VETERANS CHILD SUPPORT INITIATIVE SUMMIT

November 20-21, 2014

American Bar Association • 1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC • 5th Floor Conference Room

Conference Call Information: 1-866-646-6488 • Code: 1899 351 923

Sponsored by the American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness & Poverty and Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits & Services
AGENDA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

8:00 – 8:30
Continental Breakfast and Informal Networking

8:30 – 9:30
Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Vicki Turetsky, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families, HHS, Washington, DC

Jessica Blue-Howells, National Program Manager, Project CHALENG and National Coordinator, Health Care for Reentry Veterans, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Amy Horton-Newell, Director, ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty; Director, Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits and Services

9:30 – 10:30
Group Discussion: Building Effective Collaborations

Attendees will discuss the following areas:
- Identifying partners
- Establishing common goals
- Maintaining communication
- Cross training
- Obtaining cooperation of judges
- Barriers to collaboration and strategies for overcoming those barriers

Facilitators:
Sara Sommarstrom, JD, Vetlaw Director, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
Shannon Welton, JD, Supervising Attorney, San Diego Dept. of Child Support Services (invited)

10:30 – 10:40
Break

10:40 – 12:00
Presentation and Group Discussion: What are the most effective ways for VA staff and veteran service providers to identify veterans with child support issues?

This session will include a 20 minute presentation of the various VA programs with whom child support may want to partner and a 15 minute presentation by one veteran service provider regarding the child support legal clinics it offers. Following the presentations, participants will discuss the framing question for the session.

Jessica Blue-Howells, National Program Manager, Project CHALENG and National Coordinator, Health Care for Reentry Veterans, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Kevin Casey, Network Homeless Coordinator, VHA VISN 1
Sara Sommarstrom, JD, Vetlaw Director, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 (continued)

12:00 – 1:00
Lunch (provided by the ABA)

1:00 – 2:00
Breakout Discussions by Project Role
The legal providers, veteran service providers, and child support agency representatives will meet in small groups to discuss issues related to their roles, such as: identification of and outreach to veterans with child support issues, effective collaboration, various legal delivery models at the sites, issues that impact the delivery of legal services to veterans, establishment of a referral network, funding sources, the appropriateness of addressing child support issues in Veteran Treatment Courts, and how to engage the legal community, VA and Child Support staff in a meaningful way.

2:00 – 3:15
Group Discussion – Where’s a Lawyer When You Need One?
Participants will discuss issues such as: To what extent do the child support issues facing veterans require a lawyer’s intervention? What are the various legal service delivery models in the sites? What are effective forums for providing legal advice to veterans with child support issues? How can sites recruit volunteer attorneys? Can law school clinics be effective partners? What funding sources are available?

Facilitators:
Renato Izquieta, JD, Legal Aid Society of Orange County, California
Sara Sommarstrom, JD, Vetlaw Director, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
Jeff Yungman, LISW-CP, JD, Director, Homeless Justice Project, One 80 Place, Charleston, SC

3:15 – 3:30
Break

3:30 – 4:45
Group Discussion – Bringing it Home
Each partner from each individual site will identify one thing learned from the summit and other pilot sites that they want to incorporate into their project. Participants will then discuss the list and share experiences and strategies for making the sites more effective.

Facilitator: Margaret Haynes, Center for the Support of Families

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

8:30 – 9:00
Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00
Group Discussion – What Can We Do about Interstate Cases?
A panel will identify some of the child support legal issues and delivery of services that are especially problematic in interstate cases. Participants will then discuss strategies for addressing these interstate barriers.

Jessica Blue-Howells, National Program Manager, Project CHALENG and National Coordinator, Health Care for Reentry Veterans, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Michael Ginns, Program Specialist, Office of Child Support Enforcement
Sara Sommarstrom, JD, Vetlaw Director, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
10:00 – 10:10
Break

10:10 – 11:15
Group Discussion – Measuring Outcomes
Participants will discuss the qualitative and quantitative measures of success.
- How can we track referrals, especially when there are multiple referral sources?
- What outcomes do we want to measure?
- How can we measure long term success in obtaining housing, finding employment, reconnecting with family, consistently paying child support?
- How can we collect and share the “stories”?

Facilitators:
Jessica Blue-Howells, National Program Manager, Project CHALENG and National Coordinator, Health Care for Reentry Veterans, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Katie Donley, Division of Policy, Office of Child Support Enforcement

11:15 – 12:15
Presentation – Overview of Federal Child Support Resources
Using a “train the trainers” approach, speakers will discuss resources that OCSE has developed for child support agencies, legal partners, and veteran partners working with veterans who have child support issues and how sites can best use these materials. The resources include information on states with arrears management programs, state modification processes, a handbook for military and veteran families, a trainer’s guide, and a toolkit for jurisdictions wanting to develop initiatives focused on veterans.

Katie Donley, Division of Policy, Office of Child Support Enforcement
Michael Ginns, Program Specialist, Office of Child Support Enforcement
Margaret Haynes, Center for the Support of Families

Lunch (on your own)

1:30 – 3:00
Group Discussion – Next Steps
Possible topics for participants to discuss include:
- Do sites plan to remain operational long term?
- If so, what resources are needed?
- How can the ABA, VA, and OCSE assist?
- How can we create momentum in other locations to provide outreach to veterans?
- What are effective networking avenues?

Facilitators:
Thom Campbell, Division of Program Innovation, Office of Child Support Enforcement
Jessica Blue-Howells, National Program Manager, Project CHALENG and National Coordinator, Health Care for Reentry Veterans, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Sara Sommarstrom, JD, Vetlaw Director, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans