

Minutes

Child Support Schedule Workgroup
Friday, March 31, 2023 | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Green River College
12401 SE 320th St, Auburn, WA 98092
Mel Lindbloom Student Union Building
Pine and Noble Rooms (Second Floor)
Meeting also available by webinar | [Miro Board](#)

Attendance

Members appearing on Teams		Bernardene Charley, Joy Moore, Kaha Arte, Kimberly Loges, Tami Chavez, Terry Price
Members appearing in person		Amy Roark, Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Carol Ann Slater, Gaston (Tui) Shelton, James (Jim) Clark, Janelle Wilson, Jennifer Turner, Kathleen Senecal, Raymond Allen, Sharon Redmond
Members not appearing		Senator Claire Wilson, Senator Matt Boehnke
Division of Child Support Staff		Ian Hall, Jake Hughes, Brady Horenstein, Jana Ekstrom, Janina Oestreich, Josselyn Green, Lucas Camacho, Rachel Tumbleson, Rachelle Jennings
Public Attendees		Anne Stone, Gordon Bock

Agenda Details

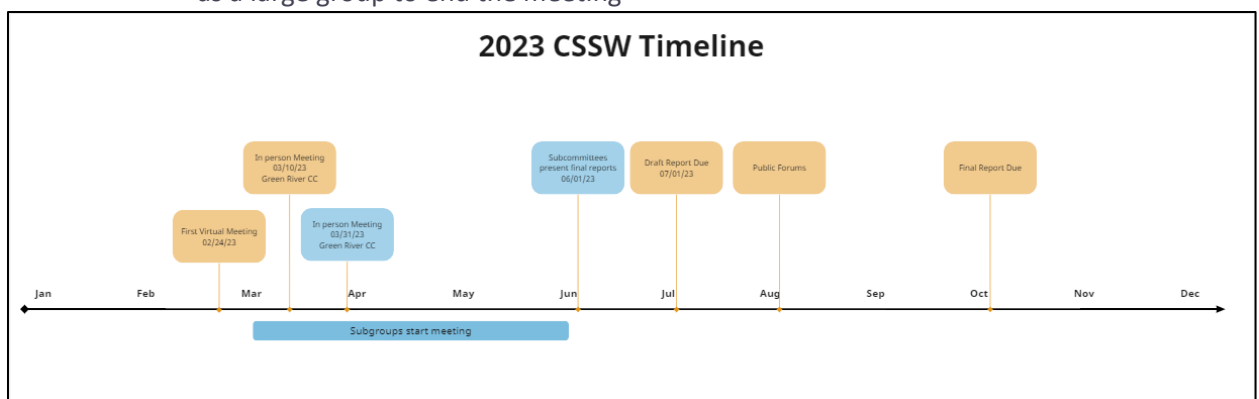
- Welcome (9:04am - 9:19am)**
 - Housekeeping notes – restroom locations, emergency exits, group agreements posted on the walls
 - Agenda overview
- March 10th Meeting Summary (9:19am - 9:22am)**
 - Reviewed meeting minutes from 3/10/2023
 - Clarification: EMAPS is the acronym for ESA Management Analytics and Performance Statistics, which is Economic Services Administration’s data team that does additional research to support the work that the administration does.
 - Minutes approved.
- Networking (9:22am - 9:38am)**
 - Workgroup members took turns answering a set of questions.

Break (9:38am - 9:55am)

- Overview of subcommittees (9:55am - 10:05am)**
 - All three subcommittees met last week

- b. Review of each subcommittee topic
 - Changes to the Economic Table
 - Residential Credit
 - Self-Support Reserve and Adding Deductions
 - c. Review of roles and responsibilities
 - d. Minutes for all subcommittee meetings are available via Dropbox and the Materials Page
 - e. Charter(s) – Guiding document for each subcommittee
 - Helps center discussion around mission and recover from tangents
 - Defines what is in scope and out of scope
 - Clarifies who will be impacted by any recommendations
- 5. Subcommittee Report Out: Reviewing Residential Credit (Kathleen Senecal, Lead) (10:05am - 10:52am)**
- a. Report Out from March 23, 2023 Meeting
 - Looked at the top two deviations in court and administrative orders
 1. Residential schedule credits and child from other relationships
 - Examined Residential Credit Subcommittee report from 2019
 1. 2019 workgroup determined the topic was too big to focus on, but 2023 subcommittee feels more confident to use this as a focus
 - In process of defining what an accurate adjustment based on significant residential time is
 1. Currently determined on case-by-case basis and not eligible for TANF recipients
 - Determining what is a fair and accurate deviation that will prevent significant conflict
 1. i.e. 80/20 – should be a calculation that figures can be input into the worksheets
 - Discussed why existing law isn't fully utilized
 - Make the process of obtaining a deviation and/or credit easier to understand and obtain
 - In Scope
 1. Anything affecting the dollar amount of the order
 2. Costs of children in the home (increased utilities, food, rent/mortgage, transportation, etc.)
 - Out of Scope
 1. Whether or not a child's family receives TANF
 2. Upward deviations for Noncustodial parents without any overnights
 - Impact
 1. Parents, children, judges, attorneys, the courts, all families and the State (DCS staff)
 - Materials prepared and/or shared by workgroup members
 1. [Deviations Handout](#)
 2. [HB 1603 \(2017\) Amendment 1603-S AMH SHEA ADAM 218](#)
 - b. Subcommittee plans to meet Thursdays, 9:30am-11:30am biweekly
 - Research for subcommittee due two days before each subcommittee meeting and the final subcommittee report will be finalized in June 2023
 - c. Research/tasks needed for next subcommittee meeting (4/6/2023)
 - How/what are other states incorporating and utilizing?
 - What barriers did prior workgroups run into regarding this issue?
 - An in depth overview into the child support review from EMAPS
 - d. Discussion
 - All workgroup members discussed in depth various previous workgroups recommendations and proposed amendments that did not pass regarding instituting a residential schedule credit.
- 6. Subcommittee Report Out: Addressing the Self-Support Reserve (SSR) and Adding Worksheet Deductions (Raymond Allen, Lead) (10:53am - 11:08am)**
- a. Report out from March 24, 2023 Meeting
 - Charter/Scope Overview

1. Evaluate SSR and determine if it is sufficient and if it's enough to support a single person household
 2. Determine reasonable worksheet deductions
- In scope
 1. Explore possible alternative SSR models
 2. Finding new current cost of raising a child in WA
 3. Including a formula for low-income parents that includes all children
 - Out of Scope
 1. Sanctions and penalties
 2. Anything not directly involving the SSR
 - Impact
 1. Parents, children, judges, attorneys, the courts, all families and the State (DCS staff)
- b. Next Subcommittee Meeting will be on 4/14/2023, 3:00pm-5:00pm
 - d. Research/tasks needed for next subcommittee meeting (4/14/2023)
 - How do other states apply SSR within their worksheets? (WA uses 125% of the federal poverty level)
 - History of SSR in previous Child Support Schedule Workgroups
 - What is county based SSR and if other states doing them or auto-adjustments?
 - Plans to invite Janelle Wilson to next subcommittee meeting regarding her pro-rata idea from the first meeting
 - d. Discussion
 - All workgroup members discussed a county based SSR and if there should be a different per diem even around state of WA based on different economic factors and cost of living in counties. Questioned how much it costs to raise a child and if the Pass-Through bill were passed, would that be a factor if passed
- 7. Working Lunch (11:25am - 12:16pm)**
- a. Workgroup Timeline Overview
 - Next meeting will be on 4/28/23 at Green River College
 - Meet as a large group in the morning and then as subcommittee groups then come back as a large group to end the meeting



- b. Resource Review
 - Meeting Calendar
 - Laws From Other States and Territories
 - ESA Briefing Book
 - Report: Evaluation of Income Determination Methods
 - Payment Analysis of 2022 Child Support Order Review
 - Income Comparisons & Support Near the Federal Poverty Level
 - Resources: Cost of Raising a Child

- d. Discussed Public Forum
 - Discussed the pros and cons of hosting the forums in-person, or online. The group decided to make the forums as accessible as possible and offer attendance both in-person and virtually with a hybrid meeting.
 - Make sure messaging/purpose of forum is clear so participants know what they're showing up for
 - The group decided to have to host two public forums, one in Eastern Washington and one in Western Washington, both will be hybrid meeting (one during the day and one in the evening).
 - May or may not be able to hold another round of subcommittee meetings following public forum
 - The group brainstormed cities to host the forums
 - **Questions:**
 1. Can the workgroup's timeline be extended?
 - i. Workgroup can be extended through agreement of the group, but usually groups are worn out by the time the normal timeframe is over
 - ii. If people drop off, how do you redefine consensus?
 2. Is there a possibility to have a public forum at the start of the workgroup and then another at the end of it for future CSSW workgroups?
- d. Legislator Roles and Responsibilities
 - **Question:** Do legislators provide feedback about what they like and didn't like in the reports?
 1. The main feedback is that they like consensus in the reports
 - Once we hand off the report, legislators may incorporate recommendations into a bill

Break/Lunch Wrap-up (12:16pm - 12:19pm)

8. Subcommittee report out: Changes to the Economic Table (Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Lead) (12:20pm)

- d. Report out from March 24, 2023 meeting
 - Challenges –Still at the point of getting more clarity, but still hashing out ultimately what to focus on
 - Charter/Mission: Make the process easier and more accurate
 1. Expanding the table beyond \$12,000?
 2. Consistency in orders
 3. Research what other states are doing and why they are using the inputs for economic table that they do
 4. Not wanting to reinvent the wheel, so learn or research other resources, guidance or scope based on RCW 26.19.020
 - In scope
 1. Examining the current model
 2. Policy and implementation plans
 - Out of scope
 1. Anything regarding enforcement
 - Impact
 1. Parents, children, judges, attorneys, the courts, all families and the State (DCS staff)
 - Materials prepared and/or shared by workgroup members
 1. [Support Analysis](#) (Created by Jim Clark)
- b. Next meeting 4/6/2023 1:00pm-2:30pm and will meet bi-weekly going forward
- c. Research/tasks needed for next subcommittee meeting (4/6/2023)
 - Sharon will be working Monday on getting the in depth overview of other state models
 - Amy and Tui will gather input on other states economic table
- d. Discussion

- Will make ample use of aforementioned website resources.
- Adjustment for inflation year to year?
- Economic Table was changed in 2018 after years of trying, eliminated the practice of calculating support differently for children of different ages.
- Likely to be affected by the work the Self-Support Reserve group is doing.
- Meeting again on the April 6, 2023 and will reconvene biweekly.

e. **Labor Market presentation** – Anneliese

9. **Public comment (1:02pm)**

- a. No public comments

10. **Wrap up and closing (1:04pm - 1:07pm)**

- a. Adding communication plan for public forum to next meeting's agenda
- b. If anyone is providing handouts, please email them to SupportSchedule@dshs.wa.gov in advance so they can be made available to members attending remotely
- c. Next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2023 at Green River College (9:00am-3:00pm)
- A portion of this meeting will be spent meeting in subcommittees.

Meeting Adjourned 1:07pm