

Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee
Annual Agenda¹—2019
Approved by Executive and Planning Committee: March 13, 2019

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

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| Chair: | Hon. Earl Johnson, (Ret.) |
| Lead Staff: | Ms. Bonnie Hough, Principal Managing Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts |
| Committee's Charge/Membership: <p>The Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee is required by Government Code section 68651(b)(5) to implement the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act (Assem. Bill 590 [Feuer]; Stats. 2009 ch. 457). The act requires the Judicial Council to develop one or more model pilot projects in selected courts for three-year periods. The projects will provide legal representation to low-income parties on critical legal issues affecting basic human needs. At the direction of the Judicial Council, the implementation committee will make recommendations on which pilot projects will be selected and provide input into the design of the pilot projects evaluations, which are required by the authorizing legislation.</p> <p>The Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee currently has 15 members. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 appellate justice• 2 retired appellate justices• 1 retired judge• 2 law professors• 7 attorneys with experience in legal aid programs• 1 attorney with the State Bar of California• 1 attorney with the California Chamber of Commerce <p>The current committee roster is available on the committee's web page.</p> | |

¹ The annual agenda outlines the work a committee will focus on in the coming year and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and the Judicial Council staff resources.

Subcommittees/Working Groups²:

None.

² California Rules of Court, rule 10.30(c) allows an advisory body to form subgroups, composed entirely of current members of the advisory body, to carry out the body's duties, subject to available resources, with the approval of its oversight committee.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

| # | New or One-Time Projects ³ | |
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| 1. | Project Title: Prepare Updated Request for Proposal for 2020–23 Grant Cycle | Priority 1⁴ |
| | <p>Project Summary⁵: In order to make recommendations to the Judicial Council regarding grants for the 2020–23 grant cycle, a Request for Proposal (RFP) should be circulated in the fall of 2019. The Committee will need to review the RFP and suggest any changes before it is circulated.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: This review is scheduled for the summer of 2019.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Center for Families, Children & the Courts staff and committee expenses are covered by an administrative allocation of grant funds.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: The legal services community and partner courts are the external stakeholders.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p> | |
| 2. | Project Title: Proposed Legislative Changes in 2019 | Priority 1⁴ |
| | <p>Project Summary⁶: Review legislation identified by Governmental Affairs that relate to the Shriver Civil Counsel Act including Assembly Bill 330 (Gabriel) Appointed legal counsel in civil cases.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: This bill was introduced on January 31, 2019.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Center for Families, Children & the Courts and Governmental Affairs staff and committee expenses are covered by an administrative allocation of grant funds.</p> | |

³ All proposed projects for the year must be included on the Annual Agenda. If a project implements policy or is a program, identify it as *implementation* or a *program* in the project description and attach the Judicial Council authorization/assignment or prior approved Annual Agenda to this Annual Agenda.

⁴ For non-rules and forms projects, select priority level 1 (must be done) or 2 (should be done). For rules and forms proposals, select one of the following priority levels: 1(a) Urgently needed to conform to the law; 1(b) Urgently needed to respond to a recent change in the law; 1(c) Adoption or amendment of rules or forms by a specified date required by statute or council decision; 1(d) Provides significant cost savings and efficiencies, generates significant revenue, or avoids a significant loss of revenue; 1(e) Urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public; 1(f) Otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk; 2(a) Useful, but not necessary, to implement statutory changes; 2(b) Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives.

⁵ A key objective is a strategic aim, purpose, or “end of action” to be achieved for the coming year.

⁶ A key objective is a strategic aim, purpose, or “end of action” to be achieved for the coming year.

| # | New or One-Time Projects ³ |
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| | <p data-bbox="176 248 1608 282"><i>Internal/External Stakeholders:</i> The legal services community and partner courts are the external stakeholders.</p> <p data-bbox="176 323 510 357"><i>AC Collaboration:</i> None.</p> |

| # | Ongoing Projects and Activities | |
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| 1. | <p>Project Title: Research and Data Collection. Provide input on design of evaluation of the pilot projects.</p> | <i>Priority 1⁴</i> |
| <p>Project Summary⁵: Government Code section 68651 required that an evaluation of the pilot projects be submitted to Legislature on or before January 31, 2016. That evaluation was completed, and a supplemental report was submitted in August 2017. The committee has identified key questions to research in the next phase of evaluation of the project in order to determine best practices in providing these services.</p> <p>This research supports the Judicial Council’s Strategic Goal II and III, Independency and Accountability and Modernization of Management and Administration, as well as Operational Plan Object 4, “Measure and regularly report branch performance...” and Operational Plan Objective 2, “Evaluate and improve management techniques, allocation of funds, internal operations, and services; support the sharing of effective management practices branchwide.”</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Judicial Council staff and contractor time is covered by an administrative allocation for the grant.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: The Judicial Council will work closely with the pilot projects and contract with a research firm to assist in data collection and analysis.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p> | | |
| 2. | <p>Project Title: Implementation and Oversight of Pilot Projects. Provide oversight for pilot projects. If additional funds become available, make recommendations to the Judicial Council on distribution.</p> | <i>Priority 1⁴</i> |
| <p>Project Summary⁵: The committee will provide continuing oversight of the pilot projects that were approved by the Judicial Council at its July 2017 meeting. The work is required by Government Code section 68651 which requires the Judicial Council to establish pilot projects and to form an advisory committee to review applications and oversee those projects.</p> <p>This work supports the Judicial Council’s Strategic Goal I, Access, Fairness and Diversity as well as Operational Plan Objective 4: Expand the Availability of Legal Assistance, Advice and Representation for Litigants with Limited Financial Means.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> | | |

| # | Ongoing Projects and Activities | |
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| | <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Center for Families, Children & the Courts staff and committee expenses are covered by an administrative allocation of grant funds.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: The pilot programs – legal services and their court partners are stakeholders.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: The committee will work with the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee regarding any distribution of cy pres funds received as a result of revised Code of Civil Procedure section 384 which provides that 25 percent of distributions of cy pres funds are to be distributed</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Project Title: Review Recommendations from the Evaluation of the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Project</p> | <p><i>Priority 2⁴</i></p> |
| | <p>Project Summary⁵: In its report to the Judicial Council regarding the Evaluation of the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Project, the Committee made recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Council. At the Judicial Council meeting of July 27, 2017, these recommendations were referred back to the Committee for further development and referral to appropriate subject matter committees.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: The Committee has determined that other committees have in their annual agenda items that will address most of the recommendations from the report, including simplification of forms, expanding e-filing and expanding litigant education. The committee will make comments on proposals from those other committees as appropriate. The committee has directed that the evaluation efforts for this year focus on mandatory settlement conferences and assessment of triage strategies. The committee intends to develop short reports on these topics which can be used to develop future recommendations.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: CFCC staff time and that of outside researchers is covered by the administrative funds set aside for the project.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Staff to the Shriver project will work with committee staff for the other committees to which recommendations may be made.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: The committee will work with the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness, the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee, the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee, and the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee regarding these recommendations.</p> | |

III. LIST OF 2018 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

| # | Project Highlights and Achievements |
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| 1. | A synopsis of the results of the evaluation of each subject matter area served by the Shriver projects was developed. |
| 2. | Comprehensive evaluation is ongoing. |
| 3. | The committee continues to monitor grants awarded that provide representation and make court services more efficient and effective for those who remain unrepresented. |