

Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting

May 21st 2024, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present via WebEx/Phone:

Darryl Apperton, The Honorable Grace Dickler, Howard Feldman, Geraldine Franco, Dr. Kirk Harris, Juanita Sanders (for Secretary Dulce Quintero), Elizabeth Lingle, Turyia Clay and Samuel Williams (for The Honorable Iris Y. Martinez), The Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, Jessica Patchik, Christine Raffaele, The Honorable Judge Regina Scannicchio, Chlece Walker-Neal-Murray, Richard Zuckerman, Chair

Committee Members Absent:

Maggie Bennett, Trent Cameron, The Honorable La Shawn Ford, Niya Kelly, Christina Mahoney, Nicole McKinnon, The Honorable Judge Alana Mejias, Phillip Mohr, Vickie Smith, The Honorable Judge Alicia Washington,

HFS Staff Present:

Patricia Dulin, Hilary Johns, Celeste Kannall, Allen Nosler, Sharon Shapiro, Steve Sharer, Christine Towles, Bryan Tribble, Eric Watson, Kathy Witherell (IDHS)

Public Guests:

None

- **Welcome CSAC members** - Richard Zuckerman
- **Roll Call of Committee Members** - Richard Zuckerman
 - Roll call of CSAC Members
 - Introduction of state employees present at the meeting.
- **Approval of the February 20, 2024 meeting notes** - Richard Zuckerman
 - Motion to approve, seconded, passed unanimously.
- **FFY2023 CSS Performance** - Bryan Tribble
 - Five Performance Metrics that Child Support Services are rated on:
 - Rate of establishing parentage.
 - FFY23 was the all-time highest percentage at 95%.
 - Order establishment rate.
 - 3rd highest percentage in the history of the program at just over 85%.
 - Collection rate on current support.
 - Nearly 64% which is the all-time highest in the history of the program.
 - Collection rate on past due support.
 - This was over 62%, the 3rd highest in the history of the program.
 - Overall cost-effectiveness.
 - Going down but is expected as we are in the process of investing in a modernization project and we brought the other metrics up.

- **Legislation - Richard Zuckerman**
 - DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Bill
House Bills 4147, 4163 and 4322 are dead.
 - Senate Bills 1278, 2961, and 3078 are dead.
 - House Bills 4314 and 4452 are dead.
 - Senate Bill 3284-Passed through the House and is on 3rd reading in the Senate
 - 3 child support changes made:
 - Adds criteria for determining child support.
 - If a parent is unemployed or underemployed, it allows a court to impute income to a party only upon conducting an evidentiary hearing or by agreement of the parties.
 - Provides any incarceration shall not be considered voluntary.
 - House Bill 4404-Cohabitants Remedies Bill-Made it through the House 66 to 33 then once in the Senate it was assigned to Assignments and has languished there ever since. Will not be a concern for us at this time.
 - Senate Bill 3367-Bryan explained that there is a body of research that has come out over the last 5 to 7 years regarding foster care and child support. Historically the practice has been that when foster care agencies become involved, they reflexively make the referral to child support to begin the process of collecting money that is then retained by the State. It is essentially pulling money out of a household that is already struggling. Extreme poverty is one of the commonalities of foster care involved families. What they found is by pulling that money away from the family, it was leading to detrimental impacts on the child and family. It was increasing the time the child stayed in foster care by up to one year. It also led to parents not being able to regain custody. The research, from a cost effectiveness standpoint, for a regular case the return on investment for every dollar the government invests into child support is between 4 and 5 dollars and on a foster care case for every dollar of State and Federal money that's invested there is a return of 30 cents.
Due to this, they were able to make a fiscal and a results-driven case. The direction Illinois is moving in will no longer be to refer a case to the child support agency to begin collections against one or both of the parents unless the determination has been made that the goal for the child is no longer reunification. This means it will keep more money in the household, which will allow the family to address the underlying reason of why foster care became involved. The Bill has passed both chambers and is on its way to the Governor's office for approval.
 - House Bill 4351 would amend the Code of Civil Procedure. Any person who is licensed or registered as of 2004 as a private detective, private alarm, private security, fingerprint, or locksmith would be able to serve the process. One service of process to be utilized statewide instead of by county. The only difference is in counties over 3 million, the person performing the duty will need to pay the sheriff's office a \$5 service fee. This Bill has passed both chambers.

- **Subcommittee Reports**

- Imputation of Income - Jessica Patchik
 - Senate Bill 3284 discussed above.
- Incarcerated Obligor - Jessica Patchik
 - Circulated a draft for proposed language as to how to handle an incarcerated parent with a support obligation. Motion was made to approve the proposal put forth by the incarcerated parent subcommittee. Motion seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Shared Parenting - Howard Feldman
 - Reviewing different states approach to the calculation of child support. Commonly referred to as the cliff. Everyone on the committee seemed to like the Maryland model. We have to legislatively change the process we have and the support calculation. To assist us in coming to a resolution, the Department has agreed to let us use the services of Dr. Venohr. The next step is to get Dr. Venohr involved and to find out how we need to change the language.
- Self-Support Reserve and Minimum Child Support Orders - Dr. Kirk Harris & Elizabeth Lingle
 - The subcommittee developed a baseline as there are some people who don't do income shares calculations. The goal is to compare the child support amounts that would be ordered under the current methodology and look at what it takes for a non-custodial payor parent to subsist. There are two different tables on the ALICE website, subsistence and stability. This gives us a statewide average of the amount of money a person needs to subsist or save money to get ahead. Then we will compare.

- **Implementation of Legislation in CY2024**

- [PA-102-1115](#): Full Pass Through of Child Support - Allen Nosler
 - Looking for it to be implemented July 1st.
- [PA-103-0343](#): New Hire Reporting for Private Contractors - Christina Mahoney & Bryan Tribble
 - Went into effect January 1st and is in full production. Just passed the first quarter and is starting off slowly, but is beginning to uptick. We are going to continue outreach efforts and focus on large employers. We have also partnered with large human resource agencies to get the message out.
- [PA-103-0356](#): Family Resource Connections (FRC) -Eric Watson
 - This has to do with the pilot program and is focused on parents and arrearage. This pilot is leading us towards reimagining or transforming services. It is not just employment; we are looking

into behavioral health. We are connecting parents to other services and being aggressive at establishing relationships with other organizations such as domestic violence, substance abuse, etc. We are introducing new palm cards into the court room to help new parents entering into the system. In an attempt to make things less confusing, we are working to simplify language and forms.

Note: Chair Zuckerman stated that PA-102-1115 and PA-103-0343 can be removed from the next agenda.

- **Family Advisory Council for Engagement (FACE)** - Eric Watson & Dr. Kirk Harris
 - We foresee this committee networking and working with CSAC. We are currently trying to sort through as this is new to Illinois; we are working through the details of paying members a stipend. All our efforts are towards early education and taking out the confusion of the process. We are focused on family support, not just child support.

- **Recognition and thank you** - Bryan Tribble
 - Vickie Smith is retiring at the end of this month, and she will also be stepping down from CSAC. She wasn't able to join us today, but we wanted to recognize her and her contributions to the Child Support and Family Support community.

- **One Net Training Reminder** - Celeste Kannall
 - Everything is setup for you to be able to take your One Net training's that are required annually. You can access the trainings at onenettraining.illinois.gov. Please reach out to me if you need help.

- **Old/New Business**
 - Old Business:
No old business
 - New Business:
No new business

- **Public Comments**
None

- Motion to adjourn, second, passed by unanimous vote.

- Chair Zuckerman thanked everyone for attending.