

Child Support Task Force Minutes

November 28, 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, November 28, 2018:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beth Assell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jodie Metcalf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Peggy Scott
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rahya Iliff, Co-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shaneen Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Smith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer, by phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Laurie Pryor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria Taylor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Kontz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Rossow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sen. Melissa Wiklund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Loyd, Co-Chair, by phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rachel Sablan, by phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mia Wilson
DHS Staff:		Other Meeting Participants:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tara Borton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Raymond	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacy Sjogren, facilitator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Erickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Savage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Anderson

Welcome, Announcements and Meeting Objectives

Agenda review and introductions of the group. Task Force welcomed Beth Assell, the new representative of Minnesota Legal Services Coalition. Jimmy Loyd appeared briefly by phone to announce his resignation from the task force.

Review and approval of October 31st Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved: The October 31st meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the Child Support Task Force website.

Reminder of Task Force Purpose and Decisions to Date

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

Discussion about Terminology: Parents

The task force discussed possible alternatives to the phrases "custodial parent" and "noncustodial parent". Some members of the group expressed a preference for "obligated parent" and "non-obligated parent", while others preferred "paying parent" and "receiving parent". The group agreed to try using these terms during the meeting and will revisit the issue to identify any steps that would be appropriate for the group to take.

Self-Support Reserve Presentation, Discussion and Decision

Jessica provided brief refresher on the issue and previous decisions made, as well as a handout on action items from last meeting regarding minimum order amounts. Megan Savage provided answers to clarifying questions about the data. Megan was asked by a member of the task force to look into how much it cost Minnesota's Child Support Program to enforce these cases for fiscal year 2017. Megan will look into this issue.

Jessica presented the updated document of scenarios comparing support amounts according to the current table and current SSR, the B4 table with Amy Anderson's low income adjustment with the current SSR, and the most recent table from Amy with the SSR at 140% FPG. Jessica also discussed the impact that the SSR has upon child care and medical support obligations when the parents have equal parenting time.

Amy Anderson, Assistant Ramsey County Attorney, gave a presentation on the adjustments she made to Dr. Venohr's B4 guidelines at combined incomes of \$6,000 and below, with the SSR at 140% FPG. Amy stated that she thought the many of the issues that impact low-income families in the current guidelines are alleviated by the adjustment in the table, and increasing the SSR from 120% FPG to 140% FPG is not necessary. The group ultimately amended the statement that they voted on to whether to adopt the table as proposed by Amy Anderson with the SSR at 120% FPG as well as her minimum order amounts. The group discussed the need for Minnesota to be able to regularly update the guidelines, and one member suggested that the task force should recommend that the basic support table be updated every two years based upon the consumer price index (CPI).

Decision: A super majority of the task force voted in favor of adopting the table as proposed by Amy Anderson including her low-income adjustment, minimum order amounts and the SSR at 120% FPG, as well as providing for a biennial update of the guidelines.

Tax Adjustments Discussion

The task force voted against making an adjustment for taxes within the table. Some members would like to explore other ways to provide a tax adjustment outside of the table. Jessica will look into the other options considered by the group earlier in the year as well as what decisions on this issue have already been made.

Decision: The task force voted against making an adjustment for taxes within the table.

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 December meeting.

Wrap Up and Look Ahead

The task force identified items that still need to be decided including adjustments for 4-6 children, adjustments at high incomes, how the SSR will be applied to both parents, adjustments for nonjoint children and whether there will be an adjustment for taxes outside of the table. The task force also discussed future meetings since the legislative session will start on January 8, 2019, and the task force will expire in June of 2019, unless extended by the legislature. The task force agreed to continue to meet during the legislative session. At the next meeting, the task force will examine the issues that still need to be addressed.

Public Comment Meeting

No one signed up to give public comment.

New Action Items

1. Staff will arrange for a presentation on public assistance programs in Minnesota from subject matter experts within DHS.
2. Amy Anderson will prepare the adjusted B4 table with the SSR at 120% and adjustments for 4-6 children for the next meeting.
3. Jessica will review for past decisions already made by the task force on the tax adjustment issue.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

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

Room 10 of the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN