MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES AND ENFORCEMENT FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021 10:00 A.M. * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * ORIGINAL

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES AND ENFORCEMENT MEETING was held before Jeana S. Boggs, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, via Zoom videoconference, Montgomery, Alabama, commencing at 10:03 A.M., Friday, February 12, 2021.

## APPEARANCES

## GUEST SPEAKER:

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THE HONORABLE MICHAEL D. SHERMAN
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APPEARANCES FROM THE PUBLIC:
JORI D. JORDAN
CLIFFORD SMITH
TIFFANY GATES
LISA CLARK
SHALOTTIE "LEE" WOOD

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MS. DAVIS: All right. Well, again, thank each one of you for taking the time out of, I know, what is a very busy day for everyone. It is a very important committee that we have the privilege of working on and trying to help the State make sure that the children do receive adequate support, and we try to maintain the sense of fairness that I think our rules, Guidelines, provide.

So, at this point, we will ask Bob to call the roll.

MR. MADDOX: All right. So, once I state your name, if you could just say "here" or "present," unmute yourself and say "here" or "present," or whatever appropriate you want to say to identify yourself, please do so.

Okay. Honorable Sarah Stewart? (No response).

MR. MADDOX: I did not see her on the screen.

Honorable William Thompson?
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: He emailed me and I believe said he could not join us today, but I want to make sure he was not on.

Okay. Honorable Don McMillan?
HON. MCMILLAN: Yes, sir.
Present.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you, Judge. Honorable Michael Sherman?

HON. SHERMAN: I am here.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you, Judge. Honorable Aubrey Ford?
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: Honorable Julie Palmer?

HON. PALMER: I am here.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you, Judge. Honorable Karen Dunn Burks?
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: I don't see her on the screen yet.

Professor Penny Davis. We know you're on. You just spoke.

Amanda Cox?
MS. COX: Here.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you. Angela
Campbell?
(No response).
$\operatorname{MR}$. MADDOX: She emailed me, as well, and said she probably would not be able to join us today.

Drew Whitmire?
(No response).
MR. WHITMIRE: Present. Here.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you, Drew.
Greg Starkey?
MR. STARKEY: I am here.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you. Jennifer
Bush?
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: I think I saw her
number. I renamed her.
Jennifer Bush, can you identify that you are on? I hope you are on. You're about to speak in a few minutes. Maybe she will get on in a minute.

Jessica Kirk Drennan?
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: Jim Jeffries?
MR. JEFFRIES: Here.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you. Katie Steinwinder?

MS. STEINWINDER: Here.
MR. MADDOX: Lathesia McClenney?
MS. MCCLENNEY: Here.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you. Melody
Baldwin?
MS. BALDWIN: Here.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you.
Professor Brian Gray?
PROFESSOR GRAY: Here.
MR. MADDOX: Rachel King?
MS. KING: Here.
MR. MADDOX: Stephen Arnold?
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: I didn't see him on the screen.

Mallory Hall?
(No response).

MR. MADDOX: Okay. Of course, we have the Court Reporter Jeana Boggs. If you could wave, Jeana.
(Ms. Boggs waving).
MR. MADDOX: She is on with us again. Thank you for your reporting again today.

Honorable Julia Weller? Julia Weller?

MS. WELLER: Here.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you. Stephanie Blackburn?

MS. BLACKBURN: I am here.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you. Nathan Wilson?

MR. WILSON: Here.
MR. MADDOX: Thanks, Nathan.
Cary McMillan, I don't believe she is here today. She's downstairs. But she is not on today. MaryLynn Stuckey?
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: Ben Dupré?
(No response).

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MR. MADDOX: Wendy Aldridge?
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: And now I am moving to our presenter, Dr. Jane Venohr. She's on. Wave, Jane, to everyone.
(Dr. Venohr is waving).
MR. MADDOX: Thank you.
All right. Also, I am going to members to the public now. Jori Jordan? I hope I pronounced that correctly.

MS. JORDAN: Yes, you did. Thank you.

MR. MADDOX: Thank you. Clifford Smith?
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: I don't see him on. Tiffany Gates?
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: Tiffany Gates? I thought I saw she was on. She must have gotten off. Okay. Tiffany, can you hear me? I see you are on there.
(No response).

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MR. MADDOX: Lisa Clark. If you could unmute yourself and identify yourself. (Ms. Clark is waving).

MR. MADDOX: May be calling in. Unable to unmute. I'm not sure.

Lee Wood?
MS. WOOD: I am here.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you. Jennifer Dantzler.
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: Okay.
MS. DAVIS: Bob, I got an email from Jennifer Bush. She's here. She indicated she is here.

MR. MADDOX: Okay. I am admitting a couple of others. Laura C. Nettles, could you identify yourself and unmute yourself? Laura Nettles?
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: All right. That's all I have for now, Penny.

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Well, thank you, Bob, for doing that for us.

Our next item on our agenda is the approval of the transcripts -transcript, singular. If someone would make a motion to approve?

MS. HALL: Penny, I'll move to approve. And I am sorry, Bob, I did not realize that I was Laura Nettles for some reason on this screen. This is Mallory Hall. I just got in the meeting.

MR. MADDOX: Oh, okay. Thank you, Laura -- I mean, Mallory.

MS. HALL: I'll try to fix it.
MR. MADDOX: All right. Thank you.

MS. DAVIS: A.K.A. Laura.
MS. HALL: Right.
MS. DAVIS: Everybody needs a secret identity at times.

Okay. We have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. JEFFRIES: Second.
MS. DAVIS: And does anybody have any corrections that they want to bring to
our attention?
(No response).
MS. DAVIS: Okay. I hear no comments, and I see no hands waving. So, we have a motion to approve, as well as a second. So, all in favor, if you would -if you are visible, if you would raise your hands. And then if you are not visible, if you would unmute and vote that way. (Members raising hands).

MS. DAVIS: Thank you for your hands.

HON. MCMILLAN: I vote in favor.
MS. DAVIS: Anybody else want to unmute and vote?

MR. STARKEY: I vote in favor.
MS. DAVIS: Okay. Thank you.
Let me remind you just to help our reporter, if you would, identify.
(This meeting is being recorded) .

MS. DAVIS: Thank you. I guess we forgot to record the first part.

If you would, just when you unmute, if you will identify who you are, that will help her. She can see some people, but it would probably just help her if you remind her who you are.

Do we have any opposition to our motion? If you would, raise your hand first.
(No response).
MS. DAVIS: I see no hands. And then if you would like to register an opposition vote, then if you would, unmute and do so at this point.
(No response).
MS. DAVIS: Okay. Well, the motion is approved. I guess I should have asked at the beginning to make sure that we have a quorum. So, Stephanie.

MS. BLACKBURN: Yes, ma'am.
Yeah, we do have a quorum today.
MS. DAVIS: Thank you. And, Bob, did you want to mention about our public notice before we go forward with the rest of
the agenda?
MR. MADDOX: Yes, ma'am. Just
like in previous meetings, there was a news release sent to media outlets around the State from Scott Hoyem, the Public Information Officer in the Administrative Office of Courts. He sent an email on January 11, 2021, about this web meeting.

As in previous news releases, this particular one allowed for written comments and suggestions to be sent to the Committee via U.S. Mail to the Supreme Court Clerk's Office by February 4th. Stephanie, I believe, got one written comment from Mr. Jeremy Brueckner. We got that sent out to the Committee members by email. And it's also posted on our website, Alacourt.gov, and under Child Support and Child Support Guidelines Review.

Also, persons were asked, if they wanted to join the web meeting, to email us by February 10th. And so, the
full text of this news release is on our website, as well on the agenda of other documents. I won't read it verbatim today for sake of time.

MS. DAVIS: Thank you, Bob. We do have -- We did get two written comments from our public, and we do appreciate the individuals taking the time to give us more detail about their thoughts as we go through this process.

So, let me see. Jennifer, are you -- trying to see the little icons. See if Jennifer Bush. Yeah, you are still there. Can you unmute, Jennifer?

Okay. Jennifer asked if we can try to unmute her and see if that helps. So, Bob, can you see if you can unmute her?

MR. MADDOX: I will try.
MS. DAVIS: Okay. If that
doesn't work, we will try to just -- we will
move her to the end of the program.
MS. BUSH: Hey, can you hear me?

I am sorry to interrupt you.
MS. DAVIS: No. We are glad to have you. We are turning the meeting over to you for your presentation.

MS. BUSH: Okay. I am going to give just an update on the implementation timeline according to federal regulation.

Alabama's Rule 32 Guidelines were reviewed on December 1st of 2016. That was four years ago. A few weeks later on December 20th, 2016, changes to the federal regulations were published and some of those changes impact the Guidelines, the regulation that addresses the Child Support Guidelines is 45 CFR 302.56. And it provides that new changes to Rule 32 must be made within one year of Alabama's next Guideline review.

So, because our last Guideline review was on December 1st, 2016, the next four-year review would be four years later on December 1st, 2020. The regulation changes must be made within one year after
that date, and that makes the new date December 1st, 2021.

Now, text changes to the Guidelines have already been made, and we are now working on the remaining changes which Jane Venohr has been addressing in the previous meetings. So, our new date -- actually, let me back up. It is not a new date. The date remains December 1st, 2021.

Do you have any questions? (No response).

MS. DAVIS: Okay. If anyone has a question, if you would, if you are visible, would you raise your hand? (No response). MS. DAVIS: Okay. I see no hands. If anyone who is not visible, if you have a question, would you unmute yourself at this point and ask Jennifer your question. We will pause just a minute to give people a chance to unmute.
(No response).

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Jennifer, thank you for the presentation, and I think it was very clear, and it's helpful to the Committee members to understand what our Guidelines are and also I think to the public to understand that we are in compliance with our Guideline time frame.

So, at this point, we are going to turn over the meeting to Dr. Venohr. She will be going through three different items. And so, I will turn the meeting over to her, and she can tell us which order you would like to go through next, Jane.

DR. VENOHR: Thank you. Good morning, everybody. I have three memos. Two of the memos that you reviewed in January, and we need to continue the discussion about the self-support reserve. And then a third memo is one on the federal requirements. And it's just a check-in to see which ones have been met, you know, where you are at, and so forth, that builds

[^0]on what we just heard on that deadline.
So, you received copies of all those memos in the email that Bob sent, and all of them start with the word "AL" for Alabama at the beginning. And I am going to start with the memo that's dated February 1, 2021, and it's the Comparison of Federal Requirements of State Guidelines and Guidelines Reviews.

And as already noted, federal regulations changed in December 2016. And, of course, there's that rolling timeline. And those requirements are on the first page, that whole excerpt, 302.56 of the Federal Code is on there. And what I am going to do is unpack that and take it apart and put it in rows and just do an assessment of where Alabama is.

So, if we could bring up that memo that Bob -- he has multiple skills here.

And so, let's start on the second page. And we are going row by row.

So, I have taken this whole box and just put it in a matrix form. Actually it's the third page. I apologize for that. And let's just see where Alabama is.

So, here you notice that in the first column I have a short description. Row 1 is "Ability to pay provision." It's a new federal requirement that came out as part of that modernization rule in December of 2016. That third column shows what that provision says.

And then the middle column is what I excerpted from Alabama as far as how it meets that requirement or whether it's close or related to the federal requirement.

And then the third to the last column is whether it's met. And then just a relevant documentation, Alabama is wonderful at putting all the documents that the Committee looks at on its website, so it's always available.

And that last column is the
to-do or to consider. And this is from my perspective. I mean, I am an economist, remember. And so, there are people with much more expertise on the law and interpreting the law. And so, I defer to people on the Committee. But this is just a double-check.

And with that said, I want to note that Alabama is just a little bit different than most states we work with in the sense that Alabama can do rule changes in kind of a flow pattern is the way I would describe it. I mean, Penny might have a better way of describing that.

But usually when we work with a state, they have to submit all their changes at once. And then, if it's legislative guidelines, it goes to the Legislature; or if it's court rules, it goes up the channels through the court, and then it's passed. But Alabama is fortunate in that you can submit changes periodically is the way I describe it, and

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then they get approved.
Penny, I see that you're on
mute, but do you want to add any clarification to that?

MS. DAVIS: No. I think that's a good description. And I personally like the fact that we are little more agile. So, oftentimes we can respond to the federal changes much quicker than other states can. And I think it helps the Committee members because we can focus on different issues throughout the year and not just have to wait until the four-year review.

DR. VENOHR: Yeah. And that's certainly when we start looking at this decomposition of the federal rules, we will see that Alabama has been fortunate to be able to meet them pretty -- I like the word "agile" that describes it, that a lot of the changes made in the summer of 2019 responded to these federal requirements.

So, with that said, the first row is probably the most murky of the ones

I am going to discuss where it says "other evidence of ability to pay." And the federal intent of this -- I don't think -was really, really clear. It was meant that states cannot only consider the typical evidence such as $W$-2 forms and paystubs and tax returns, but they should be able to consider verbal testimony of a party, or that they can consider wage data from the Department of Labor. This is an area where I think it's really the Committee that you should think about whether your meeting it -- I think you are -- relative to other states. Like I say, it's a little muddy as far as what was meant. The fact that Alabama provides that income means actual income is evidence of ability to pay in my opinion. So, I would just, you know, afterwards, after I go through all these rows, you know, maybe comment whether you want to revisit Row 1 on this federal provision, you know, just to tweak it.

Like I say, Alabama's provision is very similar to other states, so I don't think this is a big issue. But I don't think the federal intent was very, very clear when you speak to the authors who drafted this. I think they had a vision to what this meant, but states aren't interpreting it that way, or at least that's what I am seeing. So, that's probably the most murky one to begin with.

Row 2 is to, "Take into consideration the basic subsistence needs" of the parent. And Alabama does that through a self-support reserve. That's very clearly stated in the existing Alabama Guidelines. Of course, it's outdated because it was developed back in 2007. And later we will be discussing whether to update it and how to update it.

So, you can see the relevant documents are the memorandum from December, and we will have questions. We will review those questions in the

December memorandum.
So, Row 3 is, "Take into
consideration individual factors" -circumstances of the obligated parent -"when imputing income." This has been a difficult one for states to meet. Alabama obviously didn't have any difficulty getting this through. They may -- You made the changes two years ago almost. And your language essentially mirrors what's in the federal provision. So, that is met.

Row 4 is, "Incarceration is not voluntary unemployment." And, again, Alabama's language was changed about two years ago, and essentially it's verbatim along the federal language.

And in addition, if you look at that last row, not only have you met the federal language requirements, but Alabama is taking it a step further by recommending when to enter a zero order. You know, for instance -- and this is the

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language that was drafted back in October on the zero language. And I think it's pretty clear. I think it's a very good language. I think it takes these rows three and four and takes it down to a practical level that, not only should income not be imputed under these circumstances but other factors needs to be considered. It actually directs the courts what to do if a parent is incarcerated or disabled or some other situation where a zero order is appropriate.

So, again, kudos to the Committee for their work on that.

Row 5 is, what had happened was the federal language substituted the word "insurance" with "healthcare." And this was to allow states to recognize that Medicaid and CHIP are forms of healthcare coverage for the children. So, this means that states don't have to aggressively go after the private insurance. And Alabama
changed that language to accommodate the federal language changes back in July 1, 2019.

So, again, this is an issue where I don't think you need an economist to do a double-check, but you might, as a Committee, want to just look at it and think about how it's being applied, Row 5, and see if there are any other additional changes that you want to make with the July 1, 2019, changes.

So, Row 6, we had a lot of changes on that medical support.

One of the federal requirements is to review your Guidelines deviations, particularly review how often deviations occur. And the intent is to keep the number of deviations at a minimum. And you do have few deviations. Your deviation rate is very low. It's -- let me find it. I have it down here somewhere. Yeah. It's 9\%.

So, I am not concerned that your
deviation rate is high, but it's still a good exercise for the Committee to look over this. So, again, you don't need an economist to do this, or even our research findings, since we found a deviation rate of $9 \%$. And we didn't have enough detail to pin it down to any one of these particular categories such as a shared physical custody, expenses of college education, extraordinary costs of transportation, and so forth. But it always good to do a double-check for the purposes of the review.

So, moving on to the next Row 7, so, the rest of the rows are more about the process of the Guidelines Review. The ones above pertain to the Guidelines and the Guidelines provisions themselves. So, Row 7 says the State must include a copy of the Child Support Guidelines in its state plan, and the Agency is very diligent about that.

So, I think you are in good
hands. I have confidence that the Agency will do that very timely.

Row 8 is that the state must review and revise, if appropriate, the Child Support Guidelines at least once every four years to ensure that the application results in the determination of appropriate child support order amounts, and that's what you are doing right now. All the relevant documents are on the court website. So, essentially you are trying to complete that review by December 1.

Row 9 is "Publish reports, committee roster, and dates" of the Guidelines changes when they become effective and when the next review is. You have been very diligent about doing that and publishing on your website, as well. And we can certainly put the dates and any final recommendations in our final report if you want to do it that way. We can also put the members of the reviewing

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body in our final report. That's just a small thing that we can talk about later. I don't think that's a big deal.

Row 10 is, "Consider economic data on the cost of raising children." You have been doing through that for about three or four months now. There was a lot of data to review, and we included that in our September economic report. There was more of that in our December memorandum about adjusting for Alabama prices and income. And we will talk a little bit more about where we are at on that after we go through this memo.

So, in short, Alabama is meeting that requirement. The next step is deciding whether changes are appropriate.

So, moving on to Row 11, you are -- states are required to review labor market data now, and the intent of this is to inform the low-income adjustment and income imputation provision policies. And we had an infographic on this that was

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 800.397.5590 www.boggsreporters.comdated September on the preliminary findings of the case file data and the labor market data. And we will add more in our final report.
But essentially right now, it's
a troubling time mainly because of the COVID pandemic and the impact that it has had on the labor market. Nationally, we have lost about 10 million jobs, and Alabama is no exception as far as job loss. And being hardest hit is the service sector and the leisure and hospitality industries. And if you go to that infographic, you will see some information about that.

And what that means is just it should give pause to the courts when they are imputing income: Are jobs really available, particularly are jobs available for minimum wage earners or those with little education and skills? Since the service sector and the hospitality sector has been hit hard, and other regions --
certain regions of Alabama have been hit harder than others. So, that's the intent of that.

The hours worked are lower for some industries that's in the infographic, that the average hours worked in Alabama is about 34, 35. It's closer to 26 for hospitality sectors. So, that's another factor to consider.

But for purposes of this matrix as far as meeting federal requirements, you have met it in the sense that it's documented. It's in that infographic.

Row 12 is, "States must consider the impact of guidelines policies and amounts on custodial and noncustodial parents who have family incomes below 200\% of the Federal poverty level." We have been analyzing the case file data and using that case file data to inform what Alabama may want to do with their low income adjustment, and those findings are on pages 24 to 37 of our September report.

There's also information in our memorandum in December.

So, we will have more
information about how Alabama has met that federal requirement in our final report. So, if the federal government said: How did you do it? There's only one place that they have to go. But for the purposes of the Committee, you have been seeing it over and over again as far as what the impact is, and we will even be talking about it more today.

So, Row 13 is to analyze
deviations with the intent to keeping them at a minimum. And I have already discussed that, so we can skip that.

What I would just like the Committee to do is just to go back over the deviation criteria and make sure that they are comfortable with that. I don't think there's any anything more we can do with the analysis. That would be informative to the Committee on
deviations.
Row 14, states must analyze defaults, income imputation, application of the low-income adjustment and payment patterns. Much of this was in our infographic in September. And we also had splatterings of this in all our memorandums because you are looking at this stuff to help inform whether you should to update the schedule and whether you should update the self-support reserve.

One of the things I can tell you just as a highlight so you don't have to go back to the memorandum is that, with analyzing income imputation, there is a data field on the automated system that notes income imputation, which is good. A lot of states don't have any field, and that isn't populated that much. It was only populated in about 6\% of the cases.

So, it is a low income imputation rate. We probably know that's
understated. But we also analyze income imputations by looking at the order amounts where the parents have -- where the Guidelines amount if both parents had full-time minimum wage, and that's a proxy for income imputation. And what we found was that $31 \%$ of the fathers had full-time minimum wage earnings and $40 \%$ of the mothers. And that's on par with what we are seeing in most states as far as income imputation rates.

So, I don't think Alabama is any exception but underscores the importance of considering the individual circumstances of a party when you are imputing income and the importance of that drafted provision of when to use a zero order.
With regard to defaults, it is not in the automated system. It's rarely on the automated system of states, so I am not sure how the federal government was thinking that it would be analyzed. What
we do is we have some data that shows a high correlation between income imputation and default orders, because if the parent doesn't supply his or her income information, chances are they might not show up at the hearing either. And national data shows it's about $30 \%$ or $40 \%$ of those with income imputation also have default orders.

So, that's how we are talking about meeting that federal requirement. A lot of states are talking about, in the future, adding a field to their automated system that notes default, and that way it's a little bit more clean cut to meet that federal requirement.

The other one is the low income adjustment, how often that's supplied. There isn't a field on the automated systems. I think only two of the states we worked with have a field that clearly notes it. Most states are like Alabama where they were not, but we were able to
decipher that or approximate it using the order amounts on how often it's applied.

So, in short, we are meeting those three federal requirements. I am not worried about Alabama being viewed as not meeting them. I think that what we put together for Alabama is on par with what other states are putting together for meeting that federal requirement, and I haven't heard any pushback from any federal officer.

And the fourth thing in that Row 14 that I haven't talked about is payment patterns. And we have tons of information. And if you look at our reports on what the payment patterns are for various factors at various incomes. So, definitely Alabama has made that -met that requirement.

Row 15 is, "Provide opportunity
for public comment particularly low-income and IV-D agency." And you can see how that's worded, "Provide a meaningful

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opportunity for public input, including input from low-income custodial and noncustodial parents and their representatives. The State must also obtain the views and advice of the State child support agency funded under title IV-D of the Act."

And I think Alabama has been always diligent about this. And this requirement actually responds to some states where the meeting was closed. It wasn't public. There wasn't an opportunity for public comment at the end like Alabama does. There have been states where they don't include representatives of the IV-D agency on the Guidelines Committee. So, Alabama is advanced in that.

Whether you get input from a low-income parent or a high-income parent, middle-income parent, I wouldn't recommend asking somebody that. I think that was an oversight in the federal regulation that
just to put the word "low-income," I think it was mainly meaning to reach out to low-income, which Alabama has, you know, in the sense you include legal aid, and that's how states are meeting that requirement. But I know no state that's asking a parent before he or she testifies or provides public comment whether they are low income, middle income, or high income.

So, I wouldn't sweat that little detail. I don't think the feds want you to ask that either. But I think what they meant was just to reach out. And, again, I think the intent was more aimed at those states where the meeting was closed, and there wasn't a reach-out to the community like Alabama does, and to representatives of low income organizations.

So, this is -- that's it. I am going to open it up for comments. I think in particular what I would like to hear the Committee think about is if there's
any reasons to go into detail on Row 1, and that's the first one on evidence on income. Whether you want to go any deeper on the deviation criteria, that's Row 6. And then the other one is on the medical support. And, again, you don't need me to help you with that; that's Row 5. I just encourage you to take another look at those three rows.

I am going to stop there and just let the Committee comment, and we will take it from there.

MR. MADDOX: Hey, Penny, are you on?

MS. DAVIS: Go to the --
MR. MADDOX: Oh, there you are.
MS. DAVIS: I am sorry. Bob, would you go to the full screen where we can see all the little pictures of everybody and we will see if anybody has a hand up. If you would, if you would like to ask --

MR. MADDOX: Brady bunch screen.
MS. DAVIS: Yeah, a Brady bunch
view. Good looking group.
So, if any of the Committee members would like to ask Dr. Venohr a question or have a comment.
(No response).
MS. DAVIS: My comment is first to thank Dr. Venohr for putting this in such an easily -- organized in a way that's easy for me to understand, and I am sure it's helpful to the Committee members. And certainly, I think, if Jennifer Bush needs to present something to the feds, then it will be a very good opportunity for her to show that we are meeting our federal requirements. So, I think that's been very helpful.

So, unless anyone has a question, then we will ask Jane to move on to either of the two next documents.

DR. VENOHR: Thank you, Penny, and congratulations to the Committee for knocking out all those federal requirements.
I am going to switch gears. I
just want to do a recap of where I think you are on the schedule. And if I don't have it right, certainly corrections.

So, I am looking at December 31 memo adjusting for Alabama prices and income. And where we are at is that Alabama is based on a very old set of economic measurements to child-rearing. They were developed by Professor David Betson using the Rothbarth methodology, and they were published in 2006. And they are based on families and their expenditures in 1998 through 2004.

And what we've been talking about in the last few months is using Betson's latest study which is from -which was financed by Arizona, and it's based on expenditures data from families in 2013 to 2019. And there's always a lag just from when they get the data to when they can analyze it.

And when we prepared an updated schedule using that new data, we updated
it to 2020 price levels. It's national data. It's from the consumer expenditures survey, which is a Cadillac survey. It's a very, very excellent survey. Probably one of the most robust in the world. It is a nationally representative sample. It includes families from Alabama, but the sample size is not sufficient to analyze Alabama separately. It would take years and years and tons of resources to replicate that.

So, what we did in this memo was looked at how to adjust those national estimates for Alabama prices, which are lower than average, and Alabama incomes, which are lower than average. And what the Committee favored was -- or at least my understanding was -- adjusting it for Alabama incomes. And there were a couple of reasons: One is that was what Alabama uses now. Alabama faces the same issue when Alabama last updated its schedule that the Betson-Rothbarths are national
measurements, and they were updated -- or adjusted for Alabama incomes using the difference between Alabama incomes and U.S. incomes.

And since then, there's been this new measure called the price parity. And what the price parity does, it measures how much the prices differ from a state or a region from the U.S. average, where the U.S. average is $100 \%$ and Alabama, of course, has prices that are on average less than the U.S. average. It's about 86\%.

So, we could do the income realignment or we could use the price parity. And at first, last fall I was using the price parity because I really do like the measure. I think it's very state specific. But when we took a deeper dive into it -- Professor Gray was very helpful on this -- we realized that the price parity probably understated or overstated Alabama's lower housing prices and they
use rents. And we showed a lot of data in this memo that suggested that Alabama's housing prices are probably a little bit more than what's apparent in that price parity and that Alabama housing prices appear to maybe be on the increase based on other data from the Federal Reserve from the Realtors Association in Alabama. So, there's some hesitancy on using the price parity since that was the rent that was pulling down Alabama's price -- Alabama's overall price parity. The price parity also includes Alabama prices for other services. You know, this could be dry cleaning to any sort of non-rent service in the price of other goods. And when you look at that, Alabama prices aren't that much different for food, for transportation, which isn't surprising. You know, the cost of a car in Colorado in my home state and Alabama, I mean, I doubt -- you know, the taxes might be different and the licensing fees
are probably going to be different, but the bottom line price of an automobile doesn't differ that much regionally. And similar issues with food.

So, those were the concerns with using the price parity. The other thing that came out when we took a deeper dive and -- was that the incomes -- it looked like it mattered, and it mattered in the sense that we saw that people with lower income households with lower incomes had -- they spent more on food.

So, if we had applied the price parity, it would be applied to all incomes, and that didn't make as much sense. That the adjustment -- when we adjust using it for Alabama incomes, it allows some differences in the income scale or it recognizes that higher incomes have different expenditure patterns than lower incomes.

So, for those reasons, we
landed -- or the Committee landed in --
and I can be corrected on this -- on considering an updated schedule based on the BR5, the most recent Arizona -- I mean, the recent national study, and there's about four or five states that have recommended that. It was approved in Missouri, and I think it goes to the Iowa court this month. It will go to the Arizona court; they are all updating for BR5. And there are a couple of more states that $I$ just want to emphasize that. So, Alabama won't be the first state if you do decide to go with BR5 to adopt it.

I do want to turn to page seven
in this memo. And the reason I want to emphasize page seven is where we left it, and we could go down even a little bit lower on the screen is that jade -- that solid jade green line, that's the existing schedule. And what is being favored is that red line, that is BR5 Alabama incomes.

So, if you look at this, we blew up -- we are only looking at incomes $\$ 800.00$ to $\$ 6,200.00$. And the reason that I am focusing on this is that incomes above $\$ 6,200.00$, there's a definitive increase between the existing and the BR5 adjusted for Alabama incomes, which is what you expect over time. And it's the decrease that you see at these lower incomes that gives pause.

So, I just want to stop here and talk about this for a minute and remind everybody because this caused some consternation earlier is that it is not that big of a decrease. It's a maximum of $\$ 32.00$. And if you look right at that \$2,000.00 amount, you see, like, this arrow going down, that takes you down to the box that says this is where that maximum difference occurs. And it's $\$ 32.00$ a month or 9\%. And note that it's right by that combined income of $\$ 2,000.00$. So, if you are imputing
minimum wage to both parents, they are assuming that both parents have the capacity to earn full-time minimum wage. It's going to be below that point.

Our current federal minimum wage is $\$ 7.25$ an hour, which yields $\$ 1,257.00$ for monthly full-time employment. So, that point is below there. So, it's a small change.

But the reason I want to emphasize this is because where we are going to go next is we are going to talk about putting that self-support reserve in. And the other thing that you will notice from this chart is that, if you look at that $\$ 800.00$ to about $\$ 1,200.00$, you will see that green line is lower. And that's because we incorporated the self-support reserve into the schedule, the existing schedule. And when we developed these updated schedules, we didn't incorporate a self-support reserve. We do that next. We first figure out what
schedule or what economic data a state wants to use, how do you want to adjust it for prices and incomes, and then we figure out the self-support reserve.

And what I am going to talk about next is we are going to go back to that memorandum about the self-support reserve, and you can put it in the schedule like Alabama does now or you can put it in the worksheet. And the advantage of putting it in the worksheet is you can -- or you can apply it to both parents and it would be congruent with any parenting time adjustment.

So, that's my recap of the schedule. Are there any corrections the Committee wants to make? I am just -just to put it in summary is that where we are going at $C P R$ is we are assuming that the Committee wants to explore using BR5 adjusted for Alabama incomes more, so that's the schedule we are going to be working with. And now we are going to be
talking about how to update the self-support reserve. And when we talk about updating the self-support reserve, we want it to flow into that BR5 schedule with adjustments for Alabama incomes.

So, this is a good point just to make sure that's the direction we, at $C P R$, should be going.

I am going to stop there and see if there are any comments.

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Jane, let me make sure I remember correctly. The existing is based on Alabama income. So, if we are called upon to report to the Court regarding this particular issue, then if we choose the BR5 Alabama income, which is the red line, the red dotted line here, then we could correctly say to the Court that we are continuing the existing economic way to look at the prices and the incomes economically as we have now, which is via the Alabama income, but it's just updating the economic figures. Is that a correct statement? Not

[^1]very well said, but is that a correct statement?

DR. VENOHR: I think you said it well. And the reason that we see those decreases is that it has nothing to do with the Alabama incomes. It has to do with the change from BR3 to BR5, and that the consumer expenditure survey has gotten better, and they can measure income better. And they found out that some of those people that they were classifying as low income before actually have more income.

So, that's why you see some of the decreases from BR3 to BR5. It is not anything to do with Alabama prices. It's just that survey has improved. They continuously improve that consumer expenditure survey.

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Thank you. Bob, do you want to switch back to our Brady bunch, and then we will see if we have anybody with their hand raised.

Any Committee member with a
question that they would like to ask Jane up to this point on this particular document?
(No response).
MS. DAVIS: Okay. Anybody that does not have the capability of raising their hands visually that would like to unmute and speak?
(No response).
MS. DAVIS: Okay. Jane, I think we are ready to proceed then.

DR. VENOHR: Excellent. So, people have a good memory. So, this is wonderful.

I am switching to the self-support reserve memo. And as we go to the first page of that, there are some questions for the Committee. And in the January meeting, we just did an overview and started to discuss these questions. And so, these are where we want to continue. The first question is, "Does the committee favor putting the
self-support reserve (SSR) adjustment in the worksheet so it can apply to each parent?" And we will take a deeper dive into that.

As explained earlier, the self-support reserve is in the schedule now, and that area where it is, is that blue-shaded area; those amounts have been adjusted.

So, if you look at that first line, it has a combined adjusted gross income of $\$ 800.00$, and it shows a $\$ 50.00$ order. Obviously it costs much more to raise a child than $\$ 50.00$.

So, those amounts are lower than what the BR3 measurements show on how much it costs to raise children. And when you get to $\$ 1,150.00$ for one child, you see that it's \$253.00, and it's not shaded. That's because it's no longer adjusted for a self-support reserve. And that's the way it's handled right now, and there's very explicit clean language in Alabama
that says there's a self-support reserve, so you have met the federal requirement. That federal requirement does not say how much the self-support reserve says. In fact, if you read the narrative of the federal rule, it says that they essentially respect states' discretion, recognizing that the subsistence needs vary from state to state.

So, just to make that very clear, I don't think you have failed that requirement.

So, the advantage including it in the worksheet is you could have it apply to both parents. It's very difficult to make that happen in the schedule. So, I will technically show you that in a minute.

The second question is, "What should the amount of the self-support reserve (SSR) be?"

When we developed the schedule back in 2006-2007, we used the federal
poverty level then. It was \$873.00. By the time we adjusted it for Alabama prices, and so forth, it was about \$700.00.

The 2021 Federal Poverty
Guidelines has come out for one person.
It is now \$1,071 -- or I am sorry,
$\$ 1,073.00$. The 2020 Federal Poverty Guidelines for one person was \$1,063.00. So, it has increased by $\$ 10.00$ from 2020 to 2021. When you look at these materials, we use the 2020 federal poverty level for one person, which was \$1,063.00. In 2021, it's \$1,073.00.

So, that's something really
important to keep in mind when we start talking about whether to change that amount.

I will say that what I think is an appropriate ballpark for Alabama would be a self-support reserve of about \$800.00 to around $\$ 1,500.00, \$ 1,600.00$. I use $\$ 800.00$ as the low amount, and I will show
you various reasons why, including that's the maximum amount of the $S S I$, the Supplemental Security Income. I think it's \$791.00 exactly. So, you round that up to \$800.00. North Dakota uses that essentially for their self-support reserve.

So, I think that, if you are trying to narrow it down, what that self-support reserve -- I wouldn't want Alabama to go any lower than that \$800.00.

With regard to the high range, the highest that any state has, is in that $\$ 1,500.00$ to $\$ 1,600.00$ range. I don't think Alabama should go any higher than that, I think, because Alabama is lower income than other states. I would actually pull down that maximum amount to about $\$ 1,100.00$.

So, off the top of my head just to give you a range, I would say anywhere between $\$ 800.00$ to $\$ 1,100.00$ would be appropriate. And we will take a deeper
dive into that in a minute.
Question three, "Should the self-support reserve (SSR) be discretionary if the receiving parent's income is below a certain threshold."

There's a handful of states that provide for this. So, this is certainly an option that Alabama can explore. Most states, however, apply their self-support reserve presumptively and don't make it discretionary. But that's certainly an option that Alabama can discuss.

Four, "Should the SSR adjustment occur after consideration of childcare and other additional expenses," or before.

And states are mixed on this. I would say it's maybe a third consider childcare and additional expenses and then the self-support reserve. And this works well if, you know, say that we all know that childcare expenses are really expensive, so let's say let's just keep the math simple. If the childcare
expenses for a couple of kids are $\$ 1,000.00$ a month, parents have equal income, that means that a noncustodial parent would be paying $\$ 500.00$. And if they are low income, that could push them well below the self-support reserve.

So, that's the reason that many states are considering that before they calculate the self-support reserve adjustment.

On the other hand, other states have said, well, who is going to pay it? I mean, these are real expenses. So, if we don't consider it, then all the burden falls on the custodial parent. So, we will talk about that more.

The last question is whether there should be an economic incentive related to the self-support reserve. And this sort of ties into two because it can lower the order amounts if you are -- if you had a self-support reserve. And just to give you a really brief example to see

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 800.397.5590 www.boggsreporters.comwhere we are going on this is, if we have a self-support reserve of $\$ 1,000.00$ and an obligated parent's income is \$1,100.00, then that would suggest that the maximum order amount would be \$100.00.

Now, let's say that obligated parent's income increases by a dollar so now he or she now has income $\$ 1,101.00$ and we still have that self-support reserve of a $\$ 1,000.00$, that means that order amount -- the maximum amount would be \$101.00.

So, even though his income increased by a dollar, all of it goes to child support. The child support order increased from \$100.00 to \$101.00. So, an economic incentive might take 50\% of that income increase or maybe $90 \%$ of the increase. West Virginia uses 85\%. So, instead, it would be, the order amount would increase from a \$100.00 to \$100.85.

So, we will take a deeper dive into that, but just to give you a prop on
where these questions are going. And, again, $I$ just want to emphasize when you think about two, that if you think an economic incentive is important and you are thinking, yes, to that question five, that there should be one, that it might affect what you think that self-support reserve should be on two.

So, once we start talking about where you are landing on these questions, we should look at some case examples and combine two and five.

Any comments or questions before I take a deeper dive into some of these issues?

MS. DAVIS: I just have a thought on number five. By thinking that you need to have an economic incentive, does that somewhat imply that the parent doesn't want to pay the full amount for child support? I mean, you know, it kind of implies indirectly that they are not going to work because it goes to support their own child.

And I kind of hate to have that as a basis for an adjustment, but that may be reality. And that may not be a proper thought on my part.

DR. VENOHR: I think I was sloppy
in my language, Penny. I was speaking like an economist. And economists are obsessed with economic incentives, meaning that, if somebody works, they are motivated by money. And if they work more, they do it because they want more money.

So, when I -- What we don't want is a disincentive to not earn more. So, when I was giving that example of a parent that was earning $\$ 1,100.00$ a month and when he or she really have an economic incentive to earn more, let's say, you know, if I do this or take the night shift, you know, I am going to make \$1,200.00 a month, and if by economic incentive I mean that, if we just don't have it in the Guidelines, if we don't provide for it, it means that, well, I
know that the way the Guidelines work. And because of my self-support reserve was $\$ 1,000.00$, that if $I$ increase my earnings from \$1,100.00 to \$1,200.00, it's just going to make my order increase from $\$ 100.00$ to $\$ 200.00$, so, you know, I don't get to keep any of it.

So, that's what I mean by
"economic incentive."
MS. DAVIS: Is there any -- No, I thought that's what you intended, and I think you stated it well. I guess my question is: Is there any statistical data that indicates that the noncustodial parent actually doesn't work if all that goes to them, or is that just some sort of an assumption?

DR. VENOHR: There are data in studies on -- I am trying to think of how to phrase it. The studies are -- They come from a fragile family survey studies, and it's more on working on the underground economy because they know that they work for

[^2]an employer that reports income; their wages are going to be withheld.

So, there aren't formal studies across the board that gets to the nuance that I am speaking on where it's a reported income and they decide not to work the night shift because they don't want the pay differential, and it's going to go to child support. I can't think of a study that shows that level of detail. There are antidotal evidence, you know, that you hear from child support offices, but it's not formal studies.

So, the formal study is much more general in the sense that it looks at that they are not willing to work in the formal economy because of the wage assignment, which is the same point that they are -- they are not getting an economic incentive to increase their earnings.

MS. DAVIS: Okay.
DR. VENOHR: Does that --

MS. DAVIS: Yes, that helps. Thank you.

DR. VENOHR: Okay. Good. So, let's go to the next page and just trying to see what we have here.

This shows how the self-support reserve can be applied in the worksheet. So, here we have an example of where both parents earn the federal minimum wage of $\$ 7.25$ an hour, which is $\$ 1,257.00$ a month gross. And I will highlight that there is a bill in Congress right now to increase the federal minimum wage. And it hasn't been increased for about 10 years. Right now the proposal is to increase it to $\$ 9.50$ per hour in 2021, and then have it land at \$15.00 an hour by 2025 .

So, that's something to consider when we talk about this that it's highly likely that there will be a change in federal minimum wage. Whether it will escalate as quickly and to $\$ 15.00$ an hour by 2025 , that is even high relative to the

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states that have minimum wages right now -- state minimum wages that are above the federal. So, but, anyway, something to consider.

So, in this scenario, we have the parents have equal income. They have one child. So, if we go to line seven, that's the schedule amount, \$500.00. So, before any sort of adjustment, each parent would be responsible for half of that because they have equal income, so \$250.00. So, each parent would be responsible for $\$ 250.00$.

Now, line 10 shows that amount in the self-support reserve. I used the 2020 federal poverty level, which was \$1,063.00. Again, I am recommending that Alabama use anything between $\$ 800.00$ to about $\$ 1,100.00$ to $\$ 1,200.00$ a month for their self-support reserve, and we will talk more about that in a minute. But I'm just using this to illustrate the example.

So, if we look at the difference
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in their income, which is the new line 11, so that would be the $\$ 1,257.00$ in their income minus that $\$ 1,063.00$, it shows that they only have \$194.00 available. And you can see it's being applied to either parent.

So, on that line 13 -- we just look at what's lower -- is that the difference between their income in the self-support reserve, or is it the prorated schedule amount, which is on line eight. And in this case scenario, it's the difference that's lower. So, that becomes the order amount, \$194.00.

Now, if I would have used a self-support reserve of $\$ 800.00$, the difference would have been more like \$400.00. So, then we would have used line eight. So, this is real important. This matters. And it's that this line 13 that you will see later that they put in a work incentive.

So, going to the next line, we
will talk about that work incentive later. This shows how that self-support reserve is incorporated now. And one thing that's a little complicated -- and we can go through this, but to save time I am not going to go through the math of this. But what you will see is that there is actually a hidden column that's after-tax income when we calculate the schedule amounts. And that's using the tax filing status of a single payer and assuming that there's no deductions or exemptions for additional dependents.

So, it's a tax assumption that favors the obligated parent. The reason that we use that, it's impossible to consider both parents' tax situations in the schedule because, you know, we are looking at combined income. So, it could be that one parent is in the 25\% tax bracket and another parent is in the 10\% tax bracket, or they could have the same combined income and they are both in the

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15\% tax bracket.
So, when we do this, we assume the tax assumption that's most favorable to the obligated parent, and that's assuming all incomes earned are taxed as a single taxpayer. And it's also congruent with the tax code for today which doesn't allow an exemption for deductions of children. Now they use the child tax credit for that. And the tax rates of a single taxpayer actually is the same as head of household. But what is different is if they are eligible for that child tax credit which is a narrow window just because they can't advance the full child tax credit which is $\$ 2,000.00$ a year per child, and they can only advance \$1,400.00 because, you know, very low income folks don't have the tax liability, and then it phases out at incomes of $\$ 200,000.00$.

So, I sort of segued in there, but I saw that there was some public comment on the taxes. So, I just wanted

[^3]to clarify those tax assumptions in the schedule for the benefit of the Committee and the public. And, again, I just want to reiterate that those are tax assumptions that are the most favorable to the obligated parent.

But what this means, turning it back to the self-support reserve, is when we did the low income adjustment in the schedule, we used a self-support reserve of $\$ 700.00$ net. In the math that $I$ just showed you when we do it in the worksheet, it's gross income. You know, obviously gross income is higher than net income.

So, a parent is going to receive more adjustment if you base the self-support reserve on net income. You could put it in the worksheet, but it would be very complicated. It would feel muddy just because, you know, you start the calculation with gross income, and then somewhere you have to put a calculation on net income and explain why
you made it and made the difference. If you are really concerned about having a self-support reserve that's equivalent to a net income amount, I recommend just upping the self-support reserve used in that worksheet to account for taxes. And that's something I didn't explain earlier that should have when I was talking about that work incentive.

You know, when we were talking about that example where we had an obligated parent, that their income went from $\$ 1,100.00$ to $\$ 1,200.00$ a month so they had an income increase of $\$ 100.00 \mathrm{a}$ month and the way that I did that very simple worksheet, all of that went to child support. Well, the reality is, some of it is going to go to taxes, right?

That even if that obligated parent decides to take the night shift, and he earns a \$100.00 more, he is only going to see maybe $\$ 85.00$ of that in his paycheck, you know, because of the payroll taxes. So,

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that's another reason that it might be good to do a work incentive.

I am going to stop there just to see if anybody wants me to go through the math of Figure 3 or we could just move on. (No response).

DR. VENOHR: Okay. Hearing none, I'm going to scroll. Let's scroll down to the bottom of the page that summarizes the pros and cons of putting it in the worksheet that incorporated in the schedule.

The pros of putting it in the worksheet is transparency. It can apply to each parent. You can easily change the amount without changing the schedule, and you can do that on your own. You don't have to contact CPR and say we need to do a schedule update. And you can put the adjustment before or after the consideration of childcare expenses and other additional expenses. So, it's very flexible.

The cons are it's a change of
methods, so there's always a learning curve. You will have to explain why these schedule amounts are higher at lower incomes. Another con is that it requires additional worksheet lines. This can be an issue particularly for automated worksheets. There's a lot of testing that goes on. There's another problem with relating it to after-tax income as I just explained. And then there's that economic incentive to increase earnings, like, if I am going to take the night shift, I want to get some reward of it too. You know, I am going to buy a latte instead of bringing a thermos of coffee, you know, and I want to be able to pay for that. You know, and there are some merits on that.

With regards to incorporating it in the schedule, the pros are it's consistent with the current method. It's very easy to apply. It's easy to incorporate an economic incentive to
increase earnings. We did do that already by considering that, and we are only taking $90 \%$ of the difference when there's one child and 95\% of the difference when there's six children.

So, it's not a huge economic incentive that they only get to increase 10\%, but at least it's there. And you can apply it to gross or after income.

The cons are it is not
transparent. I mean, you can't see it on the worksheet. And I think I mentioned this before. We did a study in Vermont. When you see it on the worksheet, we find that parents tend to negotiate and stipulate to the amount that's in between the schedule amount and the self-support reserve adjusted amounts.

So, that's a good thing. Any
time you can get parents to agree on something, the probability of that payments are going to increase, and that's been substantiated by the research data.

There's some anomalous increases when the receiving parent has significant incomes. And I won't go into the math on that. And it could only occur before the consideration of childcare expenses and other additional expenses, because we don't include those in the schedule amounts.

Any questions on the pros and cons?
(No response).
DR. VENOHR: Penny, do you want to get a read on where the Committee is landing? Are they more interested in the worksheet or in the schedule? Is there any interest in retaining the adjustment in the schedule?

MS. DAVIS: I think you were reading my mind. I was thinking that I think we are kind of at the point where we can get a definitive thought from the Committee. I know we talked about it before. The Committee went through sort of

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a straw poll and seems like they were leaning towards wanting to apply it to both parties, both parents. So, that would mean that we are leaning towards in the worksheet versus incorporating it in the schedule as they do now.

But let's go back to our Brady bunch look, Bob, if you would. And then we will let people first ask any questions that you have for Jane regarding the presentation that she just made on this point; and then from that, we will take a straw poll for everybody.

So, first, any questions, if you would, raise your hand if you are visible. HON. PALMER: Penny, this is Julie Palmer.

MS. DAVIS: Thank you, Judge.
HON. PALMER: The only thing I
heard Jane say was about a 10\%. And, of course, we already have it in our Guidelines that it has to be more than a 10\% increase or a decrease or a change. So, is that
going to affect anything that she just told us about, her last statement?

DR. VENOHR: Oh, I am sorry. The 10\% was on the economic incentive. It wouldn't be a 10\% change in the order amount.

HON. PALMER: Okay.
MS. DAVIS: So, it didn't relate to modification at all?

DR. VENOHR: (Nodding in the affirmative).

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Thank you, Julie, for clarification there.

DR. VENOHR: And I just want to clarify that we can always go back and put it in the schedule. But for a direction on what we do next, it's good to know, you know, where if you want to do it from the worksheet. And I am not hearing any opposition. So, should we move on?

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Let's get kind of a show of hands. Everybody who is in favor of putting it in the worksheet as
opposed to the current process of putting it in the schedule, if you would, raise your hands.
(Committee members raising hands.)

MS. DAVIS: Okay. If you want to -- thank you. It seems like most everybody raised their hand.

The judges that want -- and Committee members, not just judges. The Committee members who want to unmute and vote, if you would, do that at this point. MR. STARKEY: Greg Starkey. In favor.

MS. DAVIS: Thank you.
MS. BALDWIN: Penny, this is
Melody Baldwin, by the way. Is this a vote whether or not to include it in the worksheet? Is that what we are --

MS. DAVIS: We are voting to -and thank you for clarification.

We are voting to put it in the worksheet as opposed to leaving it in the

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HON. PALMER: Where would it go on the worksheet? This is Julie Palmer.

MS. DAVIS: Jane, would you like to speak to that issue?

DR. VENOHR: I don't think we have a definitive answer yet. You can see from the mark-up on the worksheet on page two where we have some suggestions. But I think for now what we need from CPR is just whether to keep exploring putting it in the worksheet.

And so, I would recommend this be -- if you are going to vote a preliminary vote to some -- to give CPR direction, not necessarily the definitive, this is what we are going to do. And that detail of how it's going to be put in the worksheet and where would be ironed out as we give you more examples.

HON. PALMER: Thank you.
MS. BALDWIN: Penny, I had a comment I think rather than -- I am not -- I
liked a lot of the reasons for including it in the worksheet. But one thing I am concerned about is that, if we are concerned with -- and I think we probably are -- with that question number -- I think it was question number five, should there be an economic incentive to the SSR.

If it is cumbersome to include it in the -- when we are using the -putting it in the worksheet, I think I have -- I am not real clear on how it is cumbersome, Dr. Venohr. Can you talk -and I know we were going to get to that when we are got to question number five, so maybe I am asking too early, but if you could just let me know.

DR. VENOHR: Yeah. And I think it's difficult to sequence it. I think what I am hearing you say is that you are interested in it, but I want to see how it turns out, particularly with that issue for number five, and then I will feel more comfortable saying definitively I want it in

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the worksheet. Would that be a good summary?

MS. BALDWIN: It is. Thank you.
DR. VENOHR: And I think that's
fine. For our purposes, that's the direction we need to hear just to -- you know, because the next question we are going to ask is the amount of the self-support reserve and you will see there's an infinitive amount, and you can't consider 25 different examples. I mean, we need to narrow down the examples that you consider.

And what I would recommend as I am listening to you-all is, when we talk about the next question, which I am going to try to narrow down the amount of self-support reserve, what I will do or will do is we will put one in the worksheet and then we will give you a schedule with that same amount of the self-support reserve and the same work incentive that you use now so you can see the difference.

And that might be a better way to address that fifth question. You know, because, again, I don't want to give you 25 different options. We want to give you a reasonable number of options to consider and ponder.

MS. BALDWIN: And, Penny, I didn't jump in, Penny, when you were asking if there was data to support that about, you know, noncustodial parent is not going to want to work another, you know, 10 hours to make overtime if it's all going to go to child support. But I would venture to guess any kind of IV-D prosecutor would tell you that is, in fact, the case. And, of course, Dr. Venohr did say it was anecdotal.

And that's why I am concerned about that because you do want them to have an incentive. And we do have parents that will actually quit their jobs when they realize they are not going to keep any of that.

So, that's why I am concerned
about that. And that's all I am going to say.

MS. DAVIS: That's fine. That's helpful.

Okay. So, in interest of time, let's just assume that our vote was just a straw vote to give Jane and her group directions as to how we are leaning at this point. And I think Judge Palmer and Melody's comments relating to actually seeing it when Jane gives some examples would be helpful to see if we put it in a worksheet what it looks like.

Go ahead, Judge Palmer.
HON. PALMER: Oh, can you hear me?

MS. DAVIS: Yes.
HON. PALMER: Okay. Well, no. It's just kind of like what Melody just said, that yesterday I gave a lady a judgment for $\$ 178,000.00$ from 1998. It was a point six or seven. And, you know, the guy had not paid her in all those years.

And, you know, there's women out there that don't pay also. I am just making this very gender friendly.

But people do, as any judge will tell you and any practicing attorney will tell you, as soon as that income withholding order hits their paycheck, they are gone. They leave. Male or female, they are gone.

So, that's my comment on that.
MS. DAVIS: And I have seen that too in the years I have been involved in the family law area.

Okay. All right. Jane, are you ready to move on then?

MS. KING: I have one more question. And I'm sorry.

MS. DAVIS: Rachel King has a question.

MS. KING: Yeah. If y'all can't hear me through the background, I will cease. I will send it by chat.

But I am wondering with that
same economic incentive, is it only going to apply to people who are falling at the lowest end of the schedule in terms of income? And the reason I am asking is, I have seen a real high increase due to COVID with nursing patients who are taking on this additional COVID care, and they are getting huge incentives from it, but they are hesitant to do it because of the same reason, that they are going to be penalized in terms of child support.

So, are we only applying this incentive to the people at the lower end? Does my question make sense?

DR. VENOHR: Yes, it does make sense. And I am trying to think of the best way to answer it. It's very confusing because we are talking about different incomes.

And there's an economic incentive inherent and implicit at higher incomes which is the situation of a nurse, I imagine. You know, I don't know the
nursing salaries offhand in Alabama. You know, let's just say it's about \$4,000.00 gross a month. In there, there's a natural incentive that all their income, if they were to take that pay differential, it's not all going to go to child support. I mean, if they were to calculate their guidelines amount, even if they were the custodial parent, and let's say that their income increased from $\$ 4,000.00$ a month to $\$ 4,400.00$ a month. If they were to do the Guidelines calculation, it's probably going to be a very nominal change. I am guessing it might be a dollar or two, you know, so it wouldn't be qualifying for a modification. But just the way that it works at the lower income, it gets magnitude. It's just the way to explain it economically is, if the price of milk increases, it's going to affect a very lower income person more than somebody where there's two really high earners, you

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know, like a surgeon. It's like the price of milk increase, okay, you know, but they are not -- they don't have to rethink about buying milk because it increased, where a low income person would.

So, you are absolutely right, that there's still that economic thing going on, the economic incentive. But that's why it's so much more important at the lower income. I don't know. Is that how --

## MS. KING: Yeah. I mean, I

 understand that from the practitioners' standpoint. But I do see these people are coming in right now, and their income is doubling at least with a lot of the COVID or even travel nursing. And, I mean, I am talking off the charts substantially higher, and they are real concerned about, you know, if this isn't guaranteed, then what incentive do they have to take that on, which would help the child ultimately if they did.So, I'm just wondering if
there's some way we can give them some incentive, as well.

DR. VENOHR: Right. I mean, I will have to think about that more. I mean, that's a really interesting point. I mean, as a public policy for the State, I mean, you want nurses to be paid more. I mean, they are taking huge risks on, you know, with this COVID, and, you know, we certainly need more COVID nurses and stuff, you know.

So, I mean, I am not sure of the magnitude whether it really -- I hope it is not a disincentive for that. But I think you raised a really interesting point. And let's put it in the parking lot for now. We do know it's much more magnified for the low income. But I think your point is really valid.

Are you okay with that?
MS. KING: Yeah. Absolutely.
Thank you.
DR. VENOHR: Okay. Any other --

I think this discussion is good. I think I am going to -- if there aren't any other comments, otherwise, I would like to talk about the amount of the self-support reserve.
(No response).
DR. VENOHR: Okay. Let's move on to the amount of the self-support reserve. And I'm going to pick it up a little bit because the next time I want to come back with some examples. And right now I know I am going to have to show you that line with that work incentive, and I realize it is not in this document. So, I apologize for that. So, if we look at page four and we look at the center of it, there's a chart there that gives you some self-support reserve amounts. Now that the 2021 federal poverty level is out, I will probably adjust this.

And, again, the $\$ 1,063.00$ is the
2020 federal poverty level. That's now $\$ 1,073.00$. If you were to do the one
that's most congruent with the schedule that you are favoring, it would be the bottom of that table. It would be $\$ 868.00$ a month. I would probably bump that up for 2021. So, it would be closer to $\$ 877.00$ a month. So, that's one that I want to definitely use.

So, just to make this
conversation go a little faster, do folks have any interest in considering a lower self-support reserve? Again, I wouldn't recommend anything lower than $\$ 800.00$. Is there interest in exploring a higher self-support reserve? And if so, how high do you want to go? Any initial thoughts?

MS. COX: Dr. Venohr, this is
Amanda Cox. I would be interested in using the one that you said goes with what we kind of preliminarily chosen, the $\$ 877.00$. And then also one that went along with how we chose the self-support reserve in the previous schedule, if it's different.

DR. VENOHR: Okay. And when you
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say "the previous schedule," you mean incorporating it in the -- in the schedule rather than the worksheet?

MS. COX: No, ma'am. I mean, if we use the different -- did we use the -- I was thinking we used the federal poverty level which would be the $\$ 1,063.00$ before in the previous --

DR. VENOHR: Yeah. And the difference between what -- it was adjusted for Alabama incomes, but it's also adjusted for Alabama tax rates at that income.

MS. COX: Okay.
DR. VENOHR: So, what I will do is I will use the $\$ 877.00$, or whatever that amount is, and then I will do an amount that is adjusted for taxes at that level. So, it will bump it up probably to -- let me see. It would bump it up to about -- It would bump it up to about a \$1,000.00. Just a little less than a \$1,000.00.

MS. COX: Okay. That's just my idea.

DR. VENOHR: I think those are good ideas.

MS. COX: Okay. Thank you.
DR. VENOHR: So, right now, we've got three options we are talking about. We are talking about using -- we will do two in the worksheets. One will be the BR5 Alabama incomes that you see at the bottom line. We will use the 2021 federal poverty level. The second one will be in the worksheet, and it will be that same amount, but we will bump it up to reflect taxes. And that's going to be just under a $\$ 1,000.00$, my back of envelope calculation.

And then a third approach is we are going to just use the current approach which is in the schedule, but we will update it using the same methodologies.

Any interest in a fourth thing to explore?
(No response).
DR. VENOHR: Okay. We can all
circle back. I mean, this is just all

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preliminary.
Let's keep going in the interest of time so we can circle back and see if there's anything else that needs to be explored when we discuss the other issues. I just want to highlight table five -- or the table on page five. And this isn't to make a decision, but this really ties into the federal minimum wage, and it's really important when we start analyzing the impact of this.

And if you look at the columns, you will see that Scenario A has that the current federal minimum wage of $\$ 7.25$ an hour, which we would get a $\$ 250.00$ child support order based on the existing schedule.

Scenario B we use income of $\$ 9.23$, which is the median earnings of a worker in Alabama who is employed as a food preparation worker, which is generally an occupation that doesn't require much skill or educational level.

So, I would like to use that just to gauge what incomes are in this state. That's just for to make it real. Scenario C is \$10.00 an hour.

At one time during the Obama administration, this is what was proposed as a federal minimum wage. Again, the legislation that's being proposed in Congress right now is $\$ 9.50$ for this year and then it would stagger. It would gradually increase to $\$ 15.00$ an hour, which is Scenario E.

And as you will see, those red amounts are when the proposed schedule and the various self-support reserves are below what the existing amount would be at a particular wage. So, Scenario E, if we had parents that were earning \$15.00 an hour, the order amount would be $\$ 390.00$. And you can see that the self-support reserve would only be effective in reducing that amount for the third scenario when we are adjusting for Alabama
prices.
So, there's nothing that you need to do with this right now except keep it in the back of your head that, whatever you do, it's going to change it for those $30 \%$ of those cases where minimum wages were considered. So, we will just -- we are going to run this again when we give you the next set of comparisons.

So, let's keep going. There's a bunch of tables here for two or three children.

The next question is question three. And we will do a quick little discussion on this. It doesn't affect my case examples that we have to run. So, I don't want to spend too much time on it.

But we will at least get some -- an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on this.

Most states apply their
self-support reserve presumptively.
There's a few states that make it
discretionary, and the language is of those states are here. If you look at Arizona, the languages they may apply that self-support reserve. So, Arizona has that self-support reserve in their worksheet, but it's "may," it is not "shall." And then they say, "after first considering the financial impact the reduction would have on the receiving parent's income." So, they don't have to apply it.

I will say that we are working with Arizona right now, and it's usually applied in 99\% of the cases. So, even though they have this language in there, they are not -- they don't use it. It's a pretty much a presumptive adjustment.

Now, Georgia has some language where, if we scroll down, it's in red too. Their adjustment is very -- it's a deviation factor, in fact. And it says that they have to consider the relative hardship that a reduction in the amount of

[^4]the child support paid to the custodial parent would have on the custodian parents' household, the needs of each parent, the needs of the child for whom child support is being determined, and so forth. And I will tell you that Georgia rarely applies their deviation. This never gets applied. It's just rare, but it fulfills the federal requirement. So, it's there.

Another state that has an example -- and I don't like this example. It's New Jersey. And it says, "No such adjustment shall occur, however, if the custodial parent's net income minus the custodial parent's child support obligation is less than the self-support reserve."

And what I didn't highlight is previous lines above that where it essentially says that if the custodial parent's income is less than 105\% of the poverty level, don't apply that
self-support reserve, which it doesn't make any sense because chances are the obligated parent is low income, too. And this is the situation where a self-support reserve is most needed, and the federal intent of requiring a self-support reserve was to make those order amounts so they were payable among low income parents so they wouldn't disappear, and they would stay involved in the child's life.

So, if we scroll back to the top and the question, question three of this page, it says, "Should a self-support adjustment be discretionary? If so, what should be considered when applying?"

I think I want to open it up for the Committee to discuss real quickly and whether you want to explore this more. Is there any interest in adopting language similar to what these three states have? HON. PALMER: This is Julie Palmer.
I like the ability to use it or
not use it. Like, I think you said Arizona is that "they may" versus "they shall."

MS. HALL: This is Mallory Hall.
I would just echo what Judge
Palmer just said. I kind of like the idea of there being some sort of discretion at least built in and available. Certainly nothing mandatory. But I like that idea, as well.

HON. SHERMAN: Well, at the risk of going against my colleague, Judge Palmer, I don't like the discretion. I think it is going to -- they -- we don't have the discretion now. It's built into the schedule. And so, the parties aren't litigating over it. If there's a discretion whether to do it or not, I think it's going to lead to more contested cases over that issue.

MS. COX: This is Amanda Cox. If it's presumptive, am I right that you could still deviate and not use
it, or would it be not possible to deviate?

DR. VENOHR: You could always deviate.

MS. COX: I think I like it presumptively then.

MS. DAVIS: So, to have it discretionary in terms of ability to deviate, it would need to be in the worksheets, right, not in the schedule?

DR. VENOHR: I would think it would work better. You could provide for it, a deviation, if it was in the schedule. But it would be very cumbersome to explain and probably would require you to have more language.

I don't think you have to make a decision right now. I think my preference, just because we only have a few more minutes here, would be to keep moving on with the questions but put a place holder on this because this doesn't affect any of the examples. I have to run
for the next meeting.
Are you okay with that?
MS. DAVIS: Yes, ma'am. Go
ahead. Thank you.
DR. VENOHR: Okay. So, let's move on to the next question, which is question four, "Should the self-support reserve (SSR) adjustment occur before or after add-ons for childcare and other expenses?"

And these -- I think everybody understood the case example before that, you know, I was giving -- gave the example of childcare expenses. You know, we have two twins. The childcare expenses are $\$ 1,000.00$ a month. They are low income. I mean, I am using a very extreme example. But obviously that's going to tap into the self-support reserve if it's considered later.

So, if we scroll down to this first exhibit, this is the self-support reserve, is considered after childcare.

And you can see -- let's go to the bottom line. This is the same scenario that we used before. It doesn't make any difference. He is still going to get an order of $\$ 194.00$. Even though you see on that line five, there's \$100.00 childcare.

Now, if we look at the next example, if you keep going down the page, he would be responsible for $\$ 50.00$ of that $\$ 100.00$ childcare. And you can see, to keep going to the very bottom of that example, it's going to bump up his order to $\$ 244.00$. So, he is going to pay part of that childcare.

So, does that make sense on the amount?
(No response).
DR. VENOHR: Any -- For the case examples, do you want to see the self-support reserve before or after these add-ons? I mean, obviously we are going to do some without any add-ons, but...
(No response).

DR. VENOHR: You know, what I
think I am going to do just in the interest of time here, Penny, is that this is an easy one that we can put some case examples with childcare so the Committee can talk about it more next time once they see some examples with those three different self-support reserves.

MS. DAVIS: I think that would be helpful to have those.

DR. VENOHR: And then let's just move on to the last issue just to see if there's any -- let me get back on this.

And there's a chart at the bottom of this that I am going to look at. And our brains might be strained to even think about this, but there's a reason for it.

I didn't show all the lines of the worksheet; but if you look at that new line B, income available for support. So, West Virginia, what they do is they take 85\% of the difference.

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 800.397.5590 www.boggsreporters.comSo, if you look at the New Line 11 above that, you will see in the last two columns you will see that \$194.00 amount that we've been seeing in all of our examples. And if we used West Virginia's approach, which is to include a work incentive of 15\%, the obligated parent has to keep 15\%, and the obligee would too. We would see that the order amount wouldn't $\$ 194.00$. It would be \$165.00.

So, that shows you an example of what that work incentive could do. It could reduce that amount by -- if you use 15\%, it would reduce that.

So, what I am thinking right
now, unless I hear anything from the Committee, is I am going to do the two -we are going to have three options. We are going to have two with worksheet, and then we are going to have two different self-support reserves considered.

And then for each of those two
worksheet options -- I can't speak now -I am going to do one with that $15 \%$ and one without that 15\%. So, that makes four options with the worksheet.

And what I sort of want to hear -- and I am not sure, you know, it's late in the day, so you might be too tired -- is there any interest in using an amount other than 15\%? And before I open it up, I will describe that West Virginia came up with that 15\% because that's their tax rate at about that income. So, that way all of the child support -- I mean, all that increase in gross income doesn't go to child support. It at least allows that parent to keep some of it to pay for the taxes. And I would say that $15 \%$ is pretty close to what Alabama's tax rate is for that income. So, I'll line it with whatever Alabama's income -- you know, their tax rate is.

So, now, again, I want to open
it up to see if there's any interest in
using something other than $15 \%$ just for the case examples just to see, you know, maybe use $10 \%$, maybe use $20 \%$. That's what I want to hear. This isn't a commitment. Some states have looked at 40\%.

MS. DAVIS: Bob, can you switch to the Brady bunch view and let's see if we have anybody with hands raised. Melody?

MS. BALDWIN: I have a question. I don't remember what state. But if we use the $15 \%$ and tax rate is $15 \%$, and we are just letting them keep enough to pay taxes, is that still an incentive? That's my question.

DR. VENOHR: No, not really.
MS. BALDWIN: Okay. So, wouldn't we have to look at more than 15\% to consider? I mean, not that I want to necessarily, you know, in my position. But you get what I am saying.

DR. VENOHR: Right. Uh-huh (positive response).

MS. BALDWIN: Okay.
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DR. VENOHR: And so, I hear a vote to -- and it's not a vote. I should say guidance to us because I don't want it to sound like it's an official vote for the record. This is just to narrow down the case examples.

So, what I am hearing is, we should consider more -- is there any interest in considering 50\%? I mean, that pretty much says we divide it equally between parents. Is that too high?

MS. BALDWIN: What about -- and this is Melody Baldwin again. I am sorry.

What about whatever the tax rate is, take that out, and then divide what's left by 50\%?

DR. VENOHR: Okay. Okay.
HON. SHERMAN: I have a comment, if I can. I don't know think it's really answering your question, Dr. Venohr.

But it's just -- as a practical
matter, it seems to me that the
incentive -- I'm not sure that it's going
to be the incentive that we would create it to be because it takes a very sophisticated understanding of these Guidelines to even realize that there is a work incentive built in. And I think that for those people that Judge Palmer and Melody, I think, mentioned, you know, sometimes you have folks avoiding additional income to -- out of concern that their child support is going to be increased. I don't think this is going to remedy that. I think they are going to still have that same concern.

But, you know, that's not a reason not to do it. I am just saying I'm not sure that it's going to really have the impact that we think it might or that we might design it to have.

DR. VENOHR: I think that's a valid point. I mean, you know, when they are profiling voters for the last election, these experts came up with 18 profiles. And I think we probably have more profiles when
we talk about parents. Some are more savvy than others. Some are just so intuitive or what motivates them. In fact, there's some research that says, as I am thinking about this, it says that the prior work experience of a parent matters more than the child support arrears in determining their future labor participation. This is recent research.

And this crux of finding that we had in our research just says the arrears amounts affects whether, you know, they drop out of the labor market. Well, it's not just child support. There are several factors that influence a parent's, you know, willingness to take the night schedule or stay in the labor market. It is not just child support.

So, that goes to what you say. I will say that, if you look at the worksheet on page two, it sort of mirrors what Vermont uses. And Vermont found that parents -- when they see that explicit
self-support reserve with both parents, they negotiate something.

So, hopefully it will have an impact on some parents. It probably won't on all of them, because, you know, as I made that similarity with the profiling voters, all parents think differently in what influences their decisions, you know, but at least it's transparent policy.

But I appreciate your point. And I think I have enough to give you some examples the next time. And I am going to suggest this as an iterative process, because what we will do for next time is we will show you what that whole schedule looks like. We will draft up a worksheet with and without the work incentive. And then we will run a whole bunch of case examples, including ones that use the new -- or proposed federal minimum wage. And I won't be surprised if once you -that you decide to fine tune some of these parameters, if that makes sense.

MS. DAVIS: That sounds good to me, Jane. And I do appreciate the Judge's comments and the people on the front line dealing with the child support. Certainly the anecdotal stories are interesting. My only comment with regard to that is, the ones that are dropping -- the underground people, they are trying to avoid making any child support payment by virtue of when, I guess, a child support order hits their company, and they quit and go underground. It is not the increased circumstances. It's just they don't want to pay any at that point. They don't want to pay what is ordered by the court at any rate. But I think that's great.

Any other comments before -Jane, do you have anything else in summary you want to do? We are little over our time, but that's time well spent.

DR. VENOHR: I think this has been really helpful. And so, it's helpful to us to narrow down what we need to do for
the next round of case examples. And I want to thank everybody's patience for listening to it. These are important details. And I think we are getting narrower. And I apologize that the process is so long but I think this --
(At which time there was a brief interruption.)

MS. DAVIS: Bob, go ahead and mute Rachel.

MS. KING: Oh, I'm so sorry.
MS. DAVIS: That's all right. You're good.

DR. VENOHR: I have another call in seven minutes. Are there any questions for me? Otherwise, I think I have my -- we have our marching orders.

MS. DAVIS: Thank you, Jane. Committee, do you-all have any questions for Jane before she needs to leave us?
(No response).
MS. DAVIS: Okay. Jane, thanks a
lot.
DR. VENOHR: Okay. Thank you. Bye-bye.

MS. DAVIS: And, Rachel, we don't have to call DHR. You did not say anything inappropriate. Do not worry.

MS. KING: I thought to add more stress to my life during COVID I would get a kitten for my daughter. So, I have a kitten at home and a six-year-old daughter who is doing online right now. So, yeah, sorry.

MS. DAVIS: That's quite all right. Actually, attorneys need kittens when they Zoom with judges. I think that's --

MS. KING: Oh, it's a nightmare.
MS. DAVIS: All right. So, at this point, did anyone want to direct any questions? I know Jane had to leave. But we can certainly relay any questions via email to her. So, if any of the Committee members, because of our time constraints, did not ask her a question, if you would
either -- if you could forward it directly to her or if you will send it to Bob, then he would be happy to make sure she gets any questions or comments that you would like for her to consider prior to the next meeting.

And at this point, we would like to open our agenda item to the public comments. So, Bob, do you have anyone that's asked to speak at this point?

MR. MADDOX: Yes. I forgot to ask -- I apologize -- at the beginning of the meeting. I think Clifford Smith joined us during the Zoom. I apologize. I did get him admitted a little late, but he has joined. So, I guess we will just go one by one and they -- members of the public and see if they want to make any comments.

MS. DAVIS: Okay. We will have a three-minute comment time for our public. And so, Bob, if you just want to go down the list and just remind the Committee members that we did have two written comments that
you can pull out now on your materials if you want to in case you want to refer to that during the public comment time.

So, Bob, if you would, go ahead and call the list of the public to see if anyone wants to speak.

MR. MADDOX: Ms. Jordan, did you want to make any comments to the Committee? Ms. Jordan?

MS. JORDAN: No comments. Thank you.

MS. DAVIS: Thank you.
MR. MADDOX: Clifford Smith, did you want to make any comments? You can unmute yourself.

MR. SMITH: I have no comments, Thanks.

MS. DAVIS: Thank you.
MR. MADDOX: Thank you. Tiffany Gates, did you want to make any comments to the Committee? You can unmute yourself.
(No response).
MR. MADDOX: Lisa Clark, did you
want to make any comments to the Committee? (No response).

MR. MADDOX: Apparently they are having trouble getting in.

In the meantime, Ms. Wood, would you like to make any comments to the Committee? Ms. Lee Wood?

MS. WOOD: I sent in a written request. I would just like to bring attention to my number two on the written submission.

MR. MADDOX: Sure. Ma'am, you can go ahead. You have three minutes.

MS. WOOD: It was just in concern with the Rule 32 where the child is actually allowed to be added to a step-parent's healthcare policy. Of course, we all know that if it's added to a family policy that the policy amount does not change. And that by adding that to the child support formula, how it increases for the noncustodial parent to have extra added to the calculation. And that if that's going be allowed, why is the
step-parent's income -- gross income not included in the custodial parent's overall household income.

Also, back up on the number one where I had asked about the tax exemption. I know that because of the 2018 tax reform of how it gives the custodial parent the right to claim all -- since the child is with the custodial parent the most, I don't understand why if the -- I understand that the noncustodial parent doesn't get the full benefits that the custodial parent gets, but it still seems like it would be more fair that if the noncustodial parent could be able to claim the child every other year because that's money that they are paying toward taking care of their child. And so, not being able to claim their child at least every other year, that doesn't seem quite fair.

MR. MADDOX: Okay. You have one more minute if you want to make some more comments.

MS. WOOD: I am good. Thank you for your time.

MR. MADDOX: Thank you, ma'am.
MS. DAVIS: Does any Committee member want to comment or have any questions for Ms. Wood?
(No response).
MS. DAVIS: Okay. I don't hear any comments or see any hands. It does help, Ms. Wood, that you provided us the information ahead of time for us to consider. So, I appreciate your taking the time to provide us written documentation about your issues.

Okay. I think maybe one more person. Bob, anybody else?

MR. MADDOX: The only person I had on the list was Jennifer Dantzler. I have not seen her on the Zoom meeting thus far. Has Jennifer Dantzler joined us by chance? I don't see her.

Okay. That's all I had on my list.

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Well, we have no other requests from the public to speak. But we certainly do appreciate the people that listened in and would encourage you to speak. Some people are not comfortable speaking publicly, and we certainly understand that. But if you have any written comments that you would like to submit, then we would encourage you to do that, because we certainly do want to get your thoughts and feelings on the conversations that we have had today with Jane and the considerations that the committees are going through.

So, at this point, I'll stop and circle back to the Committee members and ask if any of you have any further comments or questions before we adjourn? (No response).

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Well, I appreciate each one of you participating. And our next meeting is, I believe, the 12th also of March. And so, we will "see"
everyone at that point will be by Zoom again.

Bob, if you could, stay on a moment after the Zoom, and I would like to mention something to you.

MR. MADDOX: Certainly.
MS. DAVIS: Okay. Any other
questions?
(No response).
MS. DAVIS: If not, we are
adjourned. Thank you.
(Conclusion of Advisory
Committee Meeting at 12:16
P.M.)

## REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ALABAMA,
MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
I, Jeana S. Boggs, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do certify that I reported the proceedings in the matter of:

BEFORE THE STATE OF ALABAMA
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILD SUPPORT
GUIDELINES AND ENFORCEMENT

*     *         *             *                 *                     *                         *                             *                                 *                                     *                                         *                                             *                                                 *                                                     *                                                         * 

on Friday, February 12, 2021, the foregoing 121
computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the statements by the Committee members and other persons via Zoom.

I further certify that I am neither of relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the Committee members and other persons, nor am I a relative or employee of such Committee members and other persons, nor am I financially interested in the results thereof. All rates charged are usual and customary.

I further certify that I am duly licensed
by the Alabama Board of Court Reporting as a Certified Court Reporter as evidenced by the ACCR number following my name found below.

This 24th day of February, in the year of our Lord, 2021.

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| Notary Public |
| Commission expires: $8 / 9 / 2022$ |

|  | 6/8 6/11 6/14 6/17 | $21$ |
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