

# Child Support Task Force Minutes

October 4, 2018

10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Great River Regional Library

1300 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud, MN 56301

**Members Present:** The following task force members were present on Thursday, October 4, 2018:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rahya Iliff, Co-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jodie Metcalf	<input type="checkbox"/> Rachel Sablan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sen. Melissa Wiklund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shaneen Moore	<input type="checkbox"/> Rep. Peggy Scott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mia Wilson, by phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Kontz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Laurie Pryor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Smith	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Loyd, Co-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Rossow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria Taylor	

## DHS Staff:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tara Borton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacy Sjogren, facilitator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Erickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jane Venohr, economist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Raymond	

## Other Meeting Participants:

## Welcome, Announcements and Meeting Objectives

Agenda review and introductions of the group. Welcome to economist, Dr. Jane Venohr, who was able to attend the meeting in person.

## Review and approval of August Meeting Minutes

**Minutes approved:** The August meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the Child Support Task Force website.

## Reminder of Task Force Purpose and Decisions to Date

Melissa Rossow went over the most recent version of the visual guide of the task force's decisions surrounding the update of the basic support table.

## Minimum Order Presentation, Discussion and Decision

Jessica went over the handout prepared by DHS about Minnesota's current minimum order support amounts and the approaches of other states. The task force discussed the minimum support order issue with Dr. Venohr, who recommended that the group decide the amount of the self-support reserve (SSR) before moving onto the issue of minimum orders. The decision on this issue was tabled until the amount of the SSR is decided.

## Adjustments at High Incomes Presentation, Discussion and Decision

Jessica went over the handout prepared by DHS about Minnesota's current basic support table which ends at combined monthly incomes of \$15,000. The task force discussed with Dr. Venohr the approaches of other states, Minnesota is on the lower end of the spectrum. The group did a preliminary vote on whether the table should be extended beyond \$15,000 per month. 7 members voted in favor and 5 members voted against,

however, a super majority of 8 votes would be needed for it pass. The group decided to table this issue for a future discussion.

## **Self-Support Reserve Presentation, Discussion and Decision**

The task force discussed ways in which the SSR could be applied to both parents, however, in order to maximize the time with Dr. Venohr, the group decided to vote on this issue at a future meeting. The group spent the rest of the time discussing the amount of the SSR. Dr. Venohr stated that if the task force would like to increase the SSR, it would be reasonable to pick an amount somewhere between 130% and 200% of Federal Poverty guidelines (FPG), or alternatively, 80% to 200% of minimum wage. A super majority of the group voted in favor of increasing the SSR from its current value of 120% FPG as well as tying the SSR to FPG. The group would like to see 4 options ranging from 130% to 200% FPG at the next meeting.

**Decision: SSR will be increased from the current amount of 120% FPG and will continue to be tied to the Federal Poverty Guidelines.**

## **Tax Adjustments Discussion**

The group did not have time to discuss whether or not a tax adjustment is necessary.

## **Wrap Up and Look Ahead**

The task force will continue its discussion of the SSR and tax adjustment issues at the next meeting along with the issue of adjustments for nonjoint children.

## **Public Comment Meeting**

1. Brian
  - Personal experiences with child support and work groups in the areas of family law
2. Daniel
  - Concerns about current MN child support calculator
3. Gretchen
  - SSR should be increased, but not too high
4. Kim
  - Suggestions to improve participation by public
5. Amy
  - Thoughts on updating the guidelines
6. Mike
  - Would like data on custody and gender of parents
7. Mike
  - Concerns about Bettson-Rothbarth and USDA measurements

## **New Action Items**

1. Jessica will provide scenarios for the SSR at various percentages to aid in the decision at the next meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 3:30 p.m.

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Room 10

State Office Building

St. Paul, MN