

Child Support Task Force Minutes

June 27, 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, June 27, 2018:

<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Peggy Scott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Kontz
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jodie Metcalf	<input type="checkbox"/> Shanean Moore	<input type="checkbox"/> Rachel Sablan
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mia Wilson

DHS Staff:

Other Meeting Participants:

<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Sommerfeld	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Venohr, economist
<input type="checkbox"/> Brynn Rhodes	<input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Erickson	

Welcome, Announcements and Meeting Objectives:

Agenda review, introductions of the group. Announcement that Pamela Waggoner is retiring and Victoria Taylor will be taking over the role of the representative from the Family Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association on the Task Force.

Review and approval of May Meeting Minutes:

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

Reminder of Task Force Purpose and Decisions to Date

Jimmy went over the most recent version of the visual guide of the Task Force's decisions surrounding the update of the basic support table. Task Force suggested that it would be helpful to include the chart that describes the nature of decisions in more detail on the flip side of the guide. Jessica to complete this for July.

Review and Discussion of Facilitator's Proposed Process Changes

Stacy provided a summary of the feedback gathered from the survey that she sent to members of the Task Force and proposed some new ground rules to keep the group on track. One of the parent members inquired about the possibility of appointing an alternate in the event that a parent is unable to attend. DHS will look into whether parents would be able to have designated alternates.

Discussion with Dr. Venohr

Dr. Venohr appeared via phone to discuss her memorandum prepared in response to questions that emerged from the last meeting regarding tax adjustment and Self-Support Reserve/low-income adjustment options.

Discussion of Tax Assumptions, Self-Support Reserve and other Low Income Adjustments

After discussing the various options, the Task Force was not ready to vote on either the tax adjustment options or the options regarding the Self-Support Reserve. During their discussion, the Task Force invited Assistant

Ramsey County Attorney, Amy Anderson, who had previously given a presentation to the group, to discuss issues relating to support obligations for combined incomes of \$5,000 and lower on both the current basic support table and the updated support table from Dr. Venohr. The Task Force requested to see Amy Anderson's proposed basic support table, (using the updated numbers from Dr. Venohr, possibly the B2 column), with an adjustment within the table for incomes at \$5,000 and lower, at the next meeting. The Task Force agreed that they would wait to apply the current SSR to the basic support table with the proposed low-income adjustment and then determine if SSR needs to be increased and if so, by what percentage. The Task Force also agreed that they could decide at that time if an additional adjustment for taxes would be appropriate.

The parents on the Task Force expressed frustration that the work being done by the group has been too focused on issues related to the economic models and data of the basic support table. The parents expressed the desire to focus on the overarching goals and values of the Task Force. Group identified the following shared goals and values that should guide the work:

- Child-Focused
- Recognition of the Existence of Two Households
- Simple
- Transparent
- Equitable
- Reduce Conflict and Litigation

Wrap Up and Look Ahead

The next meeting will focus on the issue of an adjustment for low-incomes within the table and how it interacts with the SSR at various percentages. The Task Force will also discuss if the SSR should apply to both parties and whether a tax adjustment is appropriate.

Public Comment

Two audience members provided public comments.

1. Diane
 - Advocated for an accurate tax adjustment in calculating support, not relying on deviation factor
 - Recommended a maximum child support amount
 - Recommended that the Task Force revisit Dr. Comanor's report re: USDA data
2. Michael
 - Appreciated that the Task Force identified common values and goals during the meeting
 - Urged Task Force to use this opportunity to improve child support system and make it less adversarial

New Action Items

1. Jessica to updated visual guide with chart that provides more information about decisions to be made.
2. DHS to look into whether Task Force parent members may have alternates.
3. DHS to work with Amy Anderson on the adjustment to the basic support table at combined incomes of \$5,000 and below.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, July 25, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Room 10

State Office Building, St. Paul, MN.