

Child Support Task Force Minutes

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

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

Room 10, 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, December 21, 2016:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Loyd, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Melissa Wiklund	<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Mary Kiffmeyer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative JoAnn Ward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Peggy Scott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tammie Campbell (via phone)
<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 type="checkbox"/> Melinda Hugdahl	<input type="checkbox"/> Pamela Waggoner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rachel Sablan

Other Meeting Participants: Charlie Petersen, facilitator; Anna Andow, alternate for Melinda Hugdahl

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

Other Attendees: N/A

1) Welcome: Agenda review and introductions of the group

2) Review of November meeting minutes:

- Minutes approved:
 - The November meeting [minutes](#) were approved and will be posted on the Child Support Task Force [website](#).
- Action Items:
 - Elizabeth provided updates on two action items from the November meeting.
 - 1) First, Elizabeth followed up with the official appointment of a Tribal Representative to the Task Force, and introduced Rachel Sablan as the newest Task Force member. Rachel is the Director of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's IV-D program.
 - 2) Second, Elizabeth updated the group on the RFP and short term contracts—the process for getting all three started has begun.

3) Updates

- Public Comment Procedure:

- After discussion with the Chair and Vice-Chair, Charlie created and handed out new procedures for public comment time. The updated procedures will be available on the Child Support Task Force website.
- The group agreed that any future public comments that Elizabeth receives in writing will be collected on a monthly basis and forwarded to each member of the Task Force via email two weeks before the next upcoming meeting.
- There are still a few questions the group needs to resolve regarding public comments submitted in writing:
 - 1) Whether the public comments received in writing should be posted to the website as well?
 - There was some discussion on this topic as to whether posting the comments to the website would provide a clearer level of transparency, or whether it might hinder someone who could otherwise provide helpful information to the group from leaving a comment
 - 2) If they are going to be posted on the website, what is the best method of communicating that information to anyone leaving public comment?
 - It was suggested that it be posted on the website as well as stated at the meetings
 - 3) Whether to identify commenters by first name only, or require the commenter's first and last name in order to submit public comment?
 - There was concern that requiring a commenter's first and last name, particularly if the comments are to be made public online, would hinder some from providing information that could be helpful to the group. This was particularly of concern if the commenter fears retribution from the other parent for making comments to the group.

4) Questions from the November presentations and calculator homework

The group was given the opportunity to ask questions they may have had from the previous meeting's presentations as well as to discuss their experience trying out the online calculator at home.

- The general feeling was that it was helpful to see how it is used and the very different outcomes that can happen based on a particular set of circumstances. The group wanted to know if there would also be a calculator available with the new PEA structure. Tara Borton from DHS indicated that the new calculator is being developed, but would be a while before it is available for use.

5) Key components of the Seven Priority issues from legislation Elizabeth Rusinak

Mowers presented on the Seven Priority issues that were enumerated in the Task Force legislation and the questions that came up in each area.

6) Overview of Child Support IV-D Program Elizabeth Rusinak Mowers from DHS presented an overview of the Minnesota Child Support Division and Federal IV-D programs. Throughout the presentation there was a significant amount of discussion regarding the program's funding and whom it serves.

- **ACTION ITEM:** There was a question raised regarding the basis for the Federal funding to Minnesota's IV-D program including Federal incentives and performance measures. Elizabeth and DHS staff will research and report back to the group.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Elizabeth will post the Child Support Fact Sheet to the website with information on the number families served and what percentage receive Public Assistance.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Elizabeth and DHS staff will provide the group with a list of fees charged for IV-D program services, including interest rates.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Elizabeth and DHS staff will research who the IV-D program shares information with as well as whether any audit trails are created when the information is accessed and the method for tracking who has accessed that information.

7) Public Comments:

- There were five members of the audience who gave public comments to the group:
 - Sara Lueben representing the Northpoint Health and Wellness Center
 - Manu Lewis representing himself as a non-custodial parent
 - Molly Olson representing herself as the Founder of the Center for Parental Responsibility
 - Ken Slagle representing himself as a non –custodial parent
 - Rose McCullough representing the Northpoint Health and Wellness Center's Co-Parenting program

8) Next steps: The group will meet again in January and continue with the plan to prioritize discussion of issues #1 (the Self-Support Reserve) and #7 (the guidelines). The Chair and Vice-chair will meet to put together the agenda and decide the length and content of the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Next Meeting will be held on January 25th, in room 300N of the State Office Building.