



**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY PROGRAM EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**January 28, 2009**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** For each program, list the Scheduled Review Date, the Department, the Department Mission Statement and the Program Title at the top of the page, and answer the following questions for each program. The overall response for each program must be no greater than two (2) pages in length and in Arial Font size 10.

**SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE:** February 16, 2009

**DEPARTMENT:** Family Court Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Court Commissioner's Office aids the Sheboygan County Circuit Court and, thereby, the citizens of Sheboygan County by making the dispute resolution system more efficient. Cases referred by the Circuit Court are to be dealt with quickly and fairly, whether through contested hearings or cooperatively through mediation.

**PROGRAM:** REMEMBER THE CHILDREN

1. **Describe the program, its purpose and goals.**  
The purpose of Remember the Children is to educate parents who are not living together about the effects of the separation on their children and the ways to minimize those effects. The class focuses on encouraging parents to work together to resolve custody and placement issues whenever possible.
2. **Who is the program intended to serve? How many are served?**  
This program serves couples going through a divorce or paternity case who have children under the age of 16. In 2008, 455 people attended the Remember the Children Program.
3. **Are the program benefits long-lasting and essential to the service populations?**  
Yes. The services provided by this program are essential to fostering civility between divorcing parents.
4. **Is this program directly or indirectly related to or does it support any other program in this department or another department? If so, how?**  
This program eliminates the need for many contested custody and placement hearings in Sheboygan County Circuit Court.
5. **How does this program make the department or county government more effective or efficient, including any intergovernmental relationship?**  
This program eliminates the need for many custody and placement issues to be litigated in Sheboygan County Circuit Court, thereby enabling the Circuit Court to ensure other cases are litigated in a timely manner consistent with federal, state, and local law.
6. **How do you determine/measure if this program has been effectively provided and implemented?**  
Class participants are occasionally surveyed. Survey results have been overwhelmingly positive.
7. **Could the county cost-effectively subcontract this program?**  
Not applicable. The County is subcontracting this program.
8. **State the numerical ranking of this program compared to all discretionary programs in your department and briefly explain.**  
This program ranks 1 of 1. This department does not have any other discretionary programs.
9. **Are there current alternatives to this program available in the community? Can this program be provided through alternative arrangements with other providers?**  
Currently, there are no other alternatives to this program available in the community. It may be possible to contract with different instructors, but the level and quality of services may not be maintained. In addition, the program is currently self-funded.

- 10. If this program were eliminated, what would be the ramifications for the County (i.e., added risk, liability or legal issues)?**  
If this program were eliminated, custody and placement disputes in Sheboygan County Circuit Court would most likely increase. In addition, the number of mediation referrals would also likely increase. Mediation is required by State law and the cost of mediation services is partially born by the County. Therefore, the net effect of eliminating the program would be an increased need to use tax levy to pay for mediation services.
- 11. What is the program impact and effectiveness related to the program cost? (Provide data if available.)**  
In 2008, the program cost \$4,989. However, the program also generated \$11,365 in revenue. Therefore, the program is self-funded. The small profit generated by the program helps offset the cost of mandated programs with no use of tax levy. In addition, the program has always received positive performance appraisals.
- 12. Is this program currently duplicated by another county department or provider in the community?**  
No.
- 13. What adjustment or plan of action would you implement if funding is reduced?**  
Not applicable. The program is self-funded.