

Child Support Task Force Minutes

December 19, 2018

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

180 State Office Building

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Saint Paul, MN 55155

Members Present: The following task force members were present on Wednesday, December 19, 2018:

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

DHS Staff:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tara Borton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Erickson

Other Meeting Participants:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Raymond	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacy Sjogren, facilitator
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Anderson

Welcome, Announcements and Meeting Objectives

Agenda review and introductions of the group. Jessica informed the group that the vacancy left by Jimmy has been posted on the MN Secretary of State website and applicants will be interviewed in early January.

Review and approval of November 28th Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved: The November 28th meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the Child Support Task Force website.

Presentation from DHS Staff on MN Public Assistance Programs

Deborah Schlick and Stacia Rosas gave presentation on public assistance programs in Minnesota, (MFIP, SNAP and CCAP). The presenters gave an overview of the programs and also went through some scenarios demonstrating what a family of three at various income levels might be eligible for in MN. The presentation will be posted on the Child Support Task Force website.

Reminder of Task Force Purpose and Decisions to Date

Jessica went over a recap of the task force's decisions surrounding the update of the basic support table, including decisions already made on tax adjustment issue.

Refresher on Low Income Adjustment Issue, Discussion and Decision

The task force reviewed the updated basic support table extended to four, five and six children. Amy Anderson discussed her methodology for adjusting the basic support table and the task force ultimately voted in favor of adopting the proposed table.

Decision: Amy Anderson's low-income adjustment within the table will be adopted, including adjustments for four to six children.

Jessica gave a refresher on the issue of applying the self-support reserve (SSR) to both parents and a presentation on the approaches of other Income Shares states that consider both parents' subsistence needs. The task force voted to apply the SSR to both parents in August of 2018, however, the group had yet to determine how it would be applied. The group went over 4 options:

1. SSR is applied to both parents' incomes in the worksheet and used for informational purposes only;
2. Create a requirement that the non-obligated parent's subsistence needs be considered before reducing the obligated parent's support due to the SSR;
3. Create a presumption that SSR will apply to low-income obligated parent, but may be rebutted by evidence that SSR reduction will harm the other parent and child(ren)
4. Create a prohibition against reducing support because of obligated parent's SSR when non-obligated parent's income is below SSR.

The group voted in favor of adding more detail to the SSR deduction that now appears in the worksheet for both parents, but agreed that they want to do more than merely provide the worksheet to the court for informational purposes. The group also voted against option 4. The remainder of the discussion was devoted to options 2 and 3, and drafting potential legislative language. The group will revisit the issue at the next meeting. DHS staff to continue the work on legislative language that states that the SSR applies to both parents and sets forth factors to consider when one or both parents' incomes are at or below the SSR..

Decision: The task force will not pursue option 4. The task force decided that a more detailed SSR deduction will appear in the worksheet for both parents and will be used for more than just information purposes (option 1).

Presentation on Adjustments at High Incomes, Discussion and Decision

Jessica gave a refresher on the issue of adjustments at high incomes and a presentation comparing the current MN table and the updated table. Support amounts decrease at higher incomes using the new table. The task force discussed whether to extend the table beyond the current cap of \$15,000. Advantages include providing more uniformity for high income cases as well recognizing that salaries have increased since the table was last updated. A super majority of the task force voted to extend beyond the table to \$30,000 per month, (the highest amount of economically reliable data).

Decision: The basic support table will be extended from combined monthly incomes of \$15,000 to \$30,000.

Legislative Proposals from DHS Staff

The group did not have time to hear from DHS staff about upcoming legislative proposals. This item will be moved to the January meeting.

Plan for Next Six Months and Wrap Up

The task force went over the remaining priority issues. The task force decided that after addressing the issues of nonjoint children the next priority issues they will address will be those relating to multiple families. Stacy and Jessica will put together the next meeting's agenda as soon as possible and will send the draft to the group for its review in early January.

Public Comment Meeting

1. James
 - High arrears balances
 - Inaccurate costs of raising a child

- Child support program is not cost-effective
2. Scott
 - Recount of personal experience with being child support obligor
 - Concern child support is not spent on child(ren)
 3. Michael
 - Complaint about public comment process at task force meetings
 - Various quotations about bureaucracy
 - Payment of child support is not voluntary

New Action Items

1. Jessica will follow up on request for number of minimum orders in MN and forward study referenced by Jason about the cost of enforcing said orders.
2. DHS staff will continue work on statutory language for applying the SSR to both parents and present it to the task force at January meeting.
3. Jessica will send out proposed agenda for next meeting for task force's review in early January.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 30, 2018

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

Room 400S of the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN