

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

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Meeting Minutes

The Economic Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) of the Georgia Child Support Commission (“Commission”) held this meeting via videoconferencing using Zoom. Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair of the Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:40 p.m. after Commission staff experienced technical difficulties with Zoom. Five of the seven Subcommittee members attended:

Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair	Ryan Bradley	Chuck Clay, Esq.
Representative Houston Gaines	Judge John Worcester	

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence served as staff for the meeting. Several members of the public also attended this open meeting. Staff confirmed that a quorum of the Subcommittee had been achieved and reviewed procedures for this virtual meeting. It was noted that the previous meeting of this Subcommittee was conducted on October 6, 2021, and that those meeting minutes were previously approved through e-vote.

Dr. Tutterow led a discussion around the 2022 Economic Study Report drafted by economist Dr. Jane Venohr of the Center for Policy Research, Inc., that was previously distributed to all Subcommittee members by email. Dr. Tutterow explained that there are two components to Dr. Venohr’s work that need to be reviewed today. First, there is the case sampling and the report, and second the construction of tables used for the purposes of establishing child support. He reminded the Subcommittee that we did a larger sample than we typically had done in the past for this study.

Dr. Tutterow explained further that the second part was for Dr. Venohr to construct tables for the purposes of establishing child support. He reminded the Subcommittee that in 2006, the Commission decided to go with an averaging of the Engel estimates and the Rothbarth estimates, and that table has performed well for a long period of time. In the 2022 study, Dr. Venohr noticed that the Engel estimates had actually dropped significantly and there was general concern about the methodology and that Georgia may not necessarily look at doing the averaging again. We have concerns now about the viability of the Engle estimates when considering the table.

Dr. Tutterow moved that this Subcommittee approve that 2022 Economic Study Report for further review by the Commission. That motion was seconded by member Chuck Clay and was unanimously approved with no abstentions. Dr. Tutterow asked staff if this would be the process needed to ensure a final report is generated by the Commission for distribution to the federal government, and staff confirmed that the final report from the Commission, which will include the report prepared by Dr. Venohr, will satisfy the federal requirements. Member Chuck Clay asked

if this process of providing the report to the federal government would require legislative action and staff replied that it would not.

The Subcommittee discussed that the current BCSO table tops out at \$30,000 per month of the parent's monthly adjusted gross income. The Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the full Commission that the table that is adopted should increase the ceiling of the parent's monthly adjusted gross income to \$40,000. Member Chuck Clay moved that the Subcommittee recommend to the Commission that the BCSO Table be extended to \$40,000. That motion was seconded by Rep. Houston Gaines and passed unanimously with no abstentions.

The Subcommittee also discussed making a recommendation to the full Commission as to which of the newly constructed tables to adopt. It was decided that there had not been enough time for the Subcommittee members to adequately review the tables and Dr. Venohr's report for them to make a decision. It was agreed that the members needed more time to make their review before deciding on a recommendation to the full Commission. Another meeting of the Subcommittee was not set but can be when necessary.

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, noted that staff found some typos in the draft 2022 Economic Study Report. Ms. Johnson will bring those to Dr. Venohr's attention to be corrected so that a final draft of that Report may be distributed to members of this Subcommittee and to the Child Support Commission members before the next Commission meeting set for November 4, 2022.

This meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.