



Subcommittee Name:
Temporary Abatement/Dependency

Subcommittee Facilitator: Mindy Houx
Subcommittee Members: Sandra Johnston, Keoki Kauanoë, Shelby LeBret-McCrea, Judge Richard Okrent

Child Support Schedule Workgroup: Subcommittee Charter

Mission/purpose:

- *What is the subcommittee trying to accomplish?*
 - Primary purpose: Investigate and recommend a waiver for the child support obligation for those residential and/or custodial parents who are in a dependency action and are having to fulfill state requirements in order to have their children returned (putting “family first”).
 - Secondary purpose: Investigate and recommend potential abatements in those circumstances that justice requires; e.g. bankruptcies, chronic illness or disabilities, incarceration, and/or catastrophic/economic circumstance.

Scope:

- *What is in scope for the subcommittee?*
 - Proposing changes to those RCWs and WACs which allow us to meet our mission statement.
- *What is out of scope for the subcommittee?*
 - Income modifications, while a good idea, are outside the scope of this subcommittee.

Impact:

- *Who will be impacted by the subcommittee’s work?*
 - The most vulnerable members of our society including children, low income and/or drug addicted households. Secondly it also will assist those parents who have suffered unforeseen and/or catastrophic events that affect income. This will need to be balanced against how it affects DCYF (DSHS), foster care payments, Administrative Courts, housing programs, etc.

Timeline and Milestones:

- o Subcommittee meetings (preliminary scheduling): 3/28, 3:00-4:00pm; 4/17, 12:30-1:30pm; remaining subcommittee meeting dates/times TBD
- o 3/28 meeting: preliminary reporting on action items:
 - **Richard:** Research which RCWs and WACs regarding the current law 4/25/19; Gone 3/31 to 4/10.
 - **Sandra:** Contact DSHS regarding budget impact – how much money is owed to DCS based on dependencies, what it costs to collect it, what budgetary impact is – talk to Kelly Warner-King (dependency statistics) per Richard’s recommendation. He’ll to get Sandra in touch with her.
 - **Keoki:** Contact the Office of Public Defense, Jake D’Annunzio and look into what the impact will be to stakeholders – about to return children to families, what is the impact of arrears on housing, daycare, etc. If we were to wipe out arrears and suspend current support, how would that impact the stakeholders; especially those families where the kids are about to be returned.
 - **Shelby:** Contact the Attorney General (who?) / DCYF (DSHS) and look into what the impact is to stakeholders – about to return children to families, what is the impact of arrears on housing, daycare, etc. If we were to wipe out arrears and suspend current support, how would that impact the stakeholders; especially those families where the kids are about to be returned.
 - **Mindy:** Gather info on DCS policy and practices around dependency reunifications and what child support barriers there are, work with Sandra on tracking down these issues and recoupment for foster family costs.
- o 4/29 workgroup meeting: first subcommittee progress report to the entire workgroup

Note: Best meeting times for the group are 12:00pm and 3:00pm

- *June 2019: Subcommittee final report delivered to the full workgroup, including recommendations.*