

# Child Support Task Force Minutes

August 29, 2018

9:30 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, August 29, 2018:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rachele Drakeford, MCAA alternate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Kontz, by phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Laurie Pryor	<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Smith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melinda Hugdahl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Loyd, Co-Chair, by phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Rossow, by phone (voting cast by MCAA alternate)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria Taylor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rahya Iliff, Co-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jodie Metcalf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rachel Sablan, by phone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sen. Melissa Wklund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shaneen Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Peggy Scott	<input type="checkbox"/> Mia Wilson

## DHS Staff:

Tara Borton

Julie Erickson

Jessica Raymond

## Other Meeting Participants:

Stacy Sjogren, facilitator

Amy Anderson

## Welcome, Announcements and Meeting Objectives

Agenda review and introductions of the group. Welcome to Victoria Taylor, the new representative of the Minnesota State Bar Association-Family Law Section, and Rachele Drakeford, new MCAA alternate. Melinda Hugdahl announced her resignation from the task force.

## Review and approval of June Meeting Minutes

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

## Reminder of Task Force Purpose and Decisions to Date

Jodie went over the most recent version of the visual guide of the task force's decisions surrounding the update of the basic support table.

## Group Process and Logistics Update

The group confirmed that the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting will be moved to October 4<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud, where Dr. Venohr will attend. The meeting will be held from 10:30am to 2:30pm in the Mississippi room of the Great River Regional Library, located at 1300 W. St. Germain St, St. Cloud, MN.

Jessica provided an update that DHS staff is still waiting for confirmation from legal counsel as to appointment process for parent member alternates. Jessica will send an email to the group as soon as she receives the information.

## Low Income Adjustment Presentation, Discussion and Decision

Amy Anderson, Assistant Ramsey County Attorney, gave presentation on the adjustments she made to Dr. Venohr's B4 guidelines at combined incomes of \$5400 and below. Presentation identified issues for low-incomes that occur in the both current table and the B4 table, described how the low income adjustment was made and set out factors that remain to be determined by task force to complete the table. The group also went through a few examples of scenarios that compared guideline support amounts from the current table and the new table with the proposed low-income adjustment. The group asked clarifying questions and ultimately voted on whether or not they approve of making a low-income adjustment in the table.

**Decision:** Task force unanimously in favor of adjusting support amounts within the table at low-incomes.

## Self-Support Reserve Presentation, Discussion and Decision

Jessica provided information on the self-support reserve (SSR) and how it currently is applied in Minnesota, (only to the obligated parent's income and in the amount of 120% of federal poverty guidelines). Jessica also went over handout prepared by DHS on applying the SSR to both parents. The group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the options outlined, and the majority favored the idea of applying the SSR to both parents, but were not in agreement on how this should be implemented. The task force will need to discuss further, however, a vote was held on the threshold issue of whether to recommend providing SSR for both parents. Group was not ready to vote on whether the SSR should be changed from 120% of the federal poverty guidelines.

**Decision:** Majority of the task force voted in favor of providing SSR for both parents.

## Tax Adjustment Discussion

The group asked Amy Anderson about the need for an additional tax adjustment. She stated that if the guidelines are adjusted at low-incomes, it is not necessary to make any additional adjustments for taxes as incomes above the low-income range tend not to experience the problem of not being able to afford taxes and guideline support. Amy agreed to provide additional information on this, which Jessica will forward to the group. The task force was not ready to make a decision on the tax adjustment issue.

## Wrap Up and Look Ahead

The group identified areas that they would like more information about for the next meeting. The group will be able to discuss the remaining items that need to be decided to complete the basic support table, in addition to options for the applying the SSR to both parents, with Dr. Venohr at the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Public Comment

1. Diane
  - Current guidelines have also been adjusted at low-incomes
  - Net income should be used, not gross income
  - Discussed USDA estimates
2. Scott
  - Table should not be extended past \$15,000
  - Discussed own child support obligation and expressed concern about applying SSR to both parents

## **New Action Items**

- 1.** Jessica will forward information about parent alternates as well as the document the task force requested from Amy Anderson.
- 2.** DHS will gather information on identified issues for next meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 1:00 p.m.

## **Next Meeting**

Thursday, October 4, 2018 from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Mississippi Room

Great River Regional Library

1300 W St. Germain St.

St. Cloud, MN