



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Family Services Technology Council to Identify Best Practices for the Adoption of Caseworker Technologies

Government, High-Tech Leaders Address Growing Crisis in Child and Family Protective Services

WASHINGTON, D.C. – August 8, 2007 – A coalition of leaders from the private and public sector, government and non-profit sectors today announced they have formed the Family Services Technology Council (FaSTech). The objective of the Council is to identify and publish best practices for state and local governments on the adoption of caseworker and agency technology to protect at-risk children and families. The announcement follows the Council's first full-committee meeting July 17 at the Children's Bureau 10th National Child Welfare Data and Technology Conference hosted by the National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology (NRC-CWDT).

The FaSTech Council includes founding members from Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare League of America, CGI Group, CMA Consulting Services, Deloitte Consulting LLP, Harmony Information Systems, IBM Global Business Services, MAXIMUS, Microsoft, Motion Computing® and Sprint Nextel (NYSE:S). Over next 12 to 18 months, the Council will research current caseworker technology practices, analyze state and local government proposals and documented results, and collect state agency case studies from across the country. The Council then will publish and present a best practices document to federal and state government agencies in partnership with the National Association of Social Workers, Center for Workforce Studies.

Advisory Board members to the Council include government child welfare leaders from the State of Oklahoma and New York City. The Boston University School of Social Work will act as an academic advisor to the Council as publisher of the final blueprint for caseworker technology reform. The Council will address adoption of technologies that enhance the role of the caseworker and deliver productivity improvements through mobile data access and unified record management.

“The caseworker is at the center of its state agency’s decisions to protect at-risk children and families, so the technology choices this Council recommends must consider caseworker needs in the field, not just the office,” said Scott Eckert, FaSTech Chairman and CEO of Motion Computing. “It is critically important not just to automate

access to state data, but also empower caseworkers to use that data in the field, helping them become more productive and build better relationships with their client families. The FaSTech Council is a unique opportunity for government and the private sector to come together and address the needs of caseworkers and the children and families they serve.”

Fourteen years after federal reform efforts were enacted to improve state child welfare reform initiatives, many states still are working to ascertain the most effective way to deliver child and family services and improve outcomes. Incidents of children lost to the system, injured or dying have become more prevalent. Between 2001 and 2006, 52 children in Philadelphia whose families were known to the city’s Department of Human Services died. Similarly, *The Washington Post* reviewed child protective services cases from 1993 through 2000 and documented the neglect and deaths of 229 children placed in protective care.

Carrie Friedman, Director, National Data Analysis System, for the Child Welfare League of America said, “The Family Services Technology Council is innovative in its focus on providing state governments with best practices in agency and caseworker technology to protect at-risk children and families, using the latest tools available. We believe that our recommendations will be useful to states, counties, and cities as they set priorities for change using good data and information. We look forward to working together to promote the use of the best technology available to allow caseworkers to succeed in improving the outcomes for children and families.”

About the Family Services Technology Council

The Family Services Technology (FaSTech) Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, public-benefit organization whose charter is to identify and publish best practices for state governments on the adoption of caseworker and agency technology to protect at-risk children and families. The FaSTech Council will focus on technology recommendations that help caseworkers build better relationships with children and families, resulting in better information which will lead to better decisions and ultimately, better outcomes. For more information visit www.fastechcouncil.com

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