

Attendance:

Members appearing	Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Commissioner Tami Chavez, Janelle Wilson, Sharon Redmond
Members not appearing	Administrative Law Judge Jeff Manson, Christy Carpenter, Crissy Anderson, Judge Richard Okrent, Kristofer Amblad, James Chott, Keoki Kauano, Mia Harper, Representative Christine Kilduff, Representative Jeremie Dufault, Sandra Johnston, Senator Claire Wilson, Senator Maureen Walsh, Shelby LeBret-McCrea, Tara Miller, Terry Price
Division of Child Support staff	Kimberly Curtis, Mindy Houx, Nicole Enlow
Public attendees	Amy Trochta-Bouldin, Chris Bean, Melissa Shea-Bean, Steve Bouldin

Presentation for the public forum

Agenda:

1. Review public forum ground rules

2. Introduction and hopes for the public forum

- Chair of the workgroup, Sharon Redmond, shared the hope for the public forum is to hear input and feedback from the public on the emerging workgroup recommendations and other child support issues.

3. Workgroup member introductions

4. Recommendations Review

- Emerging recommendation from the three subcommittees
 - Income Determination, Imputation, and the Self-Support Reserve
 - RCW 26.19.071
 - Imputation of income factors
 - Imputing to 32 hours per week in certain circumstances
 - Additional language for an individual who has never been employed
 - RCW 26.19.011 – definition of full time
 - Substantially Shared Parenting and Residential Deviation Definition
 - Time calculated by hours instead of overnights
 - 35% threshold to be met for a potential deviation
 - Totality of circumstances including insufficient resources consideration
 - No deviation if receiving TANF
 - Adjustment if residential time is not being exercised
 - Temporary Abatement for Dependency
 - Colloquy – a formal conversation with parents involved in a dependency action
 - Court can adjust current support obligation
 - Court can adjust arrears owed to the State of Washington
 - Notice to parties in a dependency action

5. Public Feedback/Input

Amy Trochta-Bouldin

- Supports the shared parenting topic – currently has child(ren) for 30% of the time and a 50/50 split in the summer but continue to pay full support

- May not be taking child(ren) as much moving forward due to a lack of resources and a credit for residential time would help
- The current system is flawed
- Children currently age out when they reach 18 but continue to cost money for parents including health insurance, phone bills, and gas money as a parent may continue to support the child(ren)
 - Maybe consider looking at the total number of children with an individual that are under age 25 (the same age when a child can no longer be on a parent's health insurance)
 - Younger children's support may increase when an older child ages out, but parent continues to support that older child
- Periodic review of child support obligation without having to hire an attorney
- At what point are the child(ren) listened to for which parent they want to live with – should be consistent with other statutes where younger children are being listened to

Chris Bean

- The court system is hard and doesn't care about you
- Money is taken in the court process and it doesn't go toward the child(ren)
- The court process creates an obligation, but that support may not go toward the child(ren)
- Look at emotional abuse in the system and understand it is hard to prove as there is no physical evidence

Melissa Shea-Bean

- Shared time – currently have children every other weekend and the entire summer but recently had to pay child support when they are in the household
 - Could monthly support payments be split out for the entire year or shuffle payments for when the children are in the other parent's household to account for the basic needs of the child(ren) when they are in the paying parent's household?
 - Consider a deviation during the months where the paying parent has the child(ren)
 - Like the change to state insufficient resources in both households, instead of only the custodial parent
- Income Determination
 - Look at when the custodial parent's income substantially changes but they don't notify anyone
 - Periodic review of child support obligation without going to court or having an attorney involved – parents can't afford to go back to court to have it changed
 - How does income get looked at further down the line, especially if the non-custodial parent had higher income when the order was entered
- Court System
 - A little too black and white for these types of issues
 - Pull away from the court process and put in to the Division of Child support to account for more family circumstances and a family centered approach
 - Children should have a voice but understand there are limitations – consider an age limit of 12 or 13 as young kids don't understand
 - Difficult to show in court that other parent may not have been focused on what was best for the children through the divorce process
 - Need to understand and deal with the emotion of the situation

- Important to remember people end up being a non-custodial parent for many reasons and it doesn't mean they don't want to support their child(ren) or have them in their households
- Sometimes it seems more beneficial to be poorer – less of a child support obligation and able to qualify for assistance with the Community Services Division and other aid programs

Steve Bouldin

- Felt the overall presentation showed a lot of the custodial parent side, but not as much on the non-custodial parent side
- After 5 years of experience in the child support system it seems more focused on helping the custodial parent
- Financial side of circumstances hurts spending time with child(ren)
- Pursued higher education to better career opportunities but it feels like it is almost better to not to this due to the impact it had on the child support obligation
- Spend a lot of time dealing with the court process
- Advertising for the public forum – randomly saw it on Facebook, could also consider advertising at the courts, lawyers offices, and sending an email to the email address on file with the Division of Child Support

6. Closing

- Meetings
 - Public Forums: August 8th in Seattle and August 10th in Spokane
 - Workgroup meetings: August 9th in Seattle and August 29th in Tacoma
- Drafting the final report due to the Legislature on October 1st, 2019
- For more information:
 - [Online](#): search 'child support schedule workgroup 2019' in internet browser
 - Email: supportschedule@dshs.wa.gov
- Thank you for your participation!