



## 2014 NCSEA Policy Forum

February 6 – 8, 2014

Washington, DC

### ***Putting Policy Into Action for the Modern Family***

The 2014 NCSEA Policy Forum continued the focus on the changing family structure, and the important policy discussions needed to generate recommendations and strategies to impact policy at all levels. Innovative, creative and pertinent subjects critical to the future of the child support program were highlighted in plenary and workshop sessions, featuring renowned experts in child support and human services.

Plenary and workshop presentations from renowned experts in child support and human services addressed key policy issues before the child support program. The conference featured interactive sessions, including discussions and debates.

An international perspective was included in a plenary session (see below), followed up with a workshop on international support collection. A description of both the plenary and workshop sessions follows:

#### **Plenary: What Constitutes a Family? A Multi-Cultural Perspective**

What constitutes a "family" in an urban region? In a Native American tribe? In another country? Children today are being raised in incredibly diverse family structures. This plenary will explore how the concept of family varies throughout the world and why these differences are important in our mobile and global society. This plenary also will examine the beliefs, cultures, and religions that influence the idea of family.

Finally, our panel will discuss the relationship between how a family is defined and legal financial obligations for children.

Speakers: Thomas Meysen, Maria Cancian; Tish Keahna, Scott Cade-Moderator

#### **Workshop: Bridging the International Divide for Children**

Laws and government programs to secure maintenance/support for children differ in every country. Core philosophies often vary significantly as well. For example, some countries take an inclusive approach to financial responsibility while other countries have more restrictive laws. Other countries may recognize same sex marriages and relationships, while many do not. The 2007 Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support addressed these differences and found common ground to achieve the goal of securing financial support for families. Come learn where the concept of international support collection is today, and join in an interactive discussion on how to bridge program differences for the children.

Speakers: Hannah Roots, Mary Dahlberg, Robert Keith, Diane Potts-Moderator

