

Division of Child Support Services

A Helping Hand to Self-Sufficiency Problem Solving Court

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Presentation to: DHS Board Members

Date: July 17, 2013



Georgia Department of Human Services

Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

Mission

Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

Core Values

- **Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.**
- **Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect. Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.**
- **Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.**
- **Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.**

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Services and Demographics

- **Child Support Services include:**

- Locating Non Custodial Parents
- Establishing Paternity
- Establishing, enforcing and modifying financial and medical child support orders
- Collecting and distributing support payments

- **Caseload:**

- Georgia DCSS has 394,800 cases representing over 1.2M Georgia citizens
- Caseload represents 529,200 children
- 94% of caseload consists of Custodial Parents who have never received public assistance or formerly received public assistance

- **Georgia distributed over \$693M to families in FY12**

- **Moved nationally from 47th to 26th in Current Support Paid in 6 years**

- **2010 “Most Improved Child Support Agency in the Nation”**

- **2012 “Most Outstanding Child Support Program in the Nation”**

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A New Way of Thinking...

- Name change from “Child Support **Enforcement**” to “Child Support **Services**” in 2006
- Added two key values to value statement
 - **Put Children First**
 - **Children Need Both Parents**
- *“Government should be a resource to families, not a substitute”*
 - **Parent Accountability**
 - **Investment in our citizens and the community**
- Established new outreach programs and enhanced others
 - **Fatherhood Program – serves 4,000 Non-custodial Parents (NCPs) per year by assisting in breaking down barriers to employment**
 - *Career Fairs, which includes resume writing*
 - **Prison Paternity Program**
 - **Access and Visitation Program**

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Key Initiatives

- **Fatherhood Program**

- Serves over 4,000 NCPs per year
- Serves Non-Custodial Parents who are Fathers and Mothers

Re-entry Services

- Partnership with DOC to assist NCPs with re-entry into society

Prison Paternity Testing

- Voluntary DNA testing done at all Georgia Prisons; 17 - 20% exclusion rate

Homeless Veterans Initiative

- Metro Atlanta Pilot Partnership with Veterans Affairs and Legal Aid; GA one of 10 sites selected by the Feds
- Columbus Veterans Initiative

- **Community Outreach Council**

- Focus group to find ways to help NCPs and CPs become self-sufficient
- Enhanced Transitions Job Grant Partnership with Goodwill that will ensure 500 non-custodial parents in Atlanta area receive transition jobs

- **Problem Solving Court**

- Child support alternative to incarceration
- Utilize free community resources
- Referrals for initial assessment through local CSBs
 - Substance abuse
 - Mental health

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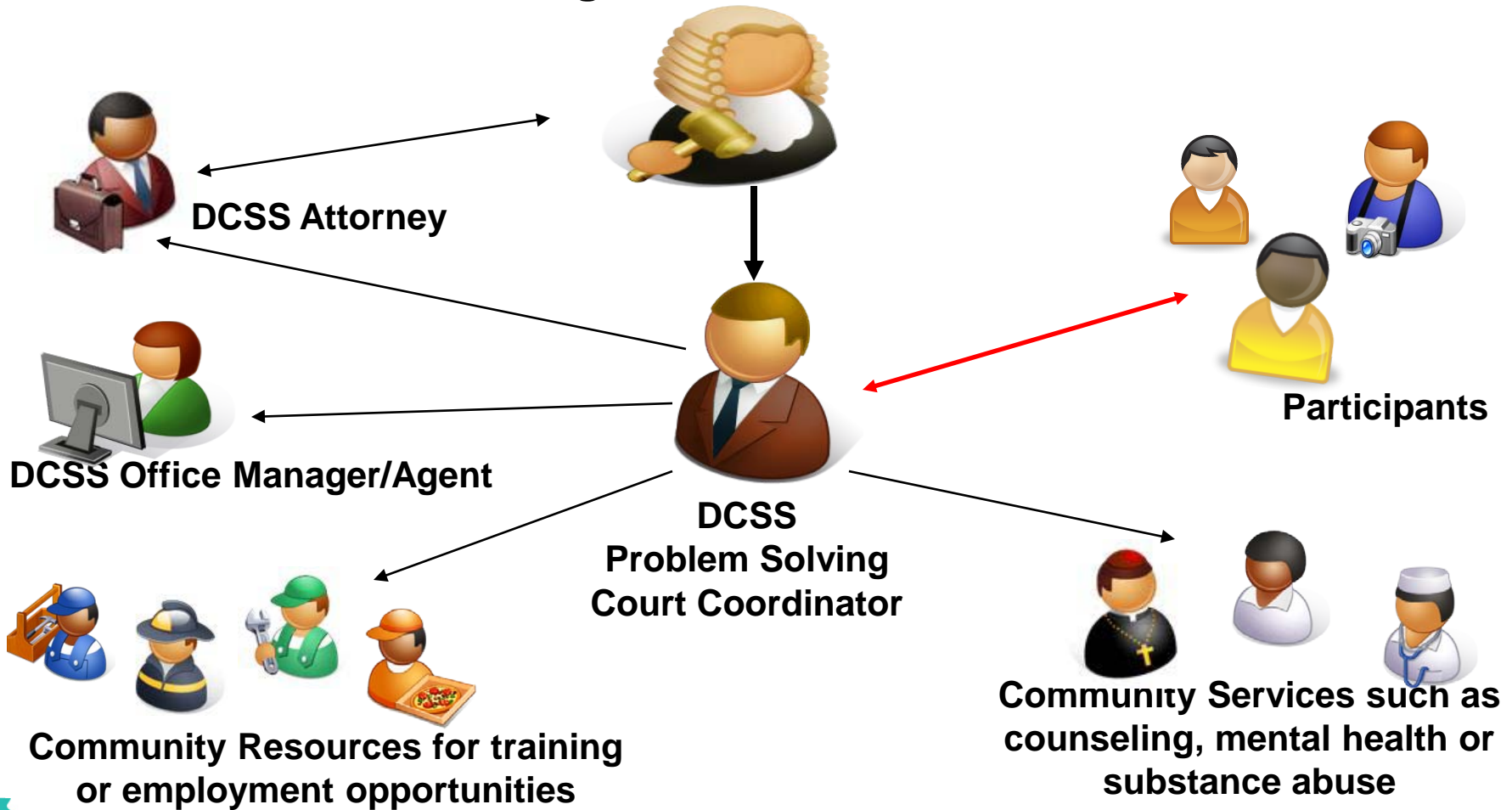
Why Problem Solving Court?

- 60.63% of NCPs paid as ordered by the courts on a consistent basis
- 79.25% of NCPs paid something on their child support case
- Remaining NCPs either will not pay or have so many barriers to employment that they cannot pay, examples:
 - 34% of NCPs in the Fatherhood Program do not have a GED
 - 84% of NCPs in the Fatherhood Program have a criminal record
- Revolving door of NCPs in court for contempt
 - NCPs not paying as ordered are being referred to court over and over again for non-payment
- Approximately 7% of NCPs on caseload are incarcerated
 - Currently it costs \$3 million a day to operate the Department of Corrections
 - Georgia has 53,000 individuals incarcerated
- Alternative to incarceration
- Decrease in cost to taxpayers
- Reduction in customer complaints

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Problem Solving Court Partnerships

Judge – Decision Maker



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Services Offered

Mental Health
Clinical Assessments
Substance Abuse
Drug Treatment
Job Assistance/Placement
Coaching/Mentoring
Volunteer Work Opportunities

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Problem Solving Court Locations

DCSS REGION REALIGNMENTS

Effective as of July 1, 2012



Active Problem Solving Courts

Coweta – Carrollton – Judge John Simpson	October 2009
Northeastern – Gainesville – Judge Bonnie Oliver	February 2011
Augusta – Augusta - Judge Daniel Craig	November 2011
Appalachian – Ellijay – Judge John Worcester	January 2012
Atlanta – Atlanta – Judge Cynthia Wright	February 2012
Stone Mountain – Decatur - Judge Mark A. Scott	May 2012
Flint – McDonough – Judge Brian Amero	June 2012
Pataula – Cuthbert - Judge Joe Bishop	June 2012
Alcovy – Covington – Judge Horace Johnson	January 2013
Mountain – Clarkesville – Judge Chan Caudell	January 2013
Macon – Macon – Judge Philip Raymond III	April 2013

Problem Solving Court Expansion

Enotah – Dahlonega – Judge Murphy Miller	Pending
Southwestern – Americus – Judge R. Rucker Smith	Pending
Towaliga – Jackson – Judge William Fears	Pending
Rockdale – Conyers- Judge Robert Mumford	Pending
Dublin – Dublin – Judge Gibb Flanders, Jr.	Pending
Gwinnett - Lawrenceville – Judge Kathryn Schrader	Pending

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Program Phases

Intake

- Complete assessments, forms and interviews
- Initial Drug Screening
- Drivers License Reinstatement Review

Phase I

- Regularly attend Group Sessions
- Meet with Coordinator as specified
- Pass Random Drug Screen
- Complete weekly verifiable 40-hour job search
- Communicate/Cooperate with DCSS

Phase II

- Obtain Full-time employment with IDO or making payments for 3-6 months
- Pass Random Drug Screen
- Negotiate payment on State arrears
- Access and Visitation Activity
- Seek legitimation rights
- Attend Family Counseling
- Communicate/Cooperate with DCSS

Graduation

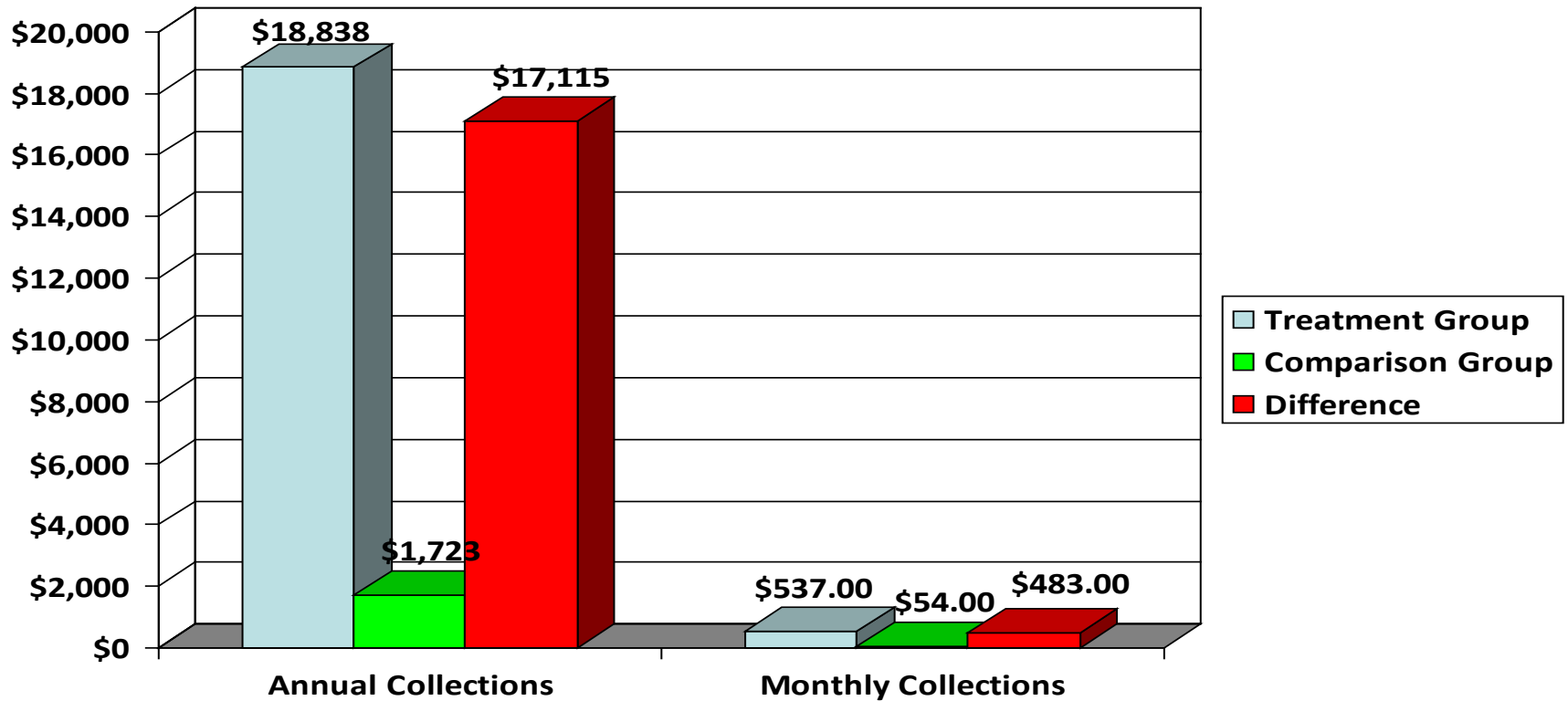
- Successfully completed all phases



1st – Less than 1 Week
2nd – 2-3 Months
3rd – 3-6 Months
4th – 12 Months (approximately)

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Program Evaluation



Preliminary findings from "AOC Carroll County Child Support Court (CCCSC) Preliminary Evaluation Findings. Applied Research Services, Inc., June 25, 2010." conducted by **Applied Research Services** and the **Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts**

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Problem Solving Court – Making A Difference... FY2012

NCP's Served	207
Total Cases	449
Children Served	539
Support Collected	\$217,013.96
Paying Percentage	73.48
Incarceration Savings	\$2,142,581.14
Graduates	90