

Minutes

Child Support Schedule Workgroup

Subcommittee: Economic Table

Thursday, April 6th, 1:00-2:30

To access the meeting online and to register: [Economic Table Webinar Registration](#) | [Miro Board](#)

Attendance

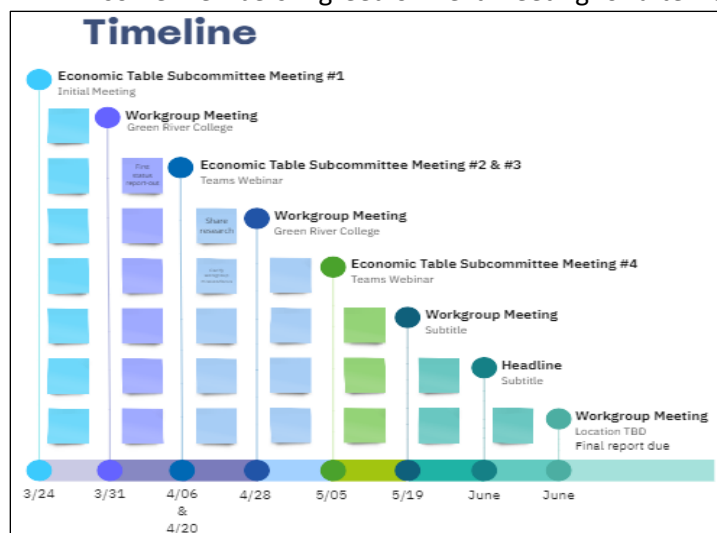
Members Appearing:

Anneliese Vance-Sherman	Gaston Shelton (Tui)	Amy Roark
Sharon Redmond	Kimberly Loges	<i>Facilitator: Janina Oestreich</i>
James Clark (Jim)	Janelle Wilson	<i>Note taker: Jana Ekstrom</i>

Public Attendees: None

Agenda Details

- Welcome, Introduction and Housekeeping (1:02pm-1:11pm)**
 - Ice Breaker – Provide one word to describe how you're showing up today**
 - Overview of 3/24/2023 meeting minutes -**
 - Minutes are posted for review in Dropbox, so if anyone has anything to add/edit please let workgroup staff know
 - Timeline**
 - Next workgroup meeting
 - Suggested back to Friday mornings and on 4/21/23, however conflicting schedules for some members. Agreed on next meeting for afternoon of Thursday 4/20/2023



- Overview of Research Findings (1:12pm-2:12pm)**
 - Janina has provided the resources available for review on the Miro Board
 - Overview/research documents that Sharon will be reviewing
 - A collection of laws from other state
 - Overview of Economic Table Models**

- i. Income Shares Model
 - Perception of what it would cost to raise a child in an intact (both parents) family
 - Child should receive same proportionate share that child would have received if parents lived together
 - Both parents have a financial responsibility to support child
 - As of 2020, 41 states use this model
 - ii. Percentage of Income Model
 - Uses only the obligor's (paying parent) income
 - Four states (Alaska, Mississippi, Wisconsin and Nevada) use a flat rate percent model
 - a. No variance based on how much money the obligor makes
 - Two states use a variable percentage model
 - a. Higher or lower income, amount of money may vary based on a percentage
 - iii. Melson Formula
 - A less used model, as only three states (Hawaii, Delaware and District of Columbia) use this model
 - Similar to Income Shares Model
 - Policy statements around figures that are computed
 - a. Parents entitled to sufficient income based on their basic needs
 - i. Once the NCP's basic needs are met, the remainder of the money should be allocated towards supporting the child and the child should benefit from NCP's higher standard of living
- c. History of the Economic Table**
- i. In the 1980's, counties in Washington each had their own way of calculating the child support
 - The government put a federal mandate in place that required Washington have one universal way of calculating for the state
 - ii. The economic table was created in the 1980's
 - The Child Support Schedule Workgroup met to review the table
 - More recent workgroup looked at the earlier years table
 - The current economic table does not give health care expenses credit, but the previous table did
 - Residential credit is something that has been carried over, even though not instructed in child support schedule
 - In 1991 eliminated automatic credit for children, instead turned it into a deviation around the residential credit/credit for children
 - The 2005 workgroup asked for accounting and created a child support summary report
 - The 2007 workgroup suggested the economic table limit of \$12k, then indicated for net income less than \$1k support no less than \$50 per month per child. Added language not to exceed 45% and increased to \$50 per month per child
 - There was a big change in focus in recommendations to legislation in 2011. That workgroup spent a great deal of time evaluating the economic table, but they had difficulty explaining the reasoning behind the numbers used in the existing table. That workgroup had the prior tables & brought in individuals who had created prior economic table(s) to help with the explanation.
 - Betson Rothbarth Model – [Presentation](#)
 - a. Economic table got adopted in 2019, even though it took eight years
 - b. Most people would expect a lower income level, regardless of the income levels, needs might not be met. Current and future support may not be sufficient to what the child's needs are
 - c. Higher level income, will all the needs be met and will the income no longer be needed for the parents?

- d. If this workgroup creates an economic table and legislation asks how it works, the workgroup will need to be able to explain and give an analysis of the created/proposed table
 - e. Started with including a medical expense allowance- \$250
 - f. Did another iteration based on table we have now
 - g. Prior economic table had age categories up to 11 and 12-18. Based on age, had different amounts to pay
 - h. Based on this table 'a child is a child' is the same amount
- iii. Group Discussion
- Previous workgroups seemed to focus on 'child is a child.' More straight forward and less variance or more complex
 - Based on previous tables, it would be beneficial to expand beyond \$12,000
 - a. When one parent makes net income of \$8,000 by themselves, they are getting a break on their end each month because the economic table maxes out at \$12,000 and if it is expanded, families that are above that would be able to get that adjusted based on the higher amount
 - i. In a historical premise shows that children should benefit from resources of both parents, but \$12,000 doesn't seem adequate now
 - ii. From a different perspective, sees that \$12,000 is a break for over the top child support orders when families have combined net monthly income over \$12,000 because of imputed income, this helps limit the crushing impact of a child support order they aren't able to pay
 - Could possibly do something similar to tax brackets, where once you make a certain amount, you are placed in a different bracket
 - Cost of living differences taken into consideration?
 - a. Level of complexity, may decrease value of it (i.e. a person moves to a different county in a month and all of the counties calculations may not be readily be available, which could be a challenge for parent's completing worksheets on their own)
 - b. A parent works remotely and moves to a specific county for their benefit
 - c. If the group is trying to streamline this process, a geographic differentiation would present a huge challenge

3. Charter/Scope Review (2:13pm-2:25pm)

a. Overview of Scope

- i. What is 'Out of Scope'
 - Are most members okay with the income shares model and can we move this out of scope?
 - Question: Is the model follows federal guidelines that Washington is supposed to follow? Answer: yes
 - Members all in agreeance that this can be moved out of scope
- ii. What is 'In Scope'
 - Expanding the economic table upwards past \$12,000 and finding a more reasonable starting point
 - Policy and implementation plan recommendations
 - Rounding up, making it clearer in a footnote/instruction or ranges for the combined monthly net income (CMNI)
 - a. Current economic table has set dollar amounts \$1,000, \$2,000, etc., but could put brackets like \$1,000-\$1999, \$2,000-\$2,999, etc.

4. Other Research (2:26pm-2:29pm)

a. Is there any more research that needs to be completed before subcommittee can start planning for scope?

- i. A subcommittee to develop the expansion of the economic table and finding a more reasonable starting point
 - Kimberly would be happy to help
 - Will check with Anneliese
 - Amy would be willing to help with the lower income portion

5. Tasks and Next Steps (2:30pm)

- a. Will work towards creating a subcommittee to develop the expansion and finding a more reasonable starting point for the the economic table, to follow up at the next subcommittee meeting on 4/20/23 so this group can determine a definitive scope

Meeting Adjourned at 2:31pm