

**Georgia Commission on Child Support
Economic Subcommittee Meeting
Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair**

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Meeting Minutes

The Economic Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) of the Georgia Commission on Child Support (“Commission”) held this meeting via videoconferencing using Zoom. Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair of the Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Five of the ten Subcommittee members attended:

Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair	Chuck Clay	Jamie Rush
Representative Houston Gaines	Mark Rogers	

Dr. Tutterow commented that staff had previously distributed to the Subcommittee members soft copies of the June 4th meeting minutes and the agenda for this October 6th meeting.

Staff attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, confirmed that a quorum was not reached. Since the Subcommittee’s meeting in June 2021, a new Commission member, Christina L. Scott, joined the Subcommittee bringing membership to ten. Only five members were in attendance, and six are needed for quorum. Dr. Tutterow noted that if quorum was not reached before the end of the meeting, a vote on approval of the minutes from the June 4, 2021, Economic Subcommittee Meeting would be held via e-vote.

Dr. Tutterow shared that since the Subcommittee’s June 2021 meeting, two public listening sessions were held on August 26th and September 23rd via Zoom for the purpose of collecting public comments. Additionally, written public comments were also collected via the Commission’s website. Dr. Tutterow called upon Elaine Johnson to share details on the collection of the public comments. Ms. Johnson explained that the Child Support Commission’s website was modified by adding a link that provided access to three comment options. The first was a mailing address for comments, and Ms. Johnson explained that no comments were received through this process. The second method provided a way for anyone to write their comments directly on the website, and the third method was for the public to speak at one of the two listening sessions.

Dr. Tutterow noted that the Economic Subcommittee would reflect on all the public comments and that those comments will be shared with the economist who will conduct the 2022 Economic Study. Dr. Tutterow also noted that written public comments will continue to be collected through the Commission’s website until through October 31, 2021, bringing the public comment period for the 2022 Economic Study to three full months (August, September, and October 2021). Executive Program Manager Elaine Johnson noted that there were public and judicial surveys conducted in 2019 as part of the work performed by the Low-Income Deviation Study Committee and by the Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee and that those survey responses will also be shared with the economist.

Dr. Tutterow asked staff to organize all comments in a spreadsheet that was shared with the members for review during today’s meeting. He explained that the staff identified 17 different areas that essentially provided a taxonomy of the comments received. Ms. Johnson explained that the spreadsheet consisted of

four tabs, the first of which reflected all written comments collected up to this meeting date, the second tab consisted of transcribed spoken comments from the August 26th listening session, the third tab consisted of transcribed spoken comments from the September 23rd listening session, and the fourth and final tab consisted of a list of the 17 categories of comments. Dr. Tutterow suggested the Subcommittee review the 17 categories, which they agreed to do. In their extensive review of the spreadsheet, the Subcommittee members discussed those items appropriate for further consideration by the Economic Subcommittee and those to be referred to other Child Support Commission Subcommittees or Study Committees. A list is provided below.

	Comment Description (17 categories)	Comments Under the Domain of the Economic Subcommittee and as Action Item Referrals to Other Committees of the Child Support Commission
A	Duration of support	Statute Review
B	Joint Physical Custody	1) Parenting Time Study Committee, and 2) Economic Subcommittee (Make economic study vendor aware of this issue.)
C	Basic Child Support Obligation (BCSO) table amount at higher incomes are too low	Economic Subcommittee
D	Statute should address when to account for parenting time	Parenting Time and Statute Review
E	Move dental and vision insurance off Schedule E to Schedule D as additional expense as medical insurance	Statute Review
F	Complaint about personal case	No referral to a committee.
G	Child Support should never be linked to Parenting Time in any way	Parenting Time
H	Child Support obligations are too high and do not account for NCP's subsistence needs	Low-Income (Subsistence needs); Economic Subcommittee (Make economic study vendor aware of concerns.)
I	Income should not be imputed when there is actual proof of earnings	No referral to a committee; education training for judges.
J	Child Support amounts should be based on cost not income shares	No referral to a committee. Decision was made by the Commission in 2005/06, for GA to use the Income Shares model for its guidelines. Commission may want to revisit this item after 2022 economic study.
K	Commission should review a more extensive sample of studies, exp: Comanor study, i.e., cost shares	Economic Subcommittee
L	Guidelines do not account for tax consequences of the parents	Economic Subcommittee

M	Child Support should be based on net income, not gross	Economic Subcommittee (Education for public, including information on Commission website.)
N	Child Support formulas are antiquated	Economic Subcommittee
O	NCPs should not pay child support during summer visitation	Statute Review
P	Judicial discretion in child support cases is too broad	Statute Review
Q	Child support amounts at high income NCPs should not be handled by deviation	Economic Subcommittee

The scope of service for the contract for the 2022 economic study was briefly discussed. That contract has not yet been drafted. Dr. Tutterow will review that scope of service and welcomes input from fellow Subcommittee members. The size of the case sampling for the 2022 Economic Study was also briefly discussed.

Ms. Johnson reported on next steps for staff and related that they will assemble all information we have collected to this point, including public comments, and prepare it for Dr. Venohr. Also, we will hold a call with Dr. Venohr to discuss fortifying the case sampling, which will include Dr. Tutterow. We will also talk with our legal department on preparing the contract for the economic study, which will include preparation of the scope of service for the work to be conducted. We are ready to start moving forward with making all these things happen so we will be ready for case sampling in January 2022.

Dr. Tutterow shared that he will make a report from this Subcommittee at the full Child Support Commission meeting that will be held on October 15th. And afterward we'll decide if another meeting for this Subcommittee is warranted.

Dr. Tutterow thanked staff and his fellow Subcommittee members. A next meeting date will be set based on what transpires at the October 15, 2021, Child Support Commission meeting and developments with the contract for the 2022 Economic Study.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Attachment A

On December 14, 2021, at 2:58 p.m. EST, Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair, Economic Subcommittee of the Child Support Commission, directed staff to email all members of the Economic Subcommittee the following:

Motion: "It is moved that approval of the Minutes from the October 6, 2021, Economic Subcommittee meeting be voted on by email. A second is not necessary for the motion to be considered. Please find a draft version of those minutes attached. Discussion and debate shall remain open through next Monday, December 20, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Subcommittee members wishing to discuss or debate this matter may do so by replying to all by that date. Suggested edits to the minutes may also be made by replying to all."

On or by 5:00 p.m. on December 20, 2021, no email debate was received on the minutes. The Chair directed staff to put the question to an e-vote on December 21, 2021, with that e-vote email sent to members at 8:25 a.m. The Economic Subcommittee consisted of 10 members and quorum for voting was six members. By an e-vote of six members in favor, none opposed, and none who abstained, the motion was approved.