

**Georgia Commission on Child Support
Commission Meeting
Judge R. Michael Key, Chair**

**Friday, October 15, 2021
1:30 p.m.**

Meeting Summary

The following Georgia Child Support Commission members were present at the Georgia Child Support Commission (“Commission”) meeting held virtually via Zoom videoconferencing on Friday, October 15, 2021:

Judge R. Michael Key, Chair	Judge Lisa Jones
Charles C. “Chuck” Clay, Esq.	Regina Quick, Esq.
Judge Lisa G. Colbert	Rep. Bonnie Rich
Kathleen B. Connell, Esq.	Christina L. Scott, J.D.
Rep. Houston Gaines	Dr. Roger Tutterow

The meeting was open to the public and staffed by Executive Program Manager Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney Noelle Lagueur-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator Latoinna Lawrence.

Welcome, Housekeeping, Introductions, Commission Member Updates:

Judge R. Michael Key, Chair of the Commission, called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. Judge Key recognized new Commission members: Judge Lisa Colbert, Christina Scott, and Justice Shawn LaGrua. Judge Key extended his gratitude to OSAH Judge Amanda Baxter, who retired at the end of September 2021, and who served for many years on various Child Support Commission committees.

The meeting was conducted as a virtual meeting using Zoom Webinar. Latoinna Lawrence provided instructions for attendees on how to indicate they wish to speak, including during the public comment, and asked anyone wishing to make a public comment to put his or her name in the Zoom chat feature. Noelle Lagueur-Alvarez conducted roll call and confirmed that ten Commission members were present and that a quorum to conduct business was established.

Judge Key asked if there were any proposed changes to the minutes from the Commission meeting held on April 23, 2021, and there were none. Judge Key conducted a vote to approve the minutes which was unanimously approved with no abstentions.

Commission Committee Assignments

Judge Key announced that Regina Quick has been appointed chair of the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee and thanked her for volunteering. Judge Key asked for a Commission member to volunteer to serve as a member of the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee. Katie Connell volunteered to serve on the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee once her service as the Chair of the Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee concludes. Judge Colbert also volunteered to be on the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee. Judge Key announced that Commission member Christina Scott volunteered to serve on the Economic Subcommittee. Judge Key asked Katie Connell whether she would like a co-chair appointed for the Statute Review Subcommittee. Katie Connell noted that having a co-chair join her

to help chair that subcommittee would be helpful and Judge Key said he would await her recommendation before appointing a new co-chair for that subcommittee. Judge Key asked whether there were any other new members who wanted to be further appointed to any subcommittees. No further interest was expressed.

Subcommittee, Study Committee, and Work Group Reports

Economic Subcommittee

Dr. Tutterow noted that the Economic Subcommittee met on June 4, 2021, and further noted that the Economic Subcommittee held two listening sessions (August 26, 2021, and September 23, 2021) to gather comments from the public to be considered during the upcoming 2022 economic study. Dr. Tutterow also noted that the Economic Subcommittee has been collecting written comments from the public through the Commission's website and collection of written comments will continue until October 31, 2021. All public comments collected will be shared with the Commission and with the economist retained to conduct the 2022 economic study. Another Economic Subcommittee meeting was held on October 6, 2021, during which the Economic Subcommittee reviewed the public comments collected to that point.

At its June 4, 2021, meeting, the Economic Subcommittee voted to recommend that Dr. Jane Venohr of the Center for Policy Research, Inc., be retained to conduct the 2022 economic study. Dr. Tutterow moved to approve hiring Dr. Jane Venohr of the Center for Policy Research, Inc., subject to full funding by the Georgia Department of Human Services, and for staff to initiate a contract with the Center for Policy Research, Inc. via the Judicial Council, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Dr. Tutterow discussed concerns and plans for conducting the case sampling that will be used in the 2022 economic study noting that the Economic Subcommittee will confer with the economist hired to conduct that study to ensure that a proper number of counties are selected to allow for meaningful economic analysis. It is planned that the counties that will be asked to be a part of the case sampling will be identified in late November 2021 and a letter from staff to the clerks in those counties will go out in January 2022.

Judge Key conducted a vote on Dr. Tutterow's motion to approve hiring Dr. Jane Venohr of the Center for Policy Research, Inc. subject to full state funding, which was unanimously approved with no abstentions.

Technology and Calculator Subcommittee

Regina Quick reported that the child support calculator continues to be hosted in the Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud and is running well in that environment. Ms. Quick noted that as of October 13, 2021, the calculator has 65,187 user accounts and 322,718 worksheets have been created since the calculator's original deployment on August 8, 2016. Ms. Quick reported that maintenance of the child support calculator had been outsourced to a private contractor, but as of October 1, 2021, the Administrative Office of the Courts has been handling those duties directly which will provide cost savings and improve responsiveness. The next deployment for the calculator is planned for early January 2022, when the self-employment taxes paid formula will be updated.

Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee

Kathleen "Katie" Connell reported that the Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee has been meeting frequently to bring forth recommendations to the full Commission. That Study Committee has honed its review of how parenting time is handled in other states and is currently focusing on six states. Ms. Connell noted that she thinks the work of this committee is in the "home stretch" and hopes to have recommendations for the full Commission by the end of 2021.

Low-Income Deviation Work Group

Elaine Johnson reported that this is a break-off work group from the Low-Income Deviation Study Committee to look at how to improve and/or simplify the way in which the low-income deviation functions in the child support calculator. Ms. Johnson noted that this work group consists of eleven members, three meetings have been conducted to date, and all ideas generated by this work group will be referred to the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee for their consideration.

Procedure to Make Public Comment

Judge Key asked Latoinna Lawrence to explain again how members of the public may make public comment at the end of the meeting and she did so, noting that they should submit their names in the Zoom chat feature.

Child Support Beyond the Age of Majority for Children with Disabilities

Rep. Bonnie Rich was unable to present on this topic but will do so at a future meeting.

Requests for Recordings of Commission Meetings

Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez noted that Child Support Commission meetings have always been recorded to help staff with drafting minutes and now that the Commission is meeting by Zoom, staff continues to record meetings to help with the drafting of minutes. Ms. Lagueux-Alvarez noted that over the last several months, staff has received requests by members of the public to send them the recordings of meetings. To date, staff has been declining such requests because of the historical precedent of not posting or circulating recordings and explaining that the Commission complies with the Open Meetings Act and provides written summaries and minutes as required. Dr. Tutterow noted that the Economic Subcommittee received requests to distribute recordings of the two public listening sessions held in August and September, but he opposed it especially because he is concerned about the very personal nature of those comments and thinks the Commission remaining compliant with the Open Meetings Act is the proper way to handle.

Treatment of Child-Related Tax Credits

Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez reported that pandemic-related questions have arisen during monthly trainings given by staff, especially regarding the treatment of stimulus checks and the child tax credit. Judge Key asked Katie Connell if she thought the issue of the child tax credit should go to the Statute Review Committee at this time. Ms. Connell advised to wait until 2022 because the child tax credit is in flux.

Public Comments

Judge Key asked how many people had signed up in the Zoom chat to give a public comment. Latoinna Lawrence advised that one person wished to speak. Judge Key advise to grant him 10 minutes of speaking time.

Meeting Interruption

The meeting was interrupted due to a technical difficulty with Zoom that caused the Zoom session to end for all participants. Staff created a new Zoom link and shared it with Commission members, the Commission's listserv, and Mr. Harper, the person who wished to make public comment. Judge Key noted that the Commission was fifty minutes in the meeting and no one except Paul Harper had signed up to make a public comment.

Public Comment

Paul Harper gave public comment for fifteen minutes and shared PowerPoint slides that he had prepared. Mr. Harper expressed his opinion that parenting time should be factored into the child support calculation

by default and shared his personal experiences especially how child support has caused him tremendous amounts of stress. Mr. Harper asks that the Child Support Commission introduce reforms to bring justice and fairness to the child support system.

Judge Key thanked Mr. Harper and noted that it is important that the Commission hears from members of the public. Katie Connell noted that Mr. Harper has also shared his opinion with the Commission's Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee.

Next Meeting

Judge Key set the next Child Support Commission meeting for Friday, December 10, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.