

MINUTES

2015 Child Support Schedule Workgroup
Meeting of June 22, 2015
DSHS King Street Bldg.
Seattle, WA

Workgroup Members attending: Wally McClure, Dr. Robert Plotnick, Judge Richard Okrent (checked in by phone to answer some questions), Merrie Gough, Tami Chavez, Kevin Callaghan, Coti Westby, Ami Abuan, Kristopher Amblad, Melora Sharts, Charles Szurszewski, Inga Laurent, Kala Jackson

DCS Staff: Sharon Redmond, Matthew Parascand, Nancy Koptur, Robert Bates, Janina Oestreich, Sara Harding

Guests: Cindy Bricker, David Johnson, Lisa Vasquez

I. Introductions

- a. Workgroup members and Workgroup staff introduced themselves.
- b. Workgroup roles and responsibilities discussed.

II. Review of Agenda

The group reviewed, amended and approved the Draft Minutes from the 05/22/15 meeting.

III. Subcommittee Report out

a. Parenting Plans

- i. Use contempt process or modification to eliminate residential credit
 1. Threshold?
 2. 1 year (6 month) compliance period before you could request a modification
 3. If don't exercise residential time would be a basis for modification
- ii. Administrative process (only administrative orders)
 1. Agreement by both parties
 2. Mediated agreement
 3. DCS line staff could implement RC (with a strong DV safeguard)
 - a. No drafting of documents
 - b. No enforcement of agreement (modification only)
 - c. All agree DCS needs way to apply RC

Suggestion: Add language to the DCS agreed settlement/consent order form where parents agree to a percentage of residential time for purposes of calculating support for that order only. Language would not be binding for any other purpose.

IV. Working Lunch - Short break to gather food

V. Subcommittee Report out continued

b. Unit of Measure

- i. All agreed shared custody costs more to maintain two households
- ii. Should a multiplier be used to adjust support for the increased cost of maintaining two households and then deviate from the increased support amount
 - 1. Transfer payment may increase if multiplier used
 - 2. Need to compare increased costs vs time spent with children
- ii. Don't change the current presumption that "The court may not deviate [for RC] if the deviation will result in insufficient funds in the household receiving the support to meet the basic needs of the child or if the child is receiving temporary assistance for needy families."
- iii. Should the higher earning parent be the obligor and pay support with deviation for residential time without regard to which parent has majority residential time?
- iv. Should the NCP definition be changed to something other than "A parent is considered to be an NCP when for the majority of the time during the period for which support is sought, the dependent child resided somewhere other than with that parent."

c. Adjustment vs. Deviation

- i. Court/ administrative process should use a specific formula for deviations that is advisory only
- ii. Should be a deviation and not an adjustment
- iii. Need a basis for why using the numbers used

VI. Work group check in

- i. 45% limitation – Kevin Callaghan suggests there be a correlation between limitations

1. The Self Support Reserve should be divided among all children, not applied separately in each case
- ii. Kevin and Kristopher Amblad will draft language or present opposing views at next meeting
- iii. If legislature doesn't adopt 2011 recommendations re post-secondary and children from other relationships, workgroup should address

VII. Wrap Up and Planning

- i. Group decided to form a Formula Subcommittee to work on the RC formula
 - Members include:
 - Dr. Plotnick
 - Coti Westby
 - Melora Shart
 - Charles Szurszewski
 - Tami Chavez
 - Judge Okrent – needs to be asked
 - subject matter experts
- ii. Dr. Plotnick to prepare some child support examples using different multipliers to demonstrate effect on the transfer payment for the Formula Subcommittee to review prior to its next meeting
- iii. Charles and Wally and staff to work on 50-50 issues

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 pm.