

Child Support Guideline Commission
March 28, 2019, 4:00 PM
Minutes

1. Individuals present: L. Williams-Franklin, B. Rice, M.J. Mulkey, M.J. Seoane Lopez, M. Bulle-Vu, K. Mitchell, E. Charlap (nonmember), D. Martinez (nonmember)
2. Start time was 4:07 PM
3. Introductions
4. Discussion of Agenda item 1: “Schedule a hearing for Child Support Guidelines testimony”
 - a. L. Williams-Franklin discussed having members of community provide testimony; testimony would be taken at upcoming Commission meetings
 - b. [B. Rice provided history of similar hearings in the past at OAG](#)
 - c. B. Rice will determine how to provide notice of hearings to advocacy groups
 - d. Discussion on further hearings tabled until more information is provided
 - e. M.J. Seoane-Lopez/B. Rice discussed the need for precision and specific scope for hearings; e.g. provide survey to advocacy groups
5. L. Williams-Franklin opened the floor to further discussion regarding specific changes to Child Support Guideline
 - a. M.J. Seoane-Lopez addressed gross income versus real (after tax) income; M. Bulle-Vu highlighted the difficulty in determining “real” income and that the tax withholdings can be used to suppress monthly income
 - b. B. Rice discussed the estimated costs associated with funding an economist; last economist was used in 2003
 - c. B. Rice discussed whether economist should be funding via sole source funding or an RFP
 - d. [E. Charlap to provide commission with a summary of new Child Support Regulations \(2016\) as to Guideline requirements](#)
 - e. [B. Rice to draft a proposal as to the scope of the economist review](#)
 - i. [Counsel to request up to 50,000 dollars to fund economist](#)
 - f. M.J. Seoane-Lopez discussed the need to clarify whether government medical insurance can fully cover a child’s medical support needs
 - g. B. Rice discussed the need to increase the combined gross income maximum
 - h. B. Rice discussed the need to clarify the court’s authority to impute income to those receiving means-tested public benefits
 - i. M. Bulle-Vu addressed the possibility of providing GL credit to NCP’s who share partial custody of children not addressed in order; discussed possibility of having a spectrum of shared custody credit instead of the 35% rule; commission to look at Maryland’s GL for insight
 - j. M. Bulle-Vu addressed SSI and SSDI combination income and suggested that the GL should reflect the discrepancy between sole SSI and SSI/SSDI combination income

- k. Commission discussed minimum order and the changes made since last update; self-support reserve to increase every two years as provided to mayor's office
 - l. B. Rice addressed the fact that average order amounts have been decreasing; decrease caused in part by the increase of \$0.00 orders; more "gig economy" and contract work, which makes identifying income difficult
 - i. E. Charlap summarized the New Hire Database and the need for legislation to help identify independent contractor income
 - m. M. Bulle-Vu discussed that in third-party custodian cases, total gross income should be calculated based on the total income of both NCPs; However, B. Rice countered that this would ultimately harm third-party custodians who have no obligation to care for the child
6. Commission determined that suggested statutory and GL changes would be provided to Counsel in final report/letter
 7. "Doodle Poll" will be provided to Commission members to determine future meetings
 8. B. Rice will provided Commission with procurement draft for economist in two months
 9. CSSD may be used for future Commission meetings
 10. Mayor's office is working on finding two additional Commission meetings
 11. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM