

Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting

March 8, 2022 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)

WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present via WebEx/phone:

Darryl Apperton, Maggie Bennett, Trent Cameron, Howard Feldman (attempted to log in but could not get in), Juanita Sanders (for Secretary Grace Hou), Elizabeth Lingle, Samuel Williams Jr. & Turyia Clay (for The Honorable Iris Y. Martinez), The Honorable Sidney Mathias, Nicole McKinnon, The Honorable Alana I. Mejias, Jessica Patchik, Christine Raffaele, Richard Zuckerman

Committee Members Absent:

Maria Barlow, The Honorable La Shawn Ford, Geraldine Franco, Dr. Kirk Harris, Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, Christina Mahoney, Phillip Mohr, Vickie Smith

HFS Staff Present:

Bryan Tribble, Gina Hemphill, Daun Perino, Irene Curran, Hilary Johns Felton, Sharon Shapiro, Kim Rossini, Eric Watson, Melissa Batty, Allen Nosler & Steve Sharer

Public Guests:

Rodney Hodge

- **Welcome to CSAC members – Richard Zuckerman**
 - Roll call of committee members
 - Introduction of state employees and members of the public
 - All committee members, attendees and members of the public were asked to announce their name before speaking, use the raise hand feature when needed, use the chat feature when needed and to mute their phone if they are not speaking.
 - Approval of January 25, 2022 meeting notes.
Motion made and seconded to approve as submitted.

- **Legislation – Richard Zuckerman**

The info that is listed on the agenda is really all there is to report. SB3036 & HB4423 are still alive. SB3036 proposes child support be secured by life insurance and addresses contemplation of future events in modification hearings & HB4423 proposes to increase TANF grant amounts and end of pass-through requirements.

- **Quadrennial Review Discussion – Bryan Tribble**
 - **Report of Public Input Subcommittee – Bryan Tribble**

We did a series of town halls. We did our first one in January with HFS staff doing a dry run. We then held town halls on 2/9 & 2/16 for the Springfield Regional Office area and 2/23 & 3/2 for the Marion Regional Office area. We will be holding another one tomorrow for the Belleville Regional area. Bryan extended a thank you to Elizabeth Lingle, Jeremiah Stephan, Kimberly Rossini, Maggie

Bennett, and Jessica Patchik. They have acted as panelists and moderators. We have been finding our way. We are kind of doing this backward. We are trying to come away with actionable items. We are not reaching everyone that we could. We are planning to send out email blasts to customers to see if we can get more participation. We have had 15 to 20 attend each town hall session. We need a broader perspective. We need to hear more from parents that are receiving support. We are mostly hearing from parents paying support. We need to hear from both sides. Largely Income Shares has been successful. When it comes to equity, we need to make sure that we have it across the board.

Those that are participating in the town hall meetings are trying to share with us regarding incarcerated parents, shared parenting, over nights and how they play into the system.

Maggie stated that everyone has been helpful and that it has been working. There is one man that comes to a lot of the meetings. He feels that the income shares is fair. We need to continue to make sure that there is transparency. There isn't much wrong with the statute. There are not a lot of people calling in because it is fair and equitable. We have happier families. Overall, there has been improvement.

Liz Lingle stated that of those that were updated, there was a theme of people wanting 50% custody of their children. It was explained that parenting time is an entirely different discussion. There was one that proposed that we go back to the old percentage method. It is difficult week after week hearing of things that we understand but can't do anything about. We have not seen a call to change income shares. It was stated that maybe support should stop upon incarceration. Overall people are pleased with Income Shares.

Jessica Patchik stated that she was not at the last session but over the last few weeks was able to pose questions back to the public. They then seem to think that it is fair. We explained how we handle blended families. Many agree with what we have now. Bryan agreed that it is better now because we are explaining how things work. There was a lack of comprehending how it works.

Maggie mentioned incarceration. Suggested that at intake they receive forms to fill out. There is something that allows you to notify them that you are going to be filing for divorce. It is like a mini petition. The suspension of support while incarcerated. It may be a short-term solution.

Bryan stated that this is a general summary of the first five town hall meetings. He suggested that everyone come to the town halls that will be held on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30. We will have another pre meeting to choose speakers for the next town hall. Liz said that she can help. Jessica and Maggie are not able to be there. Trent can help. Missy Batty stated that we only have nine registered at this time, but we will get more later. Richard Zuckerman wants to encourage CSAC members to attend at least one town hall meeting. We have not needed to rely on experts much. Overall, the only disappointment has been the lack of attendees.

Christine Raffaele stated that they put it out there for all their people and programs on recipient site to get more people to attend. She will reach out again. Irene Curran stated that the field offices are using their connections to get more people to participate.

Irene and Daun Perino will moderate the chat in tomorrow's town hall. Christine Raffaele will do tomorrow's town hall. Bryan stated that they will run through June and that there are plenty of times to get involved. We hope that outreach can get more families involved that are affected by income shares. Bryan asked for suggestions of how to get more participants to join the town halls. Turyia Clay asked if this was for IV-D or non-IV-D. Bryan stated that it is for both. She said that if there was a flyer, they could pass them out. Bryan asked Eric Watson to forward our info to Turyia and Samuel Williams. Darrell Apperton stated that they talked about other judges and outreach. Eric Watson stated that we have not done that. We touched on it but are not sure who. Daun Perino can help with a list of Circuit Clerks. Richard suggested that we start with Chief Judges. Maggie suggested that it may be helpful to have a town hall with the Clerks of the Circuit Court Association present to explain how things are going. It is important to reach out to them. Christine Towles works with outreach and will contact someone from the Clerks of the Circuit Court Association. Irene Curran suggested that Family Law Judges may better understand. She also mentioned the Bar Association and asked Richard what he thought. In regard to Chief Judges vs Family Law Judges, Richard suggested sending it to both. As for the Bar Association, some downstate Bar Associations don't have regular meetings or direct communication with their members. It may be a good idea to put something in the newsletter. Anything we could do would help. Maggie mentioned Land of Lincoln legal representatives. Alana Mejias, St. Clair County presiding judge is sending info to the Chief Judges. Bryan thanked everyone for helping out. Trent Cameron stated that there are banners on the HFS website. He suggested that we put a banner that shows the upcoming town halls on the child support calculator. It would be nice for it to be there for everyone to see. Many parties use the calculator on their own too. This may hit a lot of people. Bryan asked Steve Sharer to explore what we can do with the landing page and the calc screen. Jessica stated that if HFS can rely on legal reps' outreach to the judiciary is big. It may be nice coming from attorneys. If all legal reps would get involved, it would help. Bryan asked Daun Perino if we have asked the legal reps to get involved. Daun stated that we have asked them to share with the legal reps and the judiciary as well as clients in their court rooms. Bryan suggested that people may be waiting until it gets closer and that we could send something out the week prior to the town halls. Resending the message periodically may be helpful as a reminder of the upcoming meetings. Darrell agrees that putting the banner out there would be a great idea because they use it every day. Kimberly Rossini suggests that we should not wait for the meeting to come up. We should share as much as we can now. Christine Raffaele has been sharing as she goes. She has reached as many as 900 throughout the state. They also put it in their newsletter. They are hitting their membership, not just by region. Eric suggested that we may want to put these regions on the website for all town hall meetings. If we are going to add a banner that stays up, they can register

from there. We could add finalizing facts and some Q & A that we have. Bryan asked if Liz or Kimberly would be able to get a list of Chief Judges & Presiding Judges over family law. Liz responded yes. Irene suggested our legal partners get this info for us. Bryan said that once we get the list it can be coordinated with Eric to get that message out.

Bryan shared a sample for town hall meeting notes. He asked that we take a quick look at the formatting. He asked for opinions on how the notes are done. Maggie responded that they are well done and easy to understand. It captures the essence of what was said. Sidney Mathias stated that he could understand what happened at the town halls even when he was not there. Richard stated that it was a nice summary and that the notes will come in handy when we decide what needs to be in our report. It will be nice to have this when doing the process. Bryan extended a thank you to the committee and stated that we will go ahead and get the rest transcribed and go from there. This is the end of the subcommittee and town hall portion of this meeting.

➤ **Center for Policy Research Review – Steve Sharer**

Steve stated that this was delayed. We were late getting it done. We have been working with Dr. Jane Venohr from the Center of Policy Research. She sent a data wish list. This was found to be helpful in past quadrennial reviews. Brian Frank researched and sent info/report to Dr. Venohr. The committee along with Brian Frank, Steve Sharer and Dr. Venohr have about 10K cases for them to review. Maggie stated that it was felt that there isn't enough info at that level. We may want to consider that at high level the higher are inaccurate. We may want to look at that. Richard stated that our statute goes up to 500K. We should look at higher amounts. Maggie stated that some info is inaccurate and that if we go to 25K per month it would help. We do not have accurate data. Richard asked if there are any other comments regarding the quadrennial review. There were no additional comments.

• **Old/New Business**

➤ **Old Business:**

No old business

➤ **New Business:**

No new business

• **Public Comments:**

No comment

• **Meeting Adjourned**

Motion made and seconded to adjourn