

Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting
November 19, 2024, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present via WebEx/Phone:

Darryl Apperton, Margaret Bennett, Howard Feldman, Geraldine Franco, Elizabeth Lingle, Turiya Clay (for The Honorable Iris Y. Martinez), Nicole McKinnon, The Honorable Alana I. Mejias, Jessica Patchik, Christina Raffaele, Chlece Walker-Neal-Murray, Richard Zuckerman

Committee Members Absent:

Trent Cameron, The Honorable Grace Dickler, The Honorable La Shawn Ford, Dr. Kirk E. Harris, Niya Kelly, The Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, Christina Mahoney, Phillip Mohr, the Honorable Judge Regina Scannicchio, Vickie Smith, The Honorable Judge Alicia Washington.

HFS Staff Present:

Heather Austif, Carrie Benson, Debra Buckhold, Irene Curran, Patricia Dulin, Hilary Johns, Celeste Kannall, Dani Mendez, Kiran Mehta, Steve Minder, Sharon Shapiro, Steve Sharer, Christine Towles, Bryan Tribble, Eric Watson

Public Guests:

Aaron Stevenson

1. **Welcome to CSAC members** – Richard Zuckerman, Chair
2. **Roll Call and Introductions**
 - Roll Call of Committee Members – Richard Zuckerman
 - Introduction of State Employees & Members of the Public
3. Approval of August 20, 2024, meeting notes
 - Motion to approve, seconded, passed unanimously.
4. One Net Training Reminder – Kiran Mehta
 - Reminding all board members of the required trainings to be completed by December 31, 2024. For problems logging in, Kiran can work with Bureau of Training to get access. Try to get these done well before that in case any issues arise.
 - The OIG does check after the 1st to determine who is not in compliance with the requirements. This is just for board members and if you are required to take training through another state agency, that should be sufficient.
5. Subcommittee Reports
 - Shared Parenting – Feldman/Bennett
 - Howard Feldman verified that everyone had received the white paper that was issued by the subcommittee relating to the adjustment to parenting provisions. All have received.

Howard then recapped that the subcommittee has been working on addressing the issue that exists with regard to the significant drop off in child support at 146 days, commonly referred to as the ‘cliff’. The subcommittee had reviewed several states and found that some use complex formulas while others do not. The subcommittee had conducted roughly six to ten interviews of individuals in various states.

- Howard noted that the department has been incredibly helpful providing information, guidance, and direction. It had also been beneficial to consult with Dr. Jane Venohr.
 - Members of the subcommittee are currently in a drafting phase to create legislative language. They are working on the split parenting situation and how the new guidelines would apply and hope to have something after the first of the year.
- Self-Support Reserve and Minimum Child Support Orders – Harris/Lingle
- Elizabeth Lingle shared that the task was to determine if Illinois wanted to create a self-support reserve, which it currently does not have. There are only a handful of states that use purely self-support reserve for low-income individuals. We could explore raising the federal poverty level threshold, which is currently at 75% in Illinois, to something higher as well.
 - To create a self-support reserve, we would need to consider a lot of financial data and would need the assistance of Dr. Venohr as this could be very labor intensive. Hopefully by June 2025 we can get a proposal to HFS. The focus between now and June is on raising the federal poverty level threshold for minimum orders. Currently, if a person paying support has income at or below that level, they get a minimum order of \$40 per month per child maxed at \$120 per month.
 - The guest speaker today, Deb Buckhold, has provided Elizabeth Lingle and Dr. Harris with a ton of information derived from her research on the topic. Deb looked at what all other income share states are doing, provided tables, and summarized. Deb has been the subcommittee researcher and now it’s the job of the subcommittee to go through everything that Deb has provided and figure out what is going to work best for the families of the State of Illinois. Deb had put together a Power Point presentation to give the committee more information in terms of what she had gathered. She had combined that with the data that the subcommittee will be looking at. She shared that presentation with the group today.
 - Liz shared that there is no question we are going to raise FPL from 75% to something higher, but now we are in the phase where we are trying to figure out what that number is going to be. Given the timing that legislative proposals need to be given

to HFS, the goal is to have this finalized in time for the 2026 Legislative Session.

6. Implementation of Legislation in CY2024
 - [PA-103-0356](#): Family Resource Connections (FRC) –Watson
 - Eric Watson reports they are almost a year in with the partnership with CMS and IDES and improving upon those workshops. IDES and CMS have been great partners.
 - Bryan Tribble reports that in the 2025 version of CSAC, this group will start seeing data regarding what’s been accomplished within FRC and the partnerships with CMS and IDES. Recently an intergovernmental agreement was approved so each of the three agencies (CSS, CMS, and IDES) will have access to each other’s information. As part of the legislation, a report must be provided to the legislature regarding the results. The draft and preliminary versions of the report will be shared with the CSAC committee.
 - Bryan explained that this has been a huge undertaking for us and is a totally different way that we are doing business. It is identifying individuals who need services rather than proceeding directly to enforcement. Bryan shares he is excited to be sharing results of those efforts here in the near future.

7. Family Advisory Council for Engagement (FACE) – Harris/Watson
 - Eric Watson is hoping to have applications out and available starting in January and the workgroup functioning by August with 20 members. Currently we are trying to come up with a new name focused on committee or work group or advocacy as we are trying to get away from the word advisory. We are open to suggestions because December is approaching, and applications will go out in January.
 - Richard Zuckerman asks if there is anything else on the family advisory council for Eric to share. Eric adds that we are hoping for 20 members that are populated regionally and this will be a group of consensus run by the parents. We will be available to help guide and support.

8. Old/New Business – Committee Members
 - No old business to discuss.
 - New business
 - Bryan asking for everyone to keep an eye on HR9076 now pending in the United States Senate. Bryan shared that the importance of the bill is it changes some key points to the access of federal tax information as part of the child support program. It’s impossible to run that program without the assistance of contractors and in order for contractors to be able to administer the statewide child support program in all states,

they need access to the available data. Right now, they do not have that data. The IRS found that 48 out of 50 states do not currently have this finding and that excludes Illinois. It is important that we get this enacted and get across the finish line in Congress before the beginning of the year.

9. Public Comment

- No public comment.

10. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed unanimously.