS

. . . ILLINOIS IV-D UPDATE

Illinois IV-D Director's Message

Hello everyone and happy New Year. With the New Year, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services said goodbye to Director Julie Hamos and hello to Director Felicia Norwood. I am happy to report that Director Norwood is keenly interested in the child support program and in the people who sustain the program. We look forward to continuing our good work under Director Norwood's guidance.

State child support programs around the nation are closely reviewing the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued by the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, and we are as well. We are also working with associations such as the National Conference of Child Support Directors on analysis and comment. I hope to be able to provide more detailed information in the near future.

The 99th session of the Illinois General Assembly has convened. This session will be active during 2015-2016. HFS will as always review bills related to child support and, with the direction of the Governor's Office, offer analysis and assistance to legislators.

HFS is beginning a new SDU contract period this year, and we are currently working with our partners at Xerox on implementing some update and enhancements. Some software will be updated, there will be enhancements to some customer service options at the SDU, and we hope to have some kiosks installed in some county buildings around the state where NCPs can pay support and obtain a receipt.

I expect 2015 to be another busy year and look forward to working together.

Sincerely, Pam

Gambling Pays for Illinois Families

Contributed by: Mary Miller

On October 29 Denny Erickson, Lori Payne-Mullet, Ingrid Kamphaus, Brad Smalley and Mary Miller went to Harrah's Casino in Joliet to train Harrah's staff to use the Division's web-based Gaming Intercept Program Certification System (GIPCS).

The program started on October 30 and within 20 hours the first intercept was done! One case has received almost \$21,000 which paid the balance in full with 12 separate intercepts. There are 10 casinos in Illinois, all were trained and on-line by the end of November and each has had an intercept; some much more than others.

When a casino patron wins a jackpot that requires a W2-G (the winnings are taxable), they must search the patron in our GIPCS website. If a match is made a receipt will be available to print for the NCP which informs them their money was intercepted for a child support debt. The next business day the casinos remit the payment to the state Treasurer.

An obligor is submitted for this special enforcement program if the balance on all their cases together is at least \$1,200. The balances must be paid in full (principal and interest) before an obligor is removed from this database. Each case credited with a Gambling Offset will have a quick calculation done.

As of December 31, 2015, there have been 81 intercepts totaling approximately \$177,000. One NCP has filed an appeal.

The next step in implementation of the laws that allow the Division to intercept gambling winnings is to train staff at Illinois racetracks. This began in February.

Mary B. Miller is the supervisor of the Division's Account Resolution Unit 1 in Springfield.



From HFS

. . . INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEWS

Success with Mexico

Contributed by: Debbie Packard

In August, 2013, Yolanda Hernandez, CSS, Cook County Intergovernmental Unit sent a referral to Mexico on behalf of a customer seeking the establishment of a child support order. In September of 2014, Ms. Hernandez received an email from the child support agency in Mexico advising that the judge was requesting bank account details for an international transfer of funds as it was his intent to establish a child support order. Information has been relayed to the Mexican Authorities and we are in receipt of a child support order established in the amount of \$140.00 per month for the benefit of two children here in Illinois.

We have yet to receive a payment, but the child support workers in Mexico are in the process of implementing a wage garnishment. This is a huge step forward in the establishment and enforcement of child support with Mexico. Stay tuned for an update. . . . hopefully we will begin to see some money very soon!



Salsa Soup (Tortilla Soup) – serves 8

- 1 box chicken broth
- 1 12 oz jar salsa (however hot you want it)
- 1 jar Ro-Tel Tomatoes (however hot you want it)
- 1 can tomato sauce
- 1 bag frozen corn
- 1 large can black beans (rinsed and drained)
- 1 T. minced garlic (optional)
- Salt, pepper, cumin to taste
- Cooked shredded chicken or pork (optional)
- ** I typically buy a family pack of chicken thighs, cook, skin and bone them and add that to the soup.

Combine all ingredients in a stock pot, bring to boiling, reduce to a simmer and serve. You can serve it alone or with sour cream, shredded cheese and tortilla chips. This is also an easy dish to put in a crock pot and let it cook all day.



Committee Structures and Activities

...*IFSEA UPDATE*

Committee Structures

Under the revised By-Laws the following are Standing Committees (some with ad-hoc subcommittees) and their Chairs as determined by the By-Laws:

Nominations and Resolutions - Chair Immediate Past President – Norris Stevenson

Finance and Membership – Chair Treasurer – Christa Ballew

Membership Subcommittee

Conference – Chair First Vice President – Scott Black

Scholarship Subcommittee

Awards Subcommittee

Professional Development – Chair First Vice President – Scott Black

Media – Chair Technology Officer – Drew Aschenbrenner

Forum Subcommittee

Website Subcommittee

Legislative – Chair Second Vice President – Maurice Franklin

Many IFSEA members signed up at the Conference to participate in various committees and subcommittees. A full list of those participating will be provided in the next issue, or visit the Website for information as it becomes available.

Committee Activities

Conference

The 2015 Conference Planning Chairman, Scott Black, has adapted plans for the annual conference in light of the severe budgetary constraints placed on many members. Information will be posted to the IFSEA Website as it become available. IFSEA will recognize child support professions with the Awards program initiated in 2014 and the Awards Chair, Pam Lowry, asks everyone to begin thinking about nominations for these awards. The Scholarship Committee will provide information soon on the changes to that program this year. All members are encouraged to make suggestions for topics to be covered at the 2015 conference. These should be sent to one of your IFSEA Region representatives on the Board for consideration (listed on last page).

Professional Development

Our last CLE was held on 12/11/14, titled “Parent Support Services and Project Clean Slate” – Attendees learned how HFS assists incarcerated inmates trying to establish paternity, helps homeless veterans modify child support orders, and offers referrals and resources to help non-custodial parents obtain a job. Members of the Parent Services Unit also spoke about how they monitor and train birthing hospitals in Illinois on how to complete the Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity form, provide educational services, and develop partnerships with community based organizations to help foster and enhance the lives of children and families throughout the state. Lastly, the HFS Project Clean Slate program was discussed, which helps qualifying individuals clear up past due state-assigned debt.

- **57 RSVP’s – actual attendance unknown**
- **20 attorneys received MCLE credit.**
- **Resulted in 4 new memberships**

As always, the CLE videoconference presentations are free to members. We hope to have two more before the annual conference.

Upcoming CLE Event Announced: The next CLE Webinar will be held on April 2, 2015, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at locations throughout the state. **Please visit the IFSEA Website to register for this webinar and share the information with your fellow attorneys who may not yet be aware of what a valuable resource IFSEA can be for them!**

The Professional Development Committee is always looking for new topics and welcomes your suggestions. Please contact Lorelei Frost at loirelei.g.frost@illinois.gov if you are interested in joining the committee or offering an idea!

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is the official newsletter of the

ILLINOIS FAMILY SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Bryan Tribble - HFS, DCSS, Springfield

Newsletter Editor Drew Aschenbrenner

509 S. 6th St.
Springfield, IL 62701
Email: Drew.Aschenbrenner@Illinois.gov