

# **Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting**

**July 12, 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, Howard Feldman, Lisa Marks (for Geraldine Franco), Dr. Kirk Harris, Juanita Sanders & Latanya Law (for Secretary Grace Hou), Elizabeth Lingle, Christina Mahoney, Turyia Clay (for The Honorable Iris Y. Martinez), The Honorable Sidney Mathias, The Honorable Alana I. Mejias, Jessica Patchik & Richard Zuckerman

## **Committee Members Absent:**

Maria Barlow, Trent Cameron, The Honorable La Shawn Ford, Nicole McKinnon, Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, Phillip Mohr, Christine Raffaele & Vickie Smith

## **HFS Staff Present:**

Bryan Tribble, Gina Hemphill, Daun Perino, Irene Curran, Hilary Johns, Sharon Shapiro, Kim Rossini, Eric Watson, Allen Nosler, Steve Sharer, Christine Towles

## **Guest Speaker:**

Dr. Jane Venohr

## **Public Guests:**

None

- **Welcome to CSAC members – Richard Zuckerman**
  - Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone to please mute when they are not speaking. He reminded attendees that they can use the chat feature for any questions or comments.
  - Roll call of committee members
  - Introduction of state employees and members of the public
  - Approval of May 10, 2022 meeting notes.  
Motion made and seconded to approve as submitted. Maggie mentioned a grammatical error on page three. Correction will be made.
  
- **Quadrennial Review Discussion – Bryan Tribble & Richard Zuckerman**

Bryan talked about the 20<sup>th</sup> and final public input town hall meeting. The meetings were well attended. We got good info from them. Carrie Benson is putting the notes together and categorizing the comments that we received. She will be getting this to us for our use in the review. We will be using this info to put into the final report. Bryan extended a thank you to all that helped in this monumental effort. This has been the most robust public comment effort ever. We got a lot of actionable info out of this. We heard that the guidelines in Illinois are pretty good. It is not necessary to rewrite everything. Most people generally thought that we moved in a positive direction by moving from a percentage of income to income shares. Our Income Shares is thought to be positive by most. Dr. Venohr is going to be able to touch on that a little bit. There were some themes that emerged. We have our cliff vs climb. This is an issue that the committee identified

early on. Incarceration is another issue that emerged as something that we need to look at. The overnights need tweaked or renamed/redefined. Some participants were confused by its meaning. There was nothing very shocking there. The committee had a good idea of what needed to be done. We heard from those that deal with this. This is very important for us as a Committee. It is important for us to hear from those individuals whom we serve and who are most impacted by these guidelines. This was a very important exercise and just the beginning of where we can go with this.

Maggie's consensus is that Income Shares is a better process than the Percentage of Obligor Income. We had some of the same people that attended many of the town halls. She thinks that this helps us look beyond and understand where other people might be coming from. She referred to them as contrarians and stated that they agreed that income shares is a better process. Sadly, those who had problems were pre-income shares. She saw that they may have had a misunderstanding or had an order entered in another state. She thinks that our statute is strong and that it works. She extended a thank you to the committee and stated that it was very beneficial.

Dr. Kirk Harris stated that leadership is a very important part. He extended a thank you to Bryan Tribble and Richard Zuckerman for their leadership. He said that he has been on the Committee for many years and has never seen such a public comment section to any previous quadrennial reviews. He commended the committee. He hopes to build onto the info for the future. He believes that extending our idea to have a public comment committee in the future is great.

Bryan thanked Dr. Harris. He stated that as a Committee we have so much to learn from the public/parents that are impacted by the rules and laws, policies and processes and practices that we are all involved in. It is very exciting to think of what the future holds. In the process of the evolution of child support. The future is not family centered but family led, and we are a step closer to that. This is very exciting.

Richard Zuckerman thanked all the members of the public input committee and everyone that worked so hard on all of the town halls every Wednesday night. The preparation on Mondays and Tuesdays was a lot of work and is appreciated. He said that this is without a doubt the most extensive public input section ever. This is going to be a report with whatever recommendations we make that will have the data to support it and the info to back it up. We are going to have a lot more data.

Bryan attempted to introduce Dr. Jane Venohr, but lost audio. Dr. Venohr introduced herself.

➤ **Dr. Jane Venohr - Preliminary Findings**

Center for Policy Research Review

She is an economist with the Center for Policy Research (CPR) for a nonprofit based in Denver. They have helped about 30 states with their guidelines, including Illinois moving to Income Shares. She is very humbled to hear about the town halls and is excited to hear about them. She will provide us with an economic presentation of the guidelines review and it is just one small piece of

what we will be hearing. This will include an economic analysis and case file data. There is a Power Point that was shared. Dr. Venohr spoke about the federal requirements. Mainly she wants to talk about some of the preliminary findings from what she did, the economic analysis of raising cost of raising children, which is a federal requirement that states must consider, and case file data. She also talked about the low-income adjustment which was something that struck her from where she sits as an economist and comparing other states, but did not hear mentioned in the summary of the town hall meeting findings. There are next steps in the Power Point. They have already prepared an updated child support schedule. She asked if the Committee wants to see other child support schedules or base both off of economic data and policy decisions. She wants to know if the Committee wants other information about the low-income adjustment or anything from CPR. Dr. Venohr went through the first 16 slides and stopped for questions. Please see the slides for more detailed information on Dr. Venohr's report.

We lost contact with Dr. Venohr. Her video conference connection stopped.

The Committee members had a few side discussions. Maggie shared that she is on an ISBA Committee that wants to add the word employment barriers into the imputation of income section. She was surprised that there was pushback on that. She said that Committee also wants to add that incarceration is not voluntary unemployment. Dr. Harris agrees with Maggie. He stated that he believes that from a constitutional vantage point, the ability to pay is supposed to be central to our consideration and that all of these factors have implications for the ability to pay. Dr. Harris asked Maggie about the committee that she is serving on and if legislative changes will be needed to achieve what they are wanting. Maggie said that she, Richard, and Jessica are all on the committee. She said that she hopes so and that they got some legislation passed in May. It is very important to that committee that they partner with HFS DCSS and that various improvements are made to the child support statute. She also said that all of the stakeholders are included in the legislation that they try to draft. Richard suggested that whatever that committee comes up with on things like this will probably be incorporated into the review report.

Dr. Venohr was able to rejoin the meeting. She continued her discussion regarding economic data. She stopped sharing the Power Point to see if that would help with her connection. We lost her again. Richard suggested that we move on with the meeting and finish up the agenda.

➤ **Town Hall Wrap Up – Bryan Tribble, Richard Zuckerman, Irene Curran & Daun Perino**

Bryan stated that we are done with the town halls for the general public, the all-inclusive ones, but we are doing specialized series. We continue to meet as a group on Fridays to make sure that we are trying to reach out to everyone as appropriate. Those will be resuming. They are trying to figure out individual dates for those town halls. Maggie asked what the next phase is and if the surveys have

been compiled yet. Bryan stated that they have not. That is being worked on right now. They have the post town hall surveys, chats and emails that were received. Those are in the process of being compiled along with the first phase of the post judicial survey. Then we are wrapping up that second phase now.

➤ **Drafting of the Final Report – Richard Zuckerman**

Richard stated that we are at that point where we are pretty close to finishing up gathering all of the data that we are going to use for our draft report. Then we are going to get into the drafting phase. We have about 5 ½ months to have a finished product ready to go. This is an all-hands-on deck situation, depending on how we divide up the work. Richard is going to ask that everyone be available, cognizant and willing to take at least some portion of the work on the draft meeting.

Dr. Venohr rejoined the meeting and continued with her discussion without showing the power point slides. She continued the discussion for slides 20 through 26. She then went over the low-income adjustment and the rest of the slides. Dr. Venohr states that she would really like to see us change the methodology. That might alleviate some of the concerns. She believes that it would be a step in the right direction. She would like to see it hit those low wage workers that work 25 or 30 hours per week. She believes that that is the population that should be hit. If we are capping that low-income adjustment at \$850 or whatever that is for 75% of the poverty level, it is not hitting that population.

Richard continued talking about the drafting of the final report. He will be contacting those committee members that have not been actively involved to this point.

Bryan said that we have done an incredible amount of work. We need to package all of this up. Ultimately the Committee will need to come back together to work on this. Bryan is very grateful for the work that has been done and mentioned that there is a lot of work yet to do.

- **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