



HRA's Office of Child Support Enforcement Hosts 2013 Support Magistrates' Conference

On Thursday, May 16, HRA welcomed NYC Family Court Support Magistrates to the Agency's headquarters for the 2013 Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) Support Magistrates' Conference. OCSE holds the conference every year to maintain strong ties with the City's Family Court and discuss ways both groups can better serve NYC children and their parents.

"I would like to thank both those that are in this room and those not in this room for the work that they did during Hurricane Sandy," said OCSE Executive Deputy Commissioner Frances Pardus-Abbadessa. "Our office was closed, and the court was closed for a while as well, but even though we were displaced we worked hard to make sure parents got their orders. This speaks to our strong partnership with the family court, and how deeply we all care about New York City's children."

"We're here today because of our strong partnership with the court, and we're here to explore ways we can make that partnership stronger and the program even better."



Commissioner Robert Doar



The Honorable W. Dennis Duggan and OCSE Executive Deputy Commissioner Frances Pardus-Abbadessa

Attendees heard welcome remarks from Commissioner Doar, Executive Deputy Commissioner Pardus-Abbadessa, Honorable Judge Richardson-Medelson from New York State Family Court and New York State Deputy Commissioner of Child Support Eileen Stack, as well as updates on OCSE's and the Family Court's achievements and innovations in serving both Custodial and Noncustodial parents. The agenda included updates on the Back 2 Work program, which helps Cash Assistance clients find and keep jobs; the Support Through Employment Program (STEP), which works with Back 2 Work to connect unemployed or underemployed Noncustodial parents to work to pay child support; and the Problem Solving Court initiative, which gives Noncustodial parents sent to court for non-payment of child support alternatives that help them become engaged with the program and support their children.

The event also featured panel discussions on the Problem Solving Court Initiative and enhancing the court experience between Family Court and parents, as well as speeches from New York City Sheriff Edgar Domenech and the Honorable W. Dennis Duggan from New York State Family Court.