

September 17, 2007

Dear Governor Workgroup Appointees:

Thank you and welcome (again!) to the Child Support Schedule Workgroup. Earlier last week, I sent you a hard copy letter and a package of materials to help you prepare for our upcoming meeting. If for any reason, you don't receive the information by today (September 17, 2007), please let me know. We will work diligently to get that package to you.

Now that you have chosen as a member for the Child Support Schedule Workgroup, you will undoubtedly receive contacts from members of the public interested in the work of the work group. I would like to make sure you know that as members of a work group appointed by the Governor, your appointment is in the nature of a Commission; and that you are now considered public officials, serving in a public role. Leslie Goldstein, from OFM, will be one of our first presenters at our first meeting to provide us with an overview of the nature of our appointments and to answer questions. She is an excellent resource and I expect we will be able to call upon her from time to time, as needed.

Additionally, at the first meeting, we will have the opportunity to discuss how we want to invite public comment and participation; as we want to make sure we are giving members of the public the opportunity to provide their valuable input across the state, through public meetings and whatever other forums we may choose. For example, in past meetings (and in this upcoming meeting) we have set aside time for members of the public that attend to have an opportunity to address the group. I expect we will want to identify a variety of approaches that we can consider in order to secure public feedback outside of our regular meeting schedule. This will allow us to have the entire workgroup hear the various concerns, suggestions and ideas together. If you have been appointed as the representative of a group, you are encouraged to articulate the specific concerns, suggestions and ideas of the group you represent. You are also encouraged to bring your personal experience to the table.

I do want to make it clear that only the Division of Child Support is responsible for establishing the official schedule of work group meetings, and will also be the responsible for providing you with the official materials pertinent to the work group. Meetings scheduled by other groups or information produced by other sources do not qualify as official Child Support Workgroup business and are not eligible for travel reimbursement; however, this in no way precludes you from participation in other meetings or receiving other materials. The Division of Child Support is in the process of creating a public website that will include an e-mail address for the public to post their comments about the child support schedule issues we will be discussing, which will be forwarded to all of the members of the workgroup.

Finally, it is important to note that while each of us will have individual points of view, it is important to keep in mind that in those instances where the work group has reached an official position, we should endeavor to communicate our group decision with clarity and consistency. To accomplish this, we will draft and produce minutes which will be posted to the public website. As we finish our work, we will prepare and produce a report detailing the issues we have reviewed, discussed and decided. And should the occasion arise, I will assume the role of spokesperson for the workgroup as its Chair.

I am looking forward to next Friday's meeting and having the chance to meet with all of you. Please remember to bring the calendars that were sent to you, so that we can work on establishing our future meeting dates. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [DStillman@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:DStillman@dshs.wa.gov) or 360-664-5441 or [ENolan@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:ENolan@dshs.wa.gov) at 360-664-5066.

Very truly yours,

David Stillman, Director  
Division of Child Support