

Child Support Advisory Committee Meeting

February 16, 2021 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)

WebEx Meeting

Committee Members Present via WebEx/phone:

Darryl Apperton, Maggie Bennett, Turyia Clay and Armando Sandoval (for The Honorable Iris Y. Martinez), Trent Cameron, Howard Feldman, Geraldine Franco, Dr. Kirk Harris, Juanita Sanders (for Secretary Grace Hou), Elizabeth Lingle, Christina Mahoney, The Honorable Sidney Mathias, Nicole McKinnon, Phillip Mohr, Jessica Patchik, Christine Raffaele, Derrick White, Richard Zuckerman

Committee Members Absent:

Maria Barlow, The Honorable La Shawn Ford, Honorable Judge Pamela Loza, Vickie Smith, The Honorable Alana I. Mejias

HFS Staff Present via phone:

Bryan Tribble, Gina Hemphill, Ralph Abt, Daun Perino, Irene Curran, Hilary Felton, Sharon Shapiro, Kim Rossini and Steve Sharer

Public Guests: Farren Counterman

- **Welcome to CSAC members – Bryan Tribble**
 - Roll call of committee members – Bryan Tribble
 - Introduction of state employees and members of the public
 - All committee members, attendees and members of the public were asked to announce their name before speaking and to mute their phone if they are not speaking.
 - Election of 2021 CSAC Chairperson – Bryan Tribble & Committee
Howard Feldman nominated Richard Zuckerman for reappointment as the 2021 CSAC chairperson. The Motion was duly seconded by Maggie Bennett. No other nominations were brought forward. Richard was unanimously elected. Richard accepted the position of chair.
 - Approval of December 15, 2020 meeting notes
Motion made to approve. Motion was seconded, Notes were passed.

- **CSAC Quarterly Numbers – Bryan Tribble**

Bryan shared the quarterly numbers and KPI trends. The first part are cases with orders. In FFY 19 there was a slight decrease. This was anticipated due to court closures around the state. Prior to this we had been on a steady increase. We were also affected in our paternity establishment numbers. Paternity numbers were limited due to COVID restrictions in hospitals and court houses. We are now able to open some paternity testing locations. Once orders were being heard again the numbers rebounded a bit. The department is trying to get this back up over 90%. A request through the Stafford Act to

allow us to be under 90%, it was denied. We are currently asking OCSE about this. We are looking to be held harmless and not put on a corrective action plan. We are looking for info on how COVID affected us positively. There is a large number of people on unemployment. The arrearage number went up. This was attributed to the first round of stimulous payments. They were allowed to be offset for child support. The second round was not. IRS clarification can be offset in conjunction with 2020 IRS tax returns. Dr. Harris said that this was not well received. He suggested that we introduce humanity into this process and that we need to be considerate to this. Bryan Tribble stated that states were looking at not taking them. We were told it was not specifically excludable. We could have opted out but that would include all tax offsets. This is why DCSS worked with the National Council of Child Support Directors (NCCSD) to make certain, in subsequent COVID-related bills where Economic Impact Payments were being included to be directly distributed, that these funds would have an exclusion to offset. This piece ensures the funds get into the hands of all individuals who are in need due to COVID-related financial impact. Dr. Harris mentioned that the new administration may have a different view with respect to unemployment benefits. Bryan Tribble explained that the unemployment benefit offsets are much like the income offsets. Dr. Harris stated that adding additional financial issues does not help build family. In these times of great crisis, he would like to keep this in mind.

- **Interest Removal Update – Bryan Tribble**

Bryan stated that interest was removed 01/01/2021. We began getting an increased number of calls shortly thereafter, but the volume has been manageable and roughly what we expected. Most of the calls have been from obligees/Custodial Parents (CP's) who saw their balance was reduced and had questions. Staff explain the details and most calls/inquiries move forward to another issue. At this point, we do not have an idea regarding volume of those who might request interest assessment. It is estimated to be between 25-40%. That is a wide range, but we do not have a lot of data on which to base this. For this reason we are using slightly less than the traditional response rate to an enforcement notice (about 27%) as the low number, and using the prior legislation where CPs had the ability to request interest due to receipt of a one-time notice (about 40%). This number just involved returning a notice, but no court adjudication. It is expected to be slightly less than this number.

Another interesting measurable on which we are looking forward to receiving data is the impact of removal of interest on payments. While it is currently way too soon to tell, this is a metric we plan on tracking as this was one of the hypotheses under which we were working, and to which various studies point, i.e., accumulation of debt has a negative correlation to payments received. Prior to these studies being conducted and showing this, the prevailing wisdom was one of a reinforcement of values, meaning that if we did not charge interest on this debt, what is it saying as to its relative level of importance? The argument does not weigh many other factors and assumes that the support order under which the debt accrued was set at an appropriate rate. We are carefully watching for this impact and look forward to discussing this further in the future.

There may still be a press release forthcoming from the Governor's Office. We answered several questions and are now awaiting their decision.

\$2.7 billion-81-82% of which was owed to CPs (\$2.2 billion)

- **Quadrennial Review Discussion – Bryan Tribble**

Subcommittees have been finalized. The Public Input Subcommittee met last week. There is a great deal of emphasis put on this piece. We want to maximize the importance of this. We are working on having those that are able to attend court participate in an electronic survey. The results must be tabulated electronically as well. We also discussed having round table and/or townhall meetings. We need wide ranging conversations with members of the community. We could get a great deal of valuable information this way. Due to COVID we would like to use technology to make this successful. We would like to have the largest number of participants as possible. We do not want anyone left out. We want good, bad and the ugly input. We want to hear it all. We need public input before moving on with other subcommittees. At this point we need guidance from the public. Dr. Harris agrees that public participation is vital and essential. We need to find out what resources would be available. Thinking of our prospective networks and how they could help facilitate cost and how we can help them. This is critical. Maggie Bennett suggested that we reach out to parent organizations through the school systems. Inform them that we are holding town hall meetings. More people may attend virtually than they would have in person. We also need to make sure that we reach out to the disabled as well.

Richard Zuckerman said that we are looking forward to the Quadrennial Review that is due on July 1, 2022. He is looking forward to moving forward and thanked everyone for their participation. Dr. Harris asked if the Clean Slate Subcommittee was still alive. Richard Zuckerman stated that it is still alive, but is a separate issue that could come under the Quadrennial Review. Maggie talked about the townhall meetings. Dr. Harris mentioned family strengthening. It was suggested that we create a better topic for tagline on the townhall meetings. We want them to produce financial and emotional support to their families. Parents need to become teammates for their kids in mental and financial aspects. Family strengtheners is what it is all about. They need to work together as a team and shared states cause this to happen. Dr. Harris said that this will give the opportunity to rebrand the child support work. We can lead with family strengthening, support co parenting and let the public know that we are wanting them to be supported and want to work on cooperation.

- **Old/New Business**

Old Business:

Richard Zuckerman talked about the Illinois State Barr/Illinois Law Council regarding health insurance issues. Maggie Bennett talked about 505.2; medical insurance that they are able to provide for children. There are two new points. Both parents have obligations. All children should have the same coverage. Senator Hastings will submit. Maggie provided this information to Gina Hemphill. Gina will send it out to the committee. Maggie also extended a thank you to all. Richard Zuckerman stated that he has not seen any new legislation from HFS. Bryan Tribble said that there is nothing new, yet. The Department is planning on introducing legislation to address a UIFSA-related issue and an inconsistency between sections 505 and 510 of the IMDMA related to receipt of public sponsored health care.

New Business:

No new business

- **Public Comments:**
No public comment
- **Meeting Adjourned**
Motion made to adjourn; motion approved by voice vote.