

Child Support Task Force Minutes

May 30, 2018

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

180 State Office Building, Room 200

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

Members Present: The following task force members were present on Wednesday, May 30, 2018:

<input type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Loyd, Co-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Mary Kiffmeyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Laurie Pryor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melinda Hugdahl	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Peggy Scott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Kontz
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jodie Metcalf	<input type="checkbox"/> Shaneen Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rachel Sablan
<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Rossow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rahya Iliff, Co-Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Melissa Wiklund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Waggoner	<input 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, alternate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Sommerfeld	<input type="checkbox"/> Jane Venohr, economist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brynn Rhodes	<input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Erickson	

Welcome:

Agenda review, introductions of the group. Announcement that Shaneen Moore is new Director of the Child Support Division at DHS and will be filling Jeff Jorgenson's vacancy on the Task Force.

Project Reflection and Reengagement:

Discussion on new perspectives members gained over time since Task Force last met as a large group.

Review and approval of January meeting minutes:

Minutes approved: The January meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the Child Support Task Force website. **Completed 5/31/2018**

Tax Adjustments Work Group: Recap and Decisions

Lisa briefly recapped the charge and work of the small group assigned to examine potential tax adjustments to the table. Jessica presented the document put together by the group that summarized the five options that were explored. The options were: 1. An adjustment for taxes in the table; 2. An adjustment for taxes in the worksheet; 3. Deviation factor; 4. Standardized net income approach; 5 Low-income adjustment.

Task Force discussed pros and cons of the five options and identified questions for Dr. Venohr. The Task Force decided to remove two options and did a "dot vote" on the remaining options.

Decision: Group will not pursue options # 3 (deviation factor) or #5 (low-income adjustment) as the method to adjust for taxes.

Self-Support Reserve and Low Income Adjustments Work Group: Recap and Decisions

Tara gave a presentation on the Self-Support Reserve. Group discussed Dr. Venohr's briefing on the SSR and briefly discussed potential pros and cons regarding increasing the SSR from 120% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines as well as applying the SSR to both parties' incomes. Group also identified questions for Dr. Venohr.

Wrap Up and Look Ahead

Proposal to move September meeting to October 4 in St. Cloud to take advantage of the Dr. Venohr's visit to the state.

Public Comment

Four audience members provided public comments.

1. Diane
 - Preference for net income to calculate support, and to make tax adjustment in the worksheet
 - Table needs to be adjusted for incomes at \$2000 and below
2. Molly
 - Task Force members are not financial experts
 - Term "non-custodial parent" is offensive
 - Concern that table is too high and carries negative consequences for obligors
3. Amy
 - Clarification on what Dr. Venohr's tax adjustment actually adjusts for
 - Table needs to be adjusted for low incomes
 - Tax laws and an individual's taxes are highly variable
 - SSR requires adjustment from the current way it operates, particularly for cases at incomes just above it
4. Michael
 - Work groups were not productive
 - Child support enforcement has real-life consequences
 - Objection to Task Force's choice of economist
 - Importance of transparency

New Action Items

1. Jessica will send out complete Tax Assumption brief from Dr. Venohr after the meeting.
2. Jessica will contact Dr. Venohr about attending the October 4th meeting in St. Cloud.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Room 10

State Office Building, St. Paul, MN.