

Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting

July 13, 2021 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)
WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present via WebEx/phone:

Maria Barlow, Maggie Bennett, Howard Feldman, Geraldine Franco, Dr. Kirk Harris, Juanita Sanders and LaTanya Law (for Secretary Grace Hou), Elizabeth Lingle, Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, Christina Mahoney, The Honorable Sidney Mathias, The Honorable Alana I. Mejias, Nicole McKinnon, Jessica Patchik, Christine Raffaele, Vickie Smith, Derrick White, Richard Zuckerman

Committee Members Absent:

Darryl Apperton, Trent Cameron, The Honorable La Shawn Ford, The Honorable Iris Y. Martinez and Phillip Mohr

HFS Staff Present via phone:

Bryan Tribble, Gina Hemphill, Ralph Abt, Daun Perino, Irene Curran, Hilary Felton, Sharon Shapiro, and Patricia Dulin

Public Guests: No attendees from the public. After the meeting I saw that there was an email telling me that General Parker and Mick Gerhardt were waiting in the lobby for the scheduled WebEx meeting. I was not aware of this until after the meeting.

- **Welcome to CSAC members – Richard Zuckerman**
 - Roll call of committee members
 - Introduction of state employees and members of the public
 - All committee members, attendees and members of the public were asked to announce their name before speaking and to mute their phone if they are not speaking.
 - Approval of April 13, 2021 meeting notes
Motion made to approve. Motion was passed.
- **Legislative Updates – Richard Zuckerman**

There are five bills related to child support:

 1. SB258 is now Public Act 102-87– Signed by Governor. These were the changes that Maggie worked on for 505.2. This is going into law. We will be dealing with this in the future.
 2. SB2110 - CS – This is on the Governor’s desk. We hope to have this signed before August.

- **Quadrennial Review Discussion – Bryan Tribble**

- **Report of Public Input Subcommittee**

An extension was requested for the Quadrennial Review under the Stafford Act. This extension was granted. The new due date for the completion of the review is 12/31/2022. This gives us a bit of a cushion. The Feds wanted us to have extra time for the public input portion. We have a lot of work to do. Thank you to the subcommittee. The subcommittee meets every Friday. They are seeing a lot of progress. Child Support Guidelines should be used throughout the state. Every four years they must be reviewed.

Jessica Patchik talked about a post-court survey from customers. They did three:

1. Demographic Survey
2. Qualitative Survey
3. Quantitative Survey

They were trying to keep it brief but effective. They came up with a good set of surveys. We were last together in April. We still had COVID restrictions. Some restrictions have been lifted. We looked at having in person public comment meetings. In person events would work as would virtual. We wanted to develop survey by attendees even if they can't attend the town hall meeting. Surveys are what we came up with.

Irene had a small group meeting on public input. Ralph Abt assisted. Subcommittee was formed to create questions for the public interest forum. The questions that were created were related to the areas that this Committee wanted to focus on in the quadrennial review. Those areas were Basic Needs as related to the court Order; Healthcare; incarcerated individuals; multifamily consideration; and Shared Physical Care. Basic demographic information would be gathered to ascertain who was providing the information. Subcommittee will meet again to review the questionnaire to make them appropriate for both parents.

Bryan said that as for the meetings themselves, things have changed. We can hold in person townhall meetings. We established what we thought the logistics would be. 60 to 90 minutes. It may be enough time but not too much time. I will be looking to the committee for an appropriate amount of time.

Dr. Harris suggested that we need to open with context of what we need to achieve. Suggests that in the structuring of the public meetings to account for that. 90 minutes in not unreasonable.

Howard Feldman said that it depends on the number of people present. We will need to be firm on the amount of time each person can speak. Tell them 60 minutes and the allow them 90. Let people talk. It will depend on how long people will speak. Some will want to address their own issues.

Judge Loza suggested that this should not be an individual gripe session for your case. We need to be strict on this, 2 to 3 minutes.

Richard Zuckerman suggested that we break it down to deal with one topic at a time. We need structure to use time as well as possible.

Someone suggested that we use a script.

Juanita Sanders suggested that we use a moderator for the group to stay on topic.

Maggie Bennett agrees with Jude Loza that we should keep them at a set time and be strict with that. It would help to be able to hear from more people. This is not about CSAC. We are listeners to gather info for the public.

Vickie Smith said that she agrees to the 2 to 3 minutes per person and that we need to keep it tight. We need to let them know ahead of time what is expected of them.

Junita Sanders said that Cook County may have more meetings than other areas.

Dr. Harris said that we are trying to target what areas need more meetings. Data on demographics is useful. We need to make sure that we are getting a good sample. He is hoping that all on the CSAC committee will be involved.

LaTanya Law said that she is on other groups and hopes to get others involved as well.

Bryan Tribble said that he may reach out to LaTanya for best practices.

Dr. Harris said that there needs to be thoughtful ways to do these chats/meetings.

Juanita asked LaTanya to be on call.

Bryan Tribble asked if 3 minutes per speaker would be a good amount of time.

Dr. Harris said that we need to have some flexibility but limit so that we hear from as many people as we can.

Maggie said she is ok with 3 minutes, but don't cut them off.

Richard Zuckerman, Dr. Harris and Daun Perino all agree that we need to allow the facilitator some discretion.

Bryan Tribble talked about the methodology that the subcommittee has used. He wants to share what they have done and where they are going. We will need mediators to help with sessions. We will need 4 to 6 people at each session. We identified where most of the customers are. We looked at Cook County and took the top 20 zip codes that receive benefits. We ranked them, then used the top 20 in each. We know what zip codes we will hold meetings at. We need a good mix and an idea of when to hold meetings. We have roughly 20 to 23 counties within the state. DCSS has 9 offices including Cook. This shows us where to hold the

meetings. We have all regions covered. We need as many people as we can get to hold as many townhall meeting as possible, both in person and virtual. We would need 4 to 6 people at each event. We need guidance as for what we will plan statewide.

Howard Feldman said that it would be hard to predict. The perception in different parts of the state are very different. The number of people that may appear from one area to another. Judge what kind of participation you want. Family Law Study Committee did not go south of Springfield. The people in southern Illinois need to be heard. The COVID implications will impact this. There are a lot of people receiving services.

Sidney Mathias asked if there is a date that we need to have these done by. Bryan Tribble responded that we need to have them done as close to the end of this calendar year as possible. This will give us time to do what needs to be done.

Bryan Tribble said that there will be individuals at the sessions that will want to talk about their own cases. HFS staff will be there to assist with questions regarding cases. HFS will be there as support.

Dr. Harris said that the Community Outreach Subcommittee should commit to helping with this. He will do as many as he possibly can.

Liz Lingle said that many counties are close together. We should do more regular meetings together and people can travel if they are interested. Dr. Harris said that many do not have transportation. Daun Perino suggested that people can attend virtual events if they can't travel. Dr. Harris said that as we bring community partners it will provide support to the community. They may need help navigating. Bryan tribble said that we need to be conscious as to how many meetings should take place. Dr. Harris said that there should be 20 to 25, 20 minimums for reasonable coverage of the state. Irene Curran reminded everyone that they are doing some outside of courtrooms. Juanita Harris talked about survey monkey depending on the need. Richard Zuckerman said that we need to look at Bryan's map. We will need at least 2 to 3 in each area south of the yellow, brown, and orange areas. Irene Curran said that 6 is reasonable depending on how we pick the groups. Dr. Harris said that it seems like there is a lot of attention on Cook. That is the demographic. Irene Curran asked if we should focus on the areas outside Cook, such as Aurora, Peoria, and East St. Louis. Richard Zuckerman mentioned the purple area on the map and wonders if we will reach those in the middle. He hates to think that we are looking at having 30 meetings. Howard Feldman said that population wise it is not a great area. What % of these small areas utilize services? How do we get people to participate? We need to take a look at what makes sense population wise. What can be in person and what can be virtual. Everyone deserves to be heard. We don't want them to feel disconnected.

Alana Mejias asked what the purpose of this meeting is. She has had to do a lot of things virtual. She has found that most people have access to attend virtual meetings. If not, virtual childcare is a big issue. Will there be incentives?

Bryan Tribble said that in the first part we need to get public input on child support guidelines and look at all the factors on public opinion.

Dr. Harris said that historically this is much better of an outreach with public than ever before.

Richard Zuckerman stated that this is the first review since we went to income shares.

Dr. Harris mentioned incentives and what accommodations will be made. He hopes to collaborate with parents to see if we need to have provisions. Ongoing and emerging we need to develop further.

Bryan Tribble mentioned that he is hearing that there are not many people that can't attend virtually. Alana Mejias reiterated that there are very few that couldn't attend virtually.

Maggie Bennett stated that people are always on their cell phones. They could do dial in if they can't get on virtually. We need to add in dial in components and possibly public transportation. Vicky Smith asked how it would be managed to know who or how many will be there? Richard Zuckerman suggested that we could ask for prior sign up. Juanita stated that we would have to set up in advance.

Bryan Tribble stated that this gives us the info that was needed.

Dr. Harris said that we talked about incentives to get maximum participation. Does this fall inside and outside of our procurement process?

Maggie Bennett asked if we would be providing protection for victims of domestic violence. Some people may ask if we have security.

Dr. Harris said that we need to be sure to capture/record the meetings. Possibly a 3rd party recording to make sure that we get what we need out of the meeting.

Bryan Tribble asked if there was anything else. He thanked everyone for their guidance. He mentions that we may need to have an additional committee meeting in August.

➤ **Procurement Update – Daun Perino**

We had been stalled. We received approval to move forward to update tables. We didn't want it left for recreation of the wheel. Once the docs are signed, we can move forward. If we need additional funds, we will need to do a separate procurement. We need to know about funding of these meetings.

Dr. Harris agreed. He also said that as we bring partners on, we need to know what needs to happen.

Vickie Smith asked Dr. Harris who he meant when he said community partners.

Dr. Harris explained that he was talking about potential community partners to help us get the community involved. The subcommittee brought a list of ideas of who may be introduced.

Bryan Tribble asked if anyone has any procurement questions. We will need ideas. We may do some type of refreshments at the in-person events.

Sidney Mathias asked if there will be a script. Bryan Tribble responded that there would absolutely be specific questions to be posed. Richard Zuckerman said that someone will be trained for this.

- **Old/New Business**

- **Old Business:**

None

- **New Business:**

Bryan Tribble said that we do not have terminology that works across the board for how we refer to our customers. He would like to throw it to the Advisory Committee for opinions. Ralph Abt walked us through the current terminology that is used. We are looking for terms that work.

Ralph Abt went over a list of commonly used terms referring to the non-custodial parent and the custodial parent. The term NCP is used synonymously with similar terms used in various statutes and Administrative Rules with similar terms, including:

- non-custodial parent
- responsible relative,
- alleged father,
- acknowledged father,
- presumed father,
- presumed parent,
- obligor,
- payor,
- parent,
- father.

The term CP is used synonymously with similar terms used in various statutes and Administrative Rules with similar terms, including:

- custodial parent,
- applicant for or recipients of public assistance,
- obligee,
- payee,
- parent,
- mother.

The Department has attempted to address this matter by providing a definition for these terms in the Administrative Rules providing that similar terms are meant to incorporate and be used interchangeably with all similar terms.

➤ **89 Illinois Administrative Code Section 160.5 Definitions provides, in part:**

"Custodial Parent" refers to a person who is receiving, or is entitled to receive, under the law, support for a minor dependent (child) and is meant to incorporate and be used interchangeably with all similar terms, used in any statute or rule, referring to a person who is receiving, or is entitled to receive, under the law, support for a minor dependent (child), including the terms "CP", "payee", "obligee", or "parent".

"Responsible Relative" refers to a person who is responsible, or alleged to be responsible, under the law, for support of a minor dependent (child) and is meant to incorporate and be used interchangeably with all similar terms, used in any statute, referring to a person who is responsible, or alleged to be responsible, under the law, for support of a minor dependent (child), including the terms "non-custodial parent", "NCP", "obligor", "payor" or "parent".

These terms are used in various statutes and rules, including:

- Illinois Public Aid Code (305 ILCS 5/) - Terms such as non-custodial parent, custodial parent, responsible relative, applicant for or recipients of public assistance, obligor, obligee, mother and father are used.
- Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act (750 ILCS 5/) - Terms such as parent, obligor, obligee, are used.
- The Illinois Parentage Act of 2015 (750 ILCS 46/) - Terms such as obligor, obligee, non-custodial parent, custodial parent, mother, father, alleged father, adjudicated father, acknowledged father, and presumed parent are used.
- Non-Support Punishment Act (750 ILCS 16/) - Terms such as obligor, obligee, non-custodial parent, and custodial parent are used.
- Expedited Child Support Act of 1990 (750 ILCS 25/) - Terms such as obligor, obligee, and custodial parent are used.
- Income Withholding for Support Act (750 ILCS 28/) - Terms such as obligor and obligee are used.
- 89 Illinois Administrative Code Section 102, 104, 112, and 160 - Terms such as non-custodial parent, custodial parent, responsible relative, applicant for or recipients of public assistance, obligor, obligee.

Bryan Tribble asked for comments or thoughts.

Richard Zuckerman mentioned the earliest draft of income shares in the 90's we tried to use paying parent/receiving parent. We are trying to avoid any terms that we cannot use.

Ralph Abt said that there are mandatory and non-mandatory cases. We have varying terms. They may be used in other areas depending on parameters.

Maggie Bennett offered to assist Ralph on this.

Dr. Harris stated that he appreciated Ralph's work on this. What is more important is the context that describes their parental dynamic. What speaks to parents is important.

Jessica Patchik said that she had this chat at the last committee meeting. She asked if this was just for child support.

Bryan Tribble said that we are at the beginning of bringing on a new child support system. We want to come up with terms that work. Obligor and obligee did not work. We are trying to get it right.

Jessica Patchik stated that this is the perfect time to get rid of the current language.

Maggie Bennett said that in 2015 parenting was taken out of the language of the parenting act. We tried to be gender neutral. We removed mom and dad and used parents.

Richard Zuckerman said that they used parent with majority of parenting time.

Maggie Bennett said that we need to make sure that fathers and mothers have the same rights and obligations. The 2015 Parentage Act changed this.

Richard Zuckerman said you could have places where parents are not as linked in as they used to be. We need to move forward to figure this out. He suggested that we may ask at the public meeting.

- **Public Comments:**

None

- **Meeting Adjourned**

Motion made to adjourn; motion approved by voice vote.