

Minutes

Child Support Schedule Workgroup

Wednesday, June 7th | 4:00pm– 5:00pm

Microsoft Teams Virtual Webinar

To access the meeting online and to register: [Teams Webinar](#) | [Miro](#)

Attendance

Members appearing on Teams	Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Carol Ann Slater, James (Jim) Clark, Joy Moore, Kaha Arte, Kathleen O’Shea Senecal, Raymond Allen, Sharon Redmond, Tami Chavez, Terry Price
Members appearing in person	
Members not appearing	Amy Roark, Bernardene Charley, Gaston Shelton, Janelle Wilson, Jennifer Turner, Kimberly Loges, Senator Claire Wilson, Senator Matt Boehnke
Division of Child Support Staff (In person/on Teams)	Brady Horenstein, Ian Hall, Jake Hughes, Jana Ekstrom, Janina Oestreich, Josselyn Green
Public Attendees	Berlyn Aphcas

Agenda Details

1. Welcome

- a. Agenda Review

2. Subcommittee Report Out: Addressing the Self Support Reserve (SSR) & Adding Worksheet Deductions

- a. The current SSR of 125% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is not sufficient when you have children from multiple relationships
 - Subcommittee has considered two versions
 - a. Arizona model – 80% of minimum wage
 - b. Current Washington model – Increase to 180% FPL
 - a. Legislators tend to prefer maintaining existing model
 - b. Question: Why is 180% increase the right choice compared to others?
 - i. Group felt [Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed Model \(ALICE\)](#) metric was more accurate than FPL, 180% was closest to this amount
 - ii. This amount is close to what is made for a 32-hour (full-time) work week in certain jobs
 - c. This was considered in the 2015 and 2019 CSSW, but never made it to final recommendation
 - b. Recommendation for Maintenance Payments
 - Under Trump “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act,” spousal maintenance is no longer deductible on the payor’s tax return and no longer taxable to the payee.
 - Options: Should the worksheet mirror the federal tax changes or not
 - a. Suggested that removing the deduction/taxable income for support is likely the easier process, especially for a person who is representing themselves

- Can be complicated for multiple relationships
- Subcommittee hasn't yet looked at examples, but requested examples/figures from DCS Team so they can look into these at their next subcommittee meeting to see the pros/cons and the amount of change it has on the worksheets
- c. Recommendation for Abatement for Court-Ordered Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment
 - Suggested to not modify RCW26.09.325, but make a new RCW for someone who is court-ordered to attend treatment
 - a. For people who are required to enter treatment, would want them to get better to be able to go back to how they previously lived
 - a. Should an analog be created to the abatement statute?
 - i. Subcommittee still gathering information for this
 - b. Important to get message to legislature and continue working on as recommendation even if may not get over the finish line
 - a. This is a larger issue than the group may not be able to address with an elegant solution

3. Subcommittee Report Out: Changes to the Economic Table

- a. Proposing to change some of the thresholds - [Economic Table](#)
 - Starting table at \$1600 because anything lower defaults to a \$50 order
 - a. If there is a SSR change, the starting point for the table would likely be higher, maybe \$2200 or more
 - Increasing the table from \$12,000 to \$50,000
 - a. This will allow for the table to be relevant for a longer period of time
 - b. Seeing more three parent households in worksheets and it is a lot easier to reach higher income amount with three incomes
- b. Recommendation for clarification on 'rounding up'
 - This is to ensure that it reads clearly and more precise, rather than having a substantial change

4. Next Steps

- a. Next full group meeting is on Friday June 23, 2023 at Green River College

Meeting Adjourned 4:44pm