

Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting
November 14, 2023, 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, The Honorable Grace Dickler, Howard Feldman, Dr. Kirk Harris, Juanita Sanders (for Secretary Dulce Quintero), Niya Kelly, Elizabeth Lingle, The Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, Christina Mahoney, Turyia Clay & Samuel Williams (for The Honorable Iris Y. Martinez), Nicole McKinnon, Jessica Patchik, The Honorable Judge Regina Scannicchio, Chlece Walker-Neal-Murray, The Honorable Judge Alicia Washington, Richard Zuckerman

Committee Members Absent:

Trent Cameron, The Honorable La Shawn Ford, Geraldine Franco, The Honorable Judge Amy McFarland, The Honorable Judge Alana Mejias, Phillip Mohr, Christine Raffaele, Vickie Smith,

HFS Staff Present:

Irene Curran, Gina Hemphill, Hilary Johns, Celeste Kannall, Daun Perino, Sharon Shapiro, Steve Sharer, Christine Towles, Bryan Tribble

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.
 - Reminder that all mandatory trainings must be completed by all committee members. If you need the training materials again, please email Gina Hemphill.
- **Approval of the September 12, 2023 meeting notes** – Richard Zuckerman
 - Motion to approve, seconded, passed unanimously.
- **Legislation** – Bryan Tribble
 - House Bill 4163
 - House Bill 4147

Bryan Tribble stated that these two bills emerged in the House during veto session. These two bills are very similar. They would establish a duty to support when an individual is convicted of driving under the influence and the result was an accident that cost the life of a parent of a child. These are similar to bills that have been in the last two sessions. The idea of the premise arose from a case in Missouri from a few years ago. The proponents have continued to tweak the language. Bryan wanted to make sure that this was on everyone's radar. Richard Zuckerman stated that they did not go anywhere last week and that we will want to keep watching them. Niya Kelly stated that they will be in part B of the General Assembly until the end of May, 2024.

Dr. Kirk Harris asked with them being similar was there something that distinguished the two bills substantively. Bryan Tribble stated that his understanding was that the difference between the two was in the drafting. House bill 4147 would create a duty for the Office of Attorney General to move forward with that. Bryan called on Christina Mahoney to add something to that or correct him if he misstated or misrepresented. Christina Mahoney stated that she thinks that is correct; 4147, the only difference is that it designates the Attorney General's Office as the agency to enforce those particular child support orders out of the criminal court.

- **Subcommittee Reports** – Bryan Tribble stated that each subcommittee could provide a little bit of context.
 - **Imputation of Income**
 - Jessica Patchik
 - Margaret Bennett
 - Jessica reported that there is nothing new to report at this time. They have already come up with the language they liked and brought it to the CSAC at large and are waiting to see what happens with that.
 - **Incarcerated Obligor**
 - Jessica Patchik
 - Jessica reported that they have met twice since the last full meeting. They are working on a draft of how they think it should look to attack the issue of dealing with child support modifications with incarcerated folks. They got halfway through taking it apart yesterday. They still have to take apart the other half and put it back together the way they like it. They are on a good path working together. They will share more once they have finished.
 - **Shared Parenting**
 - Howard Feldman
 - Margaret Bennett
 - Howard reported that they have had several meetings and are still in the investigative phase. They have had excellent interaction with representatives from the state of Indiana. Someone from their administrative side explained how they go about their process. They met with a magistrate judge of Indiana on his experience with the system. He was very open and willing to answer questions and provide good insight. Indiana has a process that has its own state formula that is excellent.

With the extraordinary help of the department staff, we have a scheduler and are moving forward with trying to look at the Minnesota model. Maggie Bennett has done quite a bit of investigation on both Indiana and Minnesota. We have a number of state that we still need to look at. One of the things that Richard pointed out in our involvement with Indiana, Indiana can set it's support guidelines and it's process by their Supreme Court versus our requirement of having legislative action.

Our process is time consuming. The subcommittee is a little bit away from coming forward with a recommendation. They want to be sure that they are doing what the committee desires and that it is well thought out based upon the significant amount of information. They have a little more investigation to do with other states and how they deal with the shared parenting process. Maggie added that it was exciting to get to meet with the reps from Indiana. Indiana sets their parenting time adjustment at 52 overnights, whereas we start ours at 146 overnights. They do not have what we call the cliff effect where there is a significant differential when the parent time adjustment is implemented. What they are seeing is that there is no perfect parenting time adjustment. With Indiana, they use a table where they take percentage and they set it off with the full amount, the total cost of additional parenting time/shared parenting time. They also have duplicated expenses. We are not sure how those are weighted but are hoping to get that info. It is nice that they do differentiate. That is something that we really have not seen with the other states.

- **Self-Support Reserve and Minimum Child Support Orders**
 - Dr. Kirk Harris
 - Elizabeth Lingle
 - Elizabeth stated that they have met one time. They really have not come up with anything. Dr. Harris missed the last meeting and stated that they have some work to do.

- **Family Advisory Council for Engagement (FACE) - Eric Watson & Dr. Kirk Harris**

Dr. Kirk Harris stated that they have a fundamental document that outlines the specific functioning of the entity, the body that they want to have in terms of parenting participation. He thinks that there are some questions that they have to resolve related to outreach and how we want to initiate that process and who we want to pull into it for purposes of facilitating that outreach and engagement. This is work that needs some time and attention to get it going.

Bryan Tribble spoke in Eric Watson's absence. They are working through the outreach to make certain that we are going about the recruiting potential members. We are going as deeply as we possibly can and are trying to make deep connections into the communities that we serve with HFS and to get people that have lived experiences with the child support system in Illinois to be able to then advise HFS as to policies and processes. Our target for that is to begin the outreach in January of 2024. Our first meeting has been tentatively set for April of 2024. This will give us approximately two and a half to three months to do the outreach that is necessary to be able to recruit interested individuals. At this point in time one of the things that still has to be decided is what is the compensation for the experts who are going to be comprising this Family Advisory Council for Engagement and what that is going to look like. How much is that and how is it going to be paid. How would it possibly impact other items that the parents or the families may be receiving. We still have to work through that final piece.

Darryl Apperton asked how long these committees would be operating or running. Richard Zuckerman responded that technically they all expire on December 31st. Bryan stated that we will be doing our next quadrennial review in 2026. Really these subcommittees came out of our 2022 quadrennial review, and they should flow. Some of these issues may be resolved through legislation, or through other means over the course of that time. If this group has identified these as issues from the last iteration of the quadrennial review, if they have not been solved then those discussions should then take place with whomever contributes to those meetings that could be done with the general public. If the advisory committee chooses to have similar town hall meetings and those things and continue to walk through the issues. He is envisioning that these would be over at the end of the calendar year that then assuming reappointment of all members that all activity would resume after the first of the year. Once each subcommittee solves their issue and presents it for a vote to this group and the advisory committee as a whole, use this as something that we have now answered and is resolved and that we could take some action to move this forward. At that point that subcommittee could be dissolved. It would then be up to the advisory committee as far as what they are going to do with that.

Maggie Bennett asked what we do once we have finished with the recommendation. Do you want that in a written report? Richard Zuckerman responded that it would be helpful particularly if we are going to make a recommendation for anything that would require a legislative change, we would have to present that at some point to the LRB to turn into a bill and then present it as a bill. The more you could narrow that in a report the more helpful that would probably be in that process.

- **Old/New Business**
 - Old Business:
No old business.
 - New Business:
No new business
- **Public Comments**
None
- Richard Zuckerman wished everyone happy Thanksgiving, happy holidays, and happy New Year. He hopes to see everyone in January or February as soon as we have our first meeting in 2024.
- Motion to adjourn, Second, Passed by unanimous vote.
- Richard Zuckerman thanked everyone for attending.