

PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting of April 2, 2015

MINUTES

Attendees:

Chairperson: Jill Davis, Esquire

Members: Hon. Elizabeth Bozzuto; Deb Kulak; Attorney Barry Armata; Doug Edwards; Maureen Donegan, MSW; Lisa Werkmeister Rozas, Ph.D., LICSW; Joe DiTunno.

- 1) E-Filing of PEP completion forms
 - a) After 3/1/15, PEP forms that can be e-filed are being sent to Wethersfield
 - b) Cases that cannot be e-filed are still being sent to the Family Relations Office in the Court where the case is being handled
 - c) 200 forms thus far have been e-filed.
 - d) Programs have not been including docket numbers on the PEP completion forms. Forms being sent back to the providers.
 - e) Some individuals are taking the class without having their divorce/custody petition filed with the court.

- 2) Increase in request for Interpreters
 - a) Judges are requesting that classes be completed in Spanish
 - b) Family administration has ability to request an interpreter
 - c) No one should be turned away from PEP because English is not their primary language

- 3) Fee Waiver
 - a) Receive monthly reports from programs on the number of fee waivers they receive
 - b) Report will be coming soon

- 4) PEP Yearly Training Review
 - a) Last training was held in November 2014: well received and good turn out
 - b) Next training in either November or April
 - c) Possible topics: Importance of Fathers on children's lives; child abuse; trauma and children
 - d) Need to review PEP RFP and curriculum to determine if it adequately meets the needs of never married populations
 - e) Some curriculum might not translate because of some dynamics present between never married couples; trust issues, never worked together

- f) Massachusetts has a curriculum for never married couples
- 5) Next Term for Advisory Committee Membership
 - a) Lisa Werkmeister Rozas is leaving. She gave name of an interested social worker to take her place.
 - b) Need to prepare list of members who want to continue and send to Judicial Branch- Court Operations
- 6) 2014 PEP Stats
 - a) 2014 - 680 PEP cycles and 8132 participants
 - b) Cycles completed each year have been fairly consistent with a peek in 2012
 - c) Relationship with the other parent, their education level, ethnicity, and income have been consistent over the years
 - d) Unclear if PEP is getting only divorces or if parents who only filed custody applications are being set to PEP
- 7) Next Proposed Meeting Dates: October 15, 2015 and March 3, 2016

Meeting adjourned