

**Georgia Child Support Commission  
Economic Subcommittee  
Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair  
Wednesday, July 26, 2023  
2:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

The Economic Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) of the Georgia Child Support Commission (“Commission”) held this meeting via Zoom Webinar. Five (5) Subcommittee members attended the meeting. The Subcommittee members in attendance were:

Dr. Roger Tutterow, Chair  
Ryan Bradley

Charles “Chuck” Clay  
Jill Massey, Esq.

Rep. Houston Gaines

Executive Program Manager, Elaine Johnson, Staff Attorney, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, and Program Coordinator, Latoinna Lawrence, served as staff for this meeting. No members of the public attended this open meeting.

Dr. Roger Tutterow called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Staff member Latoinna Lawrence gave brief instructions on the Zoom procedures for this meeting along with a reminder that public comments would not be taken at this meeting but can be made anytime through the Commission’s website or during any full Commission meeting. She shared that at the conclusion of today's meeting, the staff will post the recording of the meeting on our Georgia Child Support Commission YouTube channel.

Dr. Tutterow noted that a quorum was met with five (5) of the six (6) Subcommittee members in attendance. Minutes of the Subcommittee’s meeting on June 21, 2023, had been previously distributed and no changes to those minutes were requested. Subcommittee member Chuck Clay made a motion to approve those minutes, Dr. Tutterow seconded that motion, and those minutes were unanimously approved.

Dr. Tutterow led a discussion on updating Georgia’s Basic Child Support Obligation (BCSO) Table based on recommendations from Dr. Jane Venohr in Georgia’s 2022 Economic Study, which may be found on the Commission’s website here: <https://csc.georgiacourts.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/01/2022-Final-Report.pdf>, starting at page 136. Dr. Tutterow commented that when the Subcommittee met on June 21, 2023, they did not have a quorum for voting and that he also asked for a little more time to review the data. He reminded the Subcommittee that staff previously distributed the tables that had been calculated by Dr. Venohr. Dr. Tutterow stated that we need to move forward with a recommendation to the whole Commission as to which table the Commission should recommend to the Georgia General Assembly. He explained that the final decision is made by the whole Commission and not by the Economic Subcommittee, but that the Subcommittee is providing information in terms of oversight of the scientific process that went into the suggested tables.

Dr. Tutterow then shared his reflections on the suggested tables. After much review and thought, he said he is comfortable with Dr. Venohr's recommendation that we go with the new Rothbarth standard. He explained that Georgia's current table (2006) is an average of Rothbarth, seen as kind of a lower bound, and Engel seen as an upper bound. He further shared that unfortunately, the latest Engle data has been behaving a little bit less predictably based on insight we received from Dr. Venohr. As a result, we're looking at using just the Rothbarth table this time. Dr. Tutterow shared that there are 32 states that have adopted the straight Rothbarth table and our selection of the Rothbarth table will bring us in line with roughly two-thirds of the states.

Dr. Tutterow continued by saying that the only area where there was a little consternation was over keeping an eye on what kind of support would go to the lower-income households. He wrestled with that but said what's important is to think of this as a comparison of now versus 2006. A household with \$3,000 a month of income in 2006 is not the same household with \$3000 a month in 2023. The other point he made is that we have the Low-Income Deviation Study Committee working on that item, which has now been integrated into the Statute Review Subcommittee. So, when the Statute Review Subcommittee completes its work, it will make recommendations, perhaps regarding any adjustments on the lower end of the new tables. And then we always remind people that these are just the default basic obligations, and judges have the final word with regard to what the orders will be. So, with those things in mind, he stated that he is comfortable moving forward with using the Rothbarth table as calculated by Dr. Venohr and recommending the table for consideration by the full Commission.

Chuck Clay made a motion to recommend to the Child Support Commission to support updating the Basic Child Support Obligation Table using the Rothbarth methodology. Ryan Bradley seconded that motion, and it was approved unanimously. Dr. Tutterow will present to the Commission on this issue at its meeting on August 11, 2023.

There was no additional meeting date set for the Subcommittee, but staff will advise Dr. Tutterow if scheduling another meeting in the near future is needed.

This meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.