

Child Support Task Force Work Group # 1 Minutes

April 16, 2018

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Rondo Community Library, Teen Programming Room
461 N. Dale St., Saint Paul, MN 55104

Members Present: The following task force work group members were present on Monday, April 16, 2018:

<input type="checkbox"/> Melinda Hugdahl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Loyd
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rahya Iliff	<input type="checkbox"/> Melissa Rossow
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Mary Kiffmeyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Waggoner

DHS Staff:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tara Borton	<input type="checkbox"/> Brynn Rhodes
<input type="checkbox"/> Julie Erickson	<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Sommerfeld
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Raymond	

Welcome, Announcements and Updates:

Introductions of the group.

Member who could not attend the meeting sent an email about her concern that before Task Force can properly evaluate the Self-Support Reserve, the table itself needs to be completed and adjustments for low incomes within the table should be considered. Other members agreed that they would like to explore how other states make adjustments for low income within their basic support tables. DHS will follow up with Dr. Venohr.

DHS presented handout on research on Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) and other states' approaches to the SSR.

Discussion about SSR and Dr. Venohr's Brief:

Group discussed Dr. Venohr's brief on low-income adjustments and generally found that it focused too much on the issue of imputation of income, a topic that this group is not necessarily assigned to address. DHS stated that it can follow up with Dr. Venohr about questions members may have, or directions that the group would prefer Dr. Venohr to take her work on the issue of low-income adjustments.

Group continued the discussion from the last meeting about the SSR, particularly whether the group should recommend to the whole Task Force that an SSR be applied to both parties' income. Group was generally in favor of providing an SSR for both parties and discussed the following:

- When the SSR should be applied—upfront or at the end? Group concluded it would probably not make a difference.

- Would child support be included in CP's income when applying the SSR? Would this even be possible to implement?
- Applying SSR to both parties would change the distribution of the PICS. This would affect how medical support and child care support is allocated.
- Advantage to implementing SSR for both parties is that it creates parity and recognizes that each person has to meet their own basic needs. Disadvantage is that support amounts would be lowered and CPs may object.

Group generally in agreement that the SSR should be increased from 120% of FPG. Group discussed the impact of increasing the SSR to 165% of FPG and ran some numbers through the calculator with that in mind.

Group discussed the Parenting Expense Adjustment (PEA) that will go into effect in August of this year and how the change will hopefully more accurately reflect the fact that the more parenting time a person has, the more money they are expending during that time.

Next Steps

Group decided to have another meeting before the large group reconvenes on May 30, 2018, as two of the small group meetings were cancelled due to the weather. DHS reserved a space on Monday, April 30th, from 5:50pm to 7:30pm, but this date did not work for the members present at the meeting. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th, from 5:30p to 7:30pm. DHS will find a location for the meeting as soon as possible.

New Action Items

1. DHS Staff to follow up with Dr. Venohr about adjusting for low incomes within the table.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location to be determined

St. Paul, MN