

Minutes

Child Support Schedule Workgroup
Friday, April 28th | 9:00am– 3:00pm

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: [Teams Webinar](#) | [Miro Board](#)

Attendance

Members appearing on Teams	Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Bernardene Charley, Jennifer Turner, Kaha Arte, Kathleen O'Shea Senecal, Kimberly Loges, Senator Matt Boehnke,
Members appearing in person	Amy Roark, Carol Ann Slater, Gaston Shelton (Tui), James Clark (Jim), Janelle Wilson, Joy Moore, Raymond Allen, Sharon Redmond
Members not appearing	Tami Chavez, Terry Price, Senator Claire Wilson
Division of Child Support Staff (In person/on Teams)	Jake Hughes, Jana Ekstrom, Janina Oestreich, Josselyn Green, Lucas Camacho, Rachel Tumbleson, Rachelle Jennings
Public Attendees	None

Agenda Details

1. Welcome

- a. Agenda Review
 - Overview of minutes from last meeting, networking, going over subcommittees, report out for subcommittees, working lunch (timeline schedule, meeting schedule, logistics and resource review), public comment and wrap up
 - a. For subcommittee meetings, members who are part of multiple subcommittees can choose one to participate in or float in between them
- b. Added a new agreement as it was challenging to track discussion in person and virtually
 - Before speaking, state your name and then start talking so people know who is contributing to conversation
- c. Ice Breaker

2. March 31st Meeting Summary

- a. Reviewed meeting minutes from last workgroup meeting. No edits or objections were noted, so minutes will be finalized

3. Networking Activity

- a. Will use a wheel to spin for selection of randomized questions for each group member to answer.

4. Public Forum Planning

- a. Timeline
 - Next meeting 5/19/2023
 - Another in-person meeting scheduled for 6/23/2023
 - Moving the July meeting up to accommodate the public forum – July 14th will be a virtual meeting

- Public forum will be scheduled for the last week in July
 - a. Josselyn will send out survey for availability for proposed dates
- Possibly another meeting in August for feedback from public forum
 - a. Josselyn will send out survey for availability for proposed dates

b. Potential Locations for Public Forum

Public Forum Locations	
West	East
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor & Industries • Everett <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSU Everett • Everett Community College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spokane: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spokane Library • Spokane Falls Community College (waiting on quote) • Spokane Community College (waiting on quote) • Yakima <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yakima Valley College • Ellensburg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Washington University

c. Brainstorming some potential Communication streams

Target Audience		Medium		Who will distribute		When to Communicate	
Low income families	People working or looking for employment	Flyers/QR code (flyers possible paper and email?)	DSHS Facebook/social media posting	Members can distribute flyers	Kaha can send to NJP/Clear	Start communicating as soon as we finalize the date.	Think about languages: DCS has a list of the top QR code, they could access the language they needed
Caregivers	People visiting court facilitators/court facilitators (Joy is the contact for this list)	DSHS/DCS website	Healthy families - a family organization could get the word out in clallam county	Jennifer can cover Clallam county and Jefferson	Anneliese can talk to worksource leadership (ESD side), also Skagit County Board of Health		Sharon update: Comms will help with the flyer and getting a QR code, but it does take 4-6 weeks for that to happen.
CASA	Wa state bar association	Worksource has ads about jobs, maybe we can get them to advertise for the forum	DCYF	Joy can distribute the flyers to the court facilitators listserv	Bernardene can send to tribal partners	DCS can ask to put it up on DSHS social media	Idea: survey the public about our ideas and see where they most often access their info.
Policy makers, community organizations and agencies	Advocacy groups	Mailer to NCP/CP (included with billing statement for CP - might be too hard and too expensive for DCS to do)	WA Fatherhood council	DCS comms to create flyer. QR code?	DCS can check into whether we can do an electronic message to SAW accounts		
Washington state association; early learning	Family Law Attorneys/groups	NWJ Project/Clear/UI Law project/other pro bono legal aid	Children's council in Skagit Co		Create PDF of flyer that we can send out (more focus on showing up than allowing more comments that will need to be addressed) - make sure that the purpose for the forum is clear on the communication		
Tribal agencies	Local boards of health/advisory committees	Brigid Collins in NW WA	Union halls for non dcs payers				
Pros attorneys for Child Support (Janell)	Planned parenthood	Poverty reduction workgroup/Solid ground in Seattle	Email or info over the phone (SEO's)				
VA		School districts/peach jar	Housing authority				

Break (10:20am -10:35am)

5. Subcommittee Report Out: Reviewing Residential Credit – Carol Ann Slater - 4/20/23 Meeting Minutes

- a. 2015 Recommendations:
 - Recommendation #1: The residential schedule credit should be a formula
 - Recommendation #2: The residential schedule credit should be available for court and administrative processes
 - Recommendation #3: The residential schedule credit should not apply when the custodial parent is on TANF or is low income
 - Recommendation #4: Statute should specify how and when the residential schedule applies
 - a. Does this force the process to be court-based?
 - Recommendation #5: The worksheets should be revised to provide enough information about the deviation to allow unrepresented parties to calculate it
 - Recommendation #6: If a parent who receives a downward deviation from the residential schedule credit does not spend time with the child(ren), remedies should be available
- b. Researched other states' policies and practices
 - California's residential credit formula is more granular to prevent the cliff effect
 - The subcommittee plans to continue looking at different models to determine if there's anything that Washington should consider adopting
- c. Roadblocks – Why didn't this go through last time?
 - Avoid changing TANF policies to prevent muddying the waters
 - Hourly credits for parenting time?
 - What if there are no overnights but child sees paying parent every day after school?
 - Is this too granular?
 - What would be standard operating procedure versus at the judge's discretion?
 - In the 2015 report, Legal Services recommended against the residential schedule proposal based on low-income children with high-income noncustodial parents. Should a partial residential credit be considered for lower income parents so that they aren't deprived of resources?
 - Should we develop a type of Self Support Reserve for custodial parents?
 - How to account for non-parent custodians with two noncustodial parents
 - Should there be a presumption of split custody?
- d. Any feedback from the full workgroup have thoughts of report outs?
 - Happy that attention is being paid to low income custodial parents
 - What happens if a noncustodial parent has a residential credit and "takes" the child, but doesn't actually spend time with them (i.e. leaving them alone, having another child or adult babysit them, etc.)?
 - Low income custodial parents may not have the resources to pursue contempt. Can it be made easier to pursue?
 - Idea: If the residential schedule is not followed, can we allow support to be retroactively modified?

6. Subcommittee Report Out: Addressing the Self Support Reserve & Adding Worksheet Deductions – Raymond Allen - 4/14/23 Meeting Minutes

- a. Reviewed the 2015 workgroup's recommendations
 - Recommendation: Change the language in the RCW's to make the Self Support Reserve calculation similar to 45% income limitation rule stating support cannot take up more than 45% of a paying parent's income and applies to all legal children

- a. Recommend instituting a pro rata share for all biological/legal children when calculation the Self Support Reserve regardless of whether or not they're before the court
- b. Discussed the use of the federal poverty guidelines/federal poverty level
- c. Plans to discuss alternative models for calculating the Self Support Reserve that other states use
 - [Colorado](#) worksheets might be helpful - It considers all of the calculations from shared custody and has all the deductions and considerations
 - Would like assistance from Anneliese to review and do an analysis on what would be the best method to benefit low income families in the state of Washington

7. Subcommittee Report Out: Changes to the Economic Table – Anneliese Vance-Sherman - 4/20/23 Meeting Minutes

- a. Looking at combined income of both parents and analyzing the underlying assumptions of the table with regards to how the child would benefit with an intact family income. Most states are using this model.
- b. Doesn't want to propose any major overhaul of the entire economic table, so the recommendation's being proposed are viable by legislation and future workgroups
 - Looking at upper and lower limits
 - a. Increasing from \$12k maximum
 - b. Potentially increasing the lower limit
 - Has sub-subcommittee to look at more information and research for the limit amounts
 - One question that was posed was the 'rounding-up' but will likely just be a recommendation on verbiage as it could be as simple as adding footnote or changing language in the instructions. Doesn't change the table but adds clarification on how the economic table is to be used
- c. Feedback from full workgroup/thoughts
 - Difference in cost of living based on counties
 - a. Was discussed in the subcommittee, but looking at a statewide table that is looking at shares. The table is based on proportion of how much each parent should pay
 - b. Wouldn't want somebody to have to continuously go back to court when moves to different county, states, etc.
 - c. The complexity – have to realize that it is a little less than perfect, but taking the different counties, 50/50 can be broad. The state is required to have one economic table.
 - Is there a deviation/credit for the cost of raising a child?
 - a. Basic support obligation (housing, transportation, etc.)
 - a. The economic table's underlying calculations were last made in 2013
 - b. Sometimes based off of income on both of the parents. Some based on what the parents are able to pay. Some portions on the table/worksheets can't be based on the needs/how much it costs for child as it is based on income of the parents.
 - Not looking for an overhaul, but more so concrete calculations
 - a. Based on cost of raising a child
 - b. The standard of living in some households is different, is there a way to come to a middle for that?
 - a. That can kind of goes into parental income
 - Why can't each county have their own economic table that is reviewed/analyzed?
 - a. Required that there be a statewide schedule –mandated by the federal government
 - b. 'forum shopping' and the resources it takes for each county to have one (as it previously was)

8. Transition to Subcommittee Breakout Rooms/Working Lunch – Subcommittee meetings (11:35am-1:40pm)

- a. [Self-Support reserve Breakout Room Minutes](#)
- b. [Residential Credit Breakout Room Minutes](#)
- c. [Economic Table Breakout Room Minutes](#)

Break 1:40pm-1:50pm

9. Subcommittee Report Out: Reviewing Residential Credit – Kathleen Senecal

- a. Addressing and protecting low-income children so the residential schedule credit doesn't negatively affect them
 - Does not want to make family go into poverty
- b. Addressing the possibility of noncustodial parents potentially requesting residential time to get a deviation and how to proceed when they don't adhere to the schedule
- c. Agrees that residential credit should be presumptive. Haven't determined the level, but will be researching this further
- d. Discussed allowing retroactive modifications to the date of the residential schedule violation
 - Florida allows retroactive modifications to when a parent first failed to fulfill access rights
- e. Next meeting is 5/4/23
 - Members will be doing further research on discussed topics
 - a. Taking a closer look at other states' policies
 - b. Overnights versus another way of defining shared time
 - a. Hour-by-hour calculations might be too chaotic. Could look into at least eight hours per day as a full day?
 - Overnights versus another way of defining shared time

10. Subcommittee Report Out: Addressing the Self Support Reserve & Adding Worksheet Deductions – Joy Moore

- a. Discussed idea of adding specific deduction to the worksheets
 - Adding paid insurance requirements at a statutory level
 - Adding maintenance – Members will need to do further research on this
- b. How Washington calculates the Self Support Reserve by using minimum wage as the standard measurement as opposed to the poverty guidelines
 - Minimum wage indexed to inflation and updated annually
 - Mirroring Arizona's model – 80% of monthly full-time earnings at minimum wage for their Self Support Reserve
 - a. What in Washington does it cost to support a single person household? Is 80% adequate or does it need to be a different amount?
 - b. 80% of WA's minimum wage is \$2015
 - Have not decided what it should be yet, but members still doing research

11. Subcommittee Report Out: Changes to the Economic Table – Anneliese Vance-Sherman

- a. Based on discussion this morning in larger group, had a reflective conversation
 - Early on in large workgroup very ambitious to redo the entire economic table
 - a. After looking at the timeline and research of other states models and historical data, concluded that there wasn't a need to overhaul the current table and take a look to see

where there could be proposed adjustments and to expand a higher income level based on actual earnings and review the lower end of the table

b. What does an expansion look like for the table

- Anneliese will continue to work on proposed table expansions and what they'd look like without fundamentally tearing the current table apart

12. Public Comment

a. No public attendees

13. Wrap Up and Closing

a. Reminders –

- Please get lunch order for in person meeting by Wednesday May 3, 2023.
- Please keep a lookout in emails for subcommittee meeting invites

Meeting Adjourned 2:21pm