**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTORS**

**December 2013 Executive Committee Meeting**

December 19, 2013

Present:

Laurie McGrath – President

Jim Fleming - Treasurer

Carol Eaton – Secretary

Region 1 – Jerry Joy

Region 2 – Eileen Stack

Region 3 – Craig Burshem

Region 4 – Charles Bryson

Region 5 - Jackie Scharping

Region 6 – Dan McDonald

Region 7 – Trisha Thomas

Region 8 – Liesa Stockdale

Region 9 – Kathleen Hrepich

Region 10 – Kate Richardson

Committee Chairs:

Alisha Griffin, Medical Support

Ann Coffin, IRS Fraud

President McGrath welcomed the directors and called the meeting to order at 3:30PM ET.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The first order of business was the approval of the November 2013 minutes. Motion was made by Jerry Joy and seconded by Jim Fleming. Motion was unanimously carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Jim Fleming reported the balance as of the end of November was $77,143.52. In addition, there are several pending items including the transfer of the funds to the new bank account in North Dakota. There were no comments or changes and all approved the Treasurer’s report as submitted.

See copy of the November 1, 2013 – November 30, 2013 Treasurer’s Report at the end of this document.

**MONTHLY CALL WITH OCSE**

President McGrath advised there were several items discussed during the monthly call with OCSE.

**FPLS Agreement** – OCSE received the comments from the Directors and indicated they are in agreement with extending the deadline for signing the agreement. Vicki Turetsky indicated she will attempt to clarify some of the questions raised directly with the individual states as well as sending out more common issues to all of the states. The child support program is the only entity under ACF that does not have an agreement in place. The push appears to be driven by the Office of Management and Budget due to the fact that the security of child support information is one of the audits identified by the Inspector General for the next federal fiscal year. The concern about data sharing and security of the information has grown in recent years due to several breaches that have occurred. OCSE also indicated they continue to see increased risks as a result of many states moving to consolidated information technology functions.

Vicki indicated OCSE will work directly with states on their particular concerns with being able to sign the agreement. She hopes that states will be able to sign the agreement now, along with submitting a list of those items where you are not currently compliant, and the timeframe in which you will be able to come into compliance. Linda Boyer, OCSE will be developing a template for states to use to identify those areas where compliance is an issue. OCSE plans to send out information in regard to the extension of the timeframe to complete the agreement and the template for identifying areas in the agreement that will still need to be addressed. Alisha Griffin indicated they submitted the spreadsheet that had already been developed for New Jersey and Linda was ok with getting the information in a format that works for the states as well.

Laurie commented it will be very time consuming for OCSE to work with states individually however, we can push to get answers to the basic questions out to all states. Alisha Griffin commented it will be helpful to get answers to some of the larger questions in terms of what specific data does the agreement apply to since the language was written fairly broad.

Eileen Stack asked if OCSE provided clarification in regard to the specific authority that is being used to require this type of agreement? Laurie McGrath responded she did not ask OCSE but will follow-up on this question. Eileen indicated their IT counsel is taking a strong position that the language in the agreement is something that should be negotiated. She stated due to the complexity of our systems, the requirements in the agreement are a significant undertaking for states that will require a large number of resources and challenges in order to comply.

Laurie indicated if OCSE is going to work with each state individually, then it will likely take a significant amount of time for all states to come into compliance. Eileen stated they are making suggestions on ways to improve the language in the agreement that will make it more comfortable for states to sign.

Laurie asked what the next steps should be? Carol Eaton responded it would be helpful to get some answers to the more basic questions asked prior to the January Executive Committee meeting and then have OCSE participate on the January call for further clarification.

**Medical Support and the ACA Call with Directors** – Laurie advised they discussed the plans for the call with Directors on medical support and the ACA which has already been held.

**Training at Policy Forum** – OCSE plans to hold training for director’s on February 5 regarding technical issues, such as the APD process, modernization, certification guide and future of states systems. A note has been sent to all directors’ encouraging them to sign up for the training. OCSE is also discussing the possibility of a lunch with Vicki Turetsky and the director’s as part of the training.

**IRS Fraud** – Laurie indicated they are planning to schedule a call with the IRS to discuss the issue of tax offset fraud and the impact on the child support program. OCSE is seeking feedback from the states on how strongly we feel about the impact of this issue on our programs. The IRS Fraud Committee will be taking the lead to gather information and participate in the calls with OCSE/IRS.

**Strategic Planning Sessions** – OCSE indicated they have been pleased with how the information gathering sessions have been going.

**Change Makers Series** – OCSE is interested in any ideas the states may have regarding sessions that would be of interest for 2014.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Medical Support** – Alisha Griffin advised the committee has compiled a document of questions, issues, concerns with respect to the Affordable Care Act and the Title IV-D Child Support Program and it has been sent to Vicki Turetsky. The document led to the call between Director’s and OCSE on December 13. Not a lot of answers yet. The Committee has a call in January and will discuss next steps. Alisha indicated the solutions will likely be state by state and we will have to find a way to get answers and a timeline for the issues that have been raised.

Jim Fleming indicated NCSEA met recently to discuss the role they could play in respect to medical support and the ACA. NCSEA agreed they could be a conduit, along with NCCSD, to gather questions and get answers from OCSE that states need in order to move forward. Laurie indicated OCSE continues to say that they are able to take questions, but any answers would have to be run by CMS before releasing.

Jim Fleming indicated Trisha Thomas forwarded a white paper to all directors in December that was prepared by Kansas in regard to re-thinking the child support role in medical support establishment and enforcement. Jim indicated the concept is something that the NCCSD should consider. Alisha Griffin stated the Medical Support Committee will discuss the paper at their next meeting and provide feedback to the Executive Committee.

**NCCSD Website** – Carol Eaton advised that the domain name has expired and she worked with Jim Fleming and Jeff Cohen to reinstate. As soon as Jeff is able to connect the domain to the website, the link will again work. Hopefully that will happen soon. Carol also indicated that they briefly discussed the issue of being unable to make changes to the listserve, but nothing further was suggested. Since there have been new directors recently and they have not been added to the listserve, Carol advised she would send a note out to all directors to determine who is currently on the listserve so we can identify those directors that are not receiving the emails.

Kate Richardson, and her staff, are still planning to work with Jeff Cohen on what possible solutions are available to alleviate some of the issues directors have with being able to access the current website.

**Finance Committee** - Jim Fleming indicated the website domain has been updated at a minimal cost for a two-year period. He is also getting quotes on obtaining insurance for the officers. There will be a Finance Committee meeting in January.

**IRS Fraud** – Ann Coffin indicated she is working on forming the committee and has representation from every region except 9 and 10. There are some regions that have more than one representative. She is hoping to get a representative from every region and then plans to hold the first meeting in January. Kate Richardson indicated she would recruit someone to represent Region 10. Ann indicated she will send out the list of representatives as well as the scope and purpose of the committee soon.

Ann indicated that Donna Bonar was successful in working with the Acting Inspector General to bring to light the impact of this issue on the child support program. Donna asked for names of individuals/states that the Inspector General can call upon to obtain input in regard to the impact the federal tax fraud issue has had on the child support program. It was suggested that Florida, Texas, Michigan, North Dakota and Massachusetts were all states that could provide input.

Ann stated that Donna Bonar is also working on a white paper for the Treasury/IRS general counsel and feels like progress is being made. This document will be the starting point that states can use to submit their own comments/concerns as well. Ann indicated after the committee meeting in January, she will share the draft document with the Executive Committee for review and feedback.

Laurie indicated during her recent call with OCSE states were encouraged to reach out to your congressional delegation regarding this issue. She suggested that child support agencies that are located within the Department of Revenue may have success with reaching out to the IRS Commissioner as well.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Possible Cost Savings Committee** - Laurie stated that she shared a copy of the cost saving items that was shared with OCSE in 2010 by the Cost Savings Workgroup. She asked if the directors were interested in forming a new group and potentially asking OCSE if they are open to any new suggestions. Carol Eaton responded it would be helpful to see what is in the upcoming NPRM before we start submitting new ideas. All agreed we would wait and possibly re-visit at a later time.

**Strategic Plan** – Laurie asked if there were any questions/comments that the directors would like her to pass along to OCSE regarding the process for developing the strategic plan. The directors did not have any comments to share. There was discussion regarding the specific calls the directors participated in and the varying levels of discussion that occurred during the calls. There were questions regarding who will be making the determination as to what group a director is on? We believe OCSE will be selecting the members in order to ensure balance and diversity among the members. Ann Coffin indicated during the call she was on, it was stated that the directors would be asked what areas of interest they had and then OCSE would try to align the directors to their area of interest.

Carol Eaton asked if the directors will only be on one group as it appears they will be forming a large number of groups and asking for a large number of directors on each group? Kate indicated she believes they are seeking a high level of buy-in from the directors as part of this process.

Laurie asked if the workgroup members should be limited to directors? Craig Burshem indicated OCSE did ask on the call he was on but he feels we might need to bring in the subject matter experts. Kate indicated on her call the group felt it should be limited to directors as OCSE will have the subject matter experts.

Laurie indicated if she is asked, she will indicate to OCSE that the directors found the discussion interesting and that we would like a better understanding of how it will all come together.

**Director Dinner Meeting at NCSEA Mid-Year** – Laurie indicated she is working on setting up a dinner meeting for Directors as part of the NCSEA Mid-Year meeting. She indicated most restaurants are requiring a minimum food and beverage purchase in order to get a private dining room. She asked if the directors were in favor of having a dinner meeting before she finalizes the details? Directors indicated they were in favor of getting the directors together in person as it is always a worthwhile discussion. Laurie indicated she will provide additional details at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Children at Risk Act –** Laurie McGrath asked if now is the time for directors to comment on the Act? Alisha Griffin responded we are still waiting for more specific bill language that will go along with the Chairman’s Mark that we just received. Once the language is issued, there will be several opportunities to comment. The language in the House and Senate version of the bills differ so it will be necessary to get them reconciled before it can move forward. Not sure at this time how quickly the bill will get back onto the Senate calendar for discussion.

The NCSEA Policy and Government Relations Committee is also working closely with Senate Finance representatives on the language in the bill. There are questions as to whether the Chairman’s Mark was unclear or if there is problematic language. The Grassley amendment is an area of concern. The amendment would offer a high income individual an exception to passport sanctions.

Alisha indicated the Chairman’s Mark references access to FPLS for tribal programs but not federal tax offsets. NCSEA is trying to determine if this was simply an omission or intentional attempt to prohibit direct tribal access to federal tax offsets.

Laurie indicated once we get the language the NCCSD can determine if we will comment as an entity or individually.

**Meeting adjourned.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTORS** | | |
| **TREASURER'S REPORT** | | |
| **Activity November 1, 2013-November 30, 2013** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Checking Account Balance as of 10 /31/13 $77,598.27 |  |  |

**Deposits (electronic and check)**

Total Deposits 0

**Checks Written & Electronic Debit**

Check # 1039 NCCSD (to open new account) $ 300.00

11/2/13 Merchant Services Annual Maintenance Fee ($134.75)

plus monthly fee (20.00) $154.75

Total Debits $ 454.75

Bank of America Balance as of November 30, 2013 $77,143.52

**Pending Items:**

Check # 1042 Liability Insurance $1,300.00

Check # 1043 Boston Harbor Cruise Deposit $2,257.50

Omni Parker House Debit –November 28, 2013 $1,500.00

Omni Parker House Hotel Debit -December 30 $1,300.00

Check # 1044 NCCSD- New account $50,000.00

Total: $56,357.50