

Child Support Task Force Minutes

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

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

Room 300N, State Office Building

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

Members Present: The following task force members were present on Wednesday, November 30, 2016:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Loyd, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Melissa Wiklund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Mary Kiffmeyer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative JoAnn Ward	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Peggy Scott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tammie Campbell
<input type="checkbox"/> Laura Vang	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey Jorgenson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Rossow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Kontz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jodie Metcalf
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melinda Hugdahl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Waggoner	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Rep. (vacant)

Other Meeting Participants: Charlie Petersen, facilitator

DHS Staff: Julie Erickson, Brynn Rhodes, Tara Borton, Elizabeth Rusinak Mowers

Other Attendees: Rebecca Radcliffe, DHS; Callie Lehman (for Representative Scott)

1) Welcome: Agenda review and introductions of the group

2) Review of October meeting minutes:

- Minutes approved:
 - The October meeting minutes were approved with one minor edit from Melinda Hugdahl regarding the public comment time. The draft of the October minutes indicated that the agenda for each upcoming meeting would indicate the time allotted for public comment *as well as the amount of time each person would be given to speak*. Melinda pointed out that it was only ever the intention to post the total amount of time allotted for public comment and then that would be divided at the meeting by however many people wish to speak, but not divided prior to the meeting in the agenda. This will be corrected in the final October minutes and will be posted on the public Child Support Task Force [website](#).
- Consensus defined:
 - Charlie also wanted to note that the minutes reflect comments made by Molly Olson regarding the use of the word “consensus” in our ground rules for decision-making. He would like to change the ground rules slightly to indicate the decision-making process of the group will be by consensus with a defined vote as necessary. The group agreed to these changes.

3) Updates

- Action Items:
 - There will be a new standing agenda item called “Action Items” that will allow for follow-up on any action items that may have been assigned at the previous meeting.
 - Elizabeth gave an update on three action items assigned from the October meeting:
 - **The Request for Proposal (RFP) language**
 - reviewed in a later agenda item
 - **The Tennesen Warning**
 - The question came up in the October meeting whether the audio recordings retained by DHS would require that the group be given a Tennesen warning. Based on the research Elizabeth conducted and discussed with her colleagues, it was agreed that because the meetings are public, no Tennesen warning is required.
 - **Consultation with the Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council**
 - Elizabeth and Julie met with Antonia Wilcoxon from the Council to learn more about the work of the council, describe the work of the Task Force and generally decide how best to have the Task Force consult with the Council.
 - The Council meets on a monthly basis, and their meeting dates are posted on their [website](#). Their meetings are open to the public, so anyone from the Task Force may attend if they would like. Antonia particularly invited the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Task Force to attend an upcoming meeting to get more insight into the work of the Council and the best way for consultation between the two groups to take place in the future.
- Tribal Representative:
 - Jason Smith asked for an update on where we are with having a Tribal Representative join our meetings since we’re already on our third meeting now and have not had one appointed.
 - Elizabeth or Tara will attend the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council meeting on Friday, December 2nd where there is a Resolution submitted recommending the appointment of Rachel Sablan to the Task Force, with Raegan Hendrickson as an alternate.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Elizabeth follow-up with Rachel to see how to ensure she is at the next meeting. Elizabeth will look into the possibility/necessity of telephoning into the meeting if distance is a factor in attendance.

4) Presentation of the RFP process

- Rebecca Radcliffe, DHS
 - Rebecca presented a PowerPoint summary of the RFP process.
 - The PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the Task Force website.

5) Discussion of RFP and contracts: Prior to the November meeting, Elizabeth emailed a description of the RFP process and short-term contract (mini white-paper) options. The group discussed the goals of each and what they would like to get out of them and decided to move forward with both the RFP process and the short-term contracts with Dr. Comanor and Dr. Venohr as previously described.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Elizabeth will start the RFP and short-term contract process immediately.

6) Road map—future meetings: As the group waits on the RFP and short-term contracts to get started, the question came up as to how best to use the meetings in the meantime. The group discussed the next several meetings, whether to leave them all on the schedule as is, and what should be covered at those meetings. The group decided they would like all the meetings to remain on the calendar as is, and sketched the following outline for meeting topics:

- **December 21** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Follow-up from November's meeting
 - Elizabeth's presentation on the seven priority areas, the terminology and issues that came up for the workgroup within each of them
- **January 25** (perhaps a full day meeting to get two presentations done?)
 - Detailed presentation/discussion on **issues #1 and #7**: what is the self-support reserve?; how does it interact with the grid?; how is it calculated; what are the issues (from attorney point of view?; Advocate point of view?; DHS point of view?; Parent point of view?)
 - Detailed presentation/discussion regarding **issue #5**: extended family care givers and foster families and the issues of calculating/ collecting/distributing child support
- **February 22**
 - Detailed presentation/discussion regarding **issues with #'s 2, 3 and 4**: the calculations and issues for parents with multiple families (including obligor with simultaneous orders, orders in multiple counties, and birth order)
 - Possible presentation and discussion with Dr. Comanor on his report
- **March 29**
 - Possible Presentation and discussion with Dr. Venohr on her report
- **April 26**
 - Continued Discussion of the reports
 - How to use the information in the reports to inform the process moving forward

7) Educational presentations:

- Tara Borton and Brynn Rhodes from DHS provided an overview of how to make a base child support calculation.

- Missy Rossow and Lisa Kontz provided examples of some of the complicating factors that go into calculating base child support at varying income levels for each parent.
- Elizabeth Rusinak Mowers was going to present on the seven priority areas from the statute but we ran out of time. Elizabeth will present her portion at the December meeting.

8) Public Comments:

- There were four members of the audience who gave public comments to the group.
 - Ken Schlegel representing himself as a Non-custodial parent
 - Jeff Ahman representing himself as a Non-custodial parent
 - Dan Reeves representing himself as a Non-custodial parent
 - Marie Koenig representing her partner, brother, and best friend; all of whom are Non-custodial parents

9) **Next steps:** The group will meet again in December for another half-day meeting. In the meantime, the Task Force members were given the suggested homework of familiarizing themselves with the online [Child Support Calculator](#) and seeing what plugging in different incomes and fact scenarios for the two parents reveals.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting will be held on December 21st, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 10 of the State Office Building.