

Virginia Child Support Guidelines Review Panel
December 20th, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
5600 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060 - Pamunkey Conference Room (287)

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

The Honorable Tanya Bullock, Chair
Alana Tucker, Director of Division of Child Support Enforcement
The Honorable Bryan Meals
Erica Baez, Esq.
Lindsay Hartz, Esq.
Nupur Bal, Esq.
Christian Paasch
Lauren Roaseau
Jennifer Miller

Members of the Public:

N/A

Members Not Present:

Senator Scott A. Surovell
Delegate James A. (Jay) Leftwich, Jr.
Delegate Karrie K. Delaney
Delegate Katrina E. Callsen
H. Van Smith, Esq.

Panel Staff Members Present:

Taylor Ashe, Panel Administrator
Lauren Robinson, Special Assistant to Director, Program Operations – Policy and Initiatives

Others Present:

Mariellen Keely, Manager, Program Initiatives
Leslie Montgomery, Program Guidance Team
Josh Ours, Office of Attorney General
Shannon Woods, Special Assistant to the DCSE Director

I. Welcome and Staff Introduction All

The Panel came to order at 10:00 a.m. Madam Chair, The Honorable Tanya Bullock, welcomed the Panel. In honor of our newest appointed Panel member, Jennifer Miller, all members in attendance introduced themselves and the roles they fill in the Panel.

The Panel also opened the floor for several minutes for Jennifer Miller to introduce herself and provide more background on her professional history to the Panel members in attendance.

II. Review and Election of Virtual Attendance Policy All

A copy of the policy was provided to all Panel members in attendance.

- I. Questions from the group:
 - a. Is public participation common?
 - i. Taylor noted public participation at the last meeting on 10/31 and highlighted the planned attendance of two individuals to the 12/20 meeting.
 - b. Is there a reason why quorum is not counted when a member is attending virtually due to a family emergency?
 - i. Josh Ours noted that this was legislatively decided within the last two years.

- II. Madam Chair motioned for a vote, several Panel members seconded the vote
 - a. All Panel members voted in favor of the attendance policy.

III. Review of October 31 Action Items

Taylor Ashe

In follow-up of several items that were asked by Panel members and members of the public who attended the 10/31 meeting, Taylor reviewed Dr. Jane Venohr’s responses. The three responses are available in the Materials document titled “CPR - Dr. Venohr - Quintiles, TN and GA policies - Follow-Up 10.31 Items.”

If any Panel members feel their original questions/concerns were not addressed, please reach out to the Panel Administrator, Taylor Ashe.

IV. Review and Election of Vice Chair

Hon. Judge Bullock

Madam Chair reviewed the main duties of the Vice Chair as just running the meeting if the chair is not available.

- I. Madam Chair asked for volunteers
 - a. Christian Paasch was the only volunteer

- II. Madam Chair nominated, Jennifer Miller seconded
 - a. All Panel members voted in favor of Christian Paasch being named as the Vice Chair for the Panel.

V. Administrative Matters

All

- I. Review emails to the public inbox
 - a. Reviewed email conversations from 11/01/24 to 12/20/24.
 - i. Taylor provided a handout – 3 emails, 2 were requests about status of an application to join the panel. 1 email was about judicial authority – working with Josh & Mariellen to get members from the public answered.
 - b. Christian – Questions about previous NCP applicants and what has been communicated by Board of Appointments
 - i. Taylor explained that all applications received so far have been denied. Taylor did reach out to one person to let them know that the application has not been approved. No information is shared from the Board of Appointments about why any panel application is denied.
 - ii. Taylor also explained that the application on the Board of Appointments website has detailed questions about the personal history of applicants, and that this may deter individuals from applying.
 - iii. Taylor reminded and encouraged Panel members to forward on potential NCP applicants.
 - iv. Taylor will request the number of applications, rejections, and identification of any broad themes present in rejects to aid Panel members in locating a suitable NCP applicant.
 - c. Hon. Judge Bullock – How often is the Panel email checked?
 - i. Taylor – Once a week on average. Work-related travel may delay that to every two weeks.

- II. Update on Case Data Analysis with Center for Policy Research
 - a. The Panel is charged to review data of the current DCSE caseload. There is a data collection project for this in progress, though it will be slowed by the holidays. Early data will most likely be available at the February Panel meeting.

- III. Next meeting will have a virtual guest – a presentation by Dr. William S. Comanor, Professor of Health Policy and Management and Professor of Economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara.
 - a. Christian reached out to Prof. Comanor after learning of his research regarding alternative child support obligation calculation methods beyond the income shares method. His research specifically focuses on the marginal cost of raising children. Prof. Comanor will provide a presentation and plan for a Q+A that will total one-hour in length that has also been presented to other states.
 - b. Pre-reading materials will be available ahead of time. Christian volunteered to produce a one-page executive summary and also to share his published research.
 - c. Multiple Panel members expressed interest in having Dr. Venohr’s insight and/or perspective on Prof. Comanor’s research. Christian reminded the Panel that they have competing viewpoints. Taylor will reach out to Dr. Venohr to get her opinion on how she would like to engage. Additionally, Taylor will follow up with Christian and Prof. Comanor to finalize logistics for the January 16th meeting.
 - d. Jennifer Miller asked for clarification on Dr. Venohr’s role.
 - i. Taylor explained that Dr. Venohr is contracted to support the Child Support Guideline Review Panel.
 - e. To accommodate Prof. Comanor’s schedule, the January 16th meeting will need to convene at noon instead of 10am. Taylor will update the invitation and notify Panel members appropriately.

- IV. Questions
 - a. Taylor reminded the Panel that with the recently adopted virtual attendance policy, for meetings to be held virtual, motion and a majority vote are required.
 - i. Josh clarified that a motion could be made at any meeting, either virtual or in person.
 - ii. 7 meetings remain for this Panel’s cycle, allowing for 3 to be held virtually.
 - 1. January 16th meeting – discussion of whether next meeting can be virtual, or if that needs to be an agenda item for the next meeting to allow for public awareness and comment on the decision.
 - a. Discussion among Panel members and Josh Ours over whether the vote for a virtual meeting could take place today, and whether enough procedural/public notice was provided.
 - i. Judge Meals disagrees and noted his disagreement with voting on scheduling the virtual meetings today.
 - 2. Jennifer – Motion to tentatively schedule virtual meetings, with the option of changing if needed. Madam Chair seconded.
 - a. The following meetings to be tentatively scheduled as all-virtual:
 - i. 4/10
 - ii. 7/10
 - iii. 9/25
 - b. All Panel members voted in favor of tentatively scheduling these meetings as all-virtual.

3. Jennifer suggested that we add these all-virtual dates as an agenda item at the January 16th meeting for confirmation and to allow significant notification to the public. Judge Meals confirmed that this alleviated his concern since the first virtual meeting would be held on April 10, 2025.

VII. Adjourn

All

The Panel adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Action items for Panel Members:

1. Review the presentation materials, scheduled meetings, and send any questions or concerns to Madam Chair, The Honorable Tanya Bullock.
2. Send any interested non-custodial parents interested in serving on the panel to Taylor Ashe.
3. Christian Paash will send out Prof. Comanor's published research to the Panel members for review and also provide a one-page executive summary.

Action items for Staff:

1. Panel Admin will forward all materials, including notes and presentations, to Panel Members and upload them to the Division of Legislative Studies website upon approval by Madam Chair. Panel Admin will notify members when all materials are available.
2. Panel Admin will contact the Board of Appointments to request the number of applications, rejections, and identification of any broad themes present in rejections to aid Panel members in locating a suitable NCP applicant.
3. Panel Admin will finalize logistics for Prof. Comanor presentation with the aid of Christian Paasch. Since this will result in a shifting of the meeting time, the Panel Admin will update the meeting invitation and public notice to reflect the time shift as soon as the meeting minutes are approved. All Panel members will be notified as soon as the change has been made.
4. Panel Admin will follow up with Dr. Venohr to facilitate her engagement with Prof. Comanor's research.