

Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting
February 20, 2024, 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, The Honorable La Shawn Ford, Geraldine Franco, Dr. Kirk Harris, Kari Branham & Juanita Sanders (for Secretary Dulce Quintero), Niya Kelly, Elizabeth Lingle, The Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, Christina Mahoney, Samuel Williams (for The Honorable Iris Y. Martinez), Nicole McKinnon, Jessica Patchik, Christine Raffaele, The Honorable Judge Regina Scannicchio, Chlece Walker-Neal-Murray, Richard Zuckerman

Committee Members Absent:

Trent Cameron, The Honorable Judge Alana Mejias, Phillip Mohr, Vickie Smith, The Honorable Judge Alicia Washington,

HFS Staff Present:

Irene Curran, Patricia Dulin, Gina Hemphill, Hilary Johns, Celeste Kannall, Allen Nosler, Sharon Shapiro, Steve Sharer, Christine Towles, Bryan Tribble, Eric Watson

Public Guests:

Aaron
Mr. Gunnar Gitlin

- **Welcome CSAC members** - Bryan Tribble
- **Roll Call of Committee Members** - Bryan Tribble
 - Roll call of CSAC Members
 - Introduction of state employees present at the meeting.
- **Approval of the November 14, 2023 meeting notes** - Bryan Tribble
 - Motion to approve, seconded, passed unanimously.
- **Election of the 2024 Child Support Advisory Committee Chairperson** - Bryan Tribble
 - Nomination of Richard Zuckerman
 - Motion to approve, seconded, passed unanimously.
- **Legislation** - Richard Zuckerman and Steve Sharer
 - DUI (Driving Under the Influence) Bills
 - If a defendant is found guilty of driving under the influence and it causes the death of a parent, the defendant would have to pay child support.
 - There are 3 variations of this bill.
 - House Bill 4147
 - House Bill 4163
 - House Bill 4322

- Senate Bill 2961
 - An Obligor has the responsibility to make child support payments until the withholding begins.
 - The Obligor would have the ability to request a modification.
 - The Obligor would be responsible for any penalty incurred if they fall behind in making their payments.
- Senate Bill 3078
 - An obligor may provide evidence of a change in their circumstances at any time through an online portal.
We currently do not have an online portal; this is not something we would currently support as we are in the middle of changing our system. We have other means to request a modification.
- House Bill 4314
 - Pregnancy Expenses Act reintroduced from last year.
- Senate Bill 1278 and House Bill 4452
 - Grandparents' visitation, grandparents' rights and a task force for grandparents.

Our next meeting is May 21st. The deadline for Senate Bills to get out of committee is March 15th and the deadline for House Bills to get out of committee is April 3rd. The scheduled adjournment date for the General Assembly is May 24th. By our next meeting we will know which Bills are moving out of committee and moving through their respective chambers.

- **Subcommittee Reports - Richard Zuckerman**

- **Imputation of Income - Jessica Patchik & Margaret Bennett**

Jessica reported that we have not met in our subcommittee as we accomplished everything needed last year. The language regarding Imputation of Income and child support cases that we approved has been introduced as part of Senate Bill 3284.

- **Incarcerated Obligor - Jessica Patchik**

Jessica reported that the group has been meeting and have setup up recurring meetings once a month. We have a working draft with some language as to how to deal with modifying support for incarcerated obligors. This is a work in progress.

- **Shared Parenting - Howard Feldman & Margaret Bennett**

Howard reported that we have meetings scheduled every week and meet depending upon who we have scheduled. We recently had a meeting with Dr. Venohr. We are working through what is commonly known as the cliff. No adjustment until you get to 146 and after 146 there is a

significant adjustment. We are looking at different states and their process either administratively or legislatively at how they arrive at avoiding the cliff or having the cliff. The math can be challenging depending on the state. We have had meetings with Indiana and Minnesota as well. Maggie stated the group is looking at the definition of overnights and our current threshold. The group is moving along.

- **Self-Support Reserve and Minimum Child Support Orders - Dr. Kirk Harris & Elizabeth Lingle**

Dr. Kirk Harris mentioned that the group wanted to examine Dr. Venohr's suggestions regarding self-support reserve and compare her analysis with studies that have been going on regarding ALICE (Asset, Limited Income, Constrained Employment). Bryan provided us with some materials regarding this ALICE analysis. Our group is focusing on looking at the appropriateness of the economics at the local level based on the new studies. Elizabeth mentioned the group is looking to balance everyone's interests and whether we need to create a self-support reserve or adjust the minimum amount of gross income a person can have and still qualify for minimum child support because currently it is 75% or less of the poverty levels. Our primary goal is are we going to raise it from 75% or are we going to create a self-support reserve. We want to be fair to both parents.

- **Implementation of Legislation Passed in the Fall of 2022 and the Spring of 2023 - Richard Zuckerman**

- Public Act 102-1115 - Steve Sharer
 - The pass through of child support.
 - This made it through to the Illinois Register on Friday, February 16th. This starts the first 45-day notice period and will be ending around April 1st.
 - The goal is to have a second notice done by April 26th.
 - Will have it ready for adoption by July 1st which is when it is to go into effect.
- Public Act 103-343 - Christina Mahoney
 - Took effect on January 1, 2024 and not much to report due to being a month in.
 - HFS working with IDES (Illinois Department of Employment Security) and launched an information campaign in October of 2023.
 - This bill added independent contractors to the definition of employer so that anyone who hires an independent contractor is required to report that person to the Illinois New Hire Directory (managed by IDES) and that income gets reported to certain agencies, such as HFS for child support purposes.
 - Anticipating some of the challenges with this and in Colorado the broad language of the statute has called into question whether a particular position qualifies as an independent contractor. This is food for thought for us on whether we need to go in at a later date and amend the statute.
 - The language was modeled from the Colorado statute and there are compliance issues. We are dealing with a very low dollar amount for penalty.

- Public Act 103-356 - Irene Curran and Eric Watson
 - FRC- This is an 18 month pilot program with IDES and CMS.
 - Working to help nonpayers identify job/career opportunities, skills and training.
 - Pushing us to reevaluate some of our services and do some early intervention.
 - This program picks up at 60 days with no payment and we are reaching out making contact and referring the services that CMS and IDES have to offer.
 - The counties involved in this pilot program are Kane, Peoria, Williamson, Winnebago, Champaign, and Sangamon.
 - This pilot program started January 1st and runs through July 25th.
- **Family Advisory Council for Engagement (FACE) - Eric Watson & Dr. Kirk Harris**

Dr. Kirk Harris stated the object is to engage stakeholders who are impacted by the child support system as informants. Also, guidance for policy development and opportunities. Eric Watson has developed a booklet of basic information about how this is being rolled out. We have discussed ensuring effective geographic representation across the state. We are currently working to create some information sessions about establishment of the FACE group. Eric confirmed they are working to schedule virtual recruitment meetings for parents. We are proposing 3 meetings and possibly one on a weekend. We are looking at about 20 members and we will be contacting the participants in the Quadrennial Review Town Halls. We will be emailing all the parents in the program about the Council or Committee.

- **Old/New Business**
 - Old Business:
 - In review of the November 14, 2023 meeting minutes, the only old business was the DUI laws that we discussed earlier today.
 - New Business:
 - No new business
- **Public Comments**
 - None
- Next Meeting is May 21, 2024
- Motion to adjourn, Second, Passed by unanimous vote.
- Richard Zuckerman thanked everyone for attending.