



Wisconsin Department of  
Children and Families

# **Child Support Guidelines Advisory Panel Meetings Recap**

Katherine Marek

BCS, Policy Automation Specialist

# First Meeting August 17, 2021

- Welcome – Sec. Amundson
- History – Connie Chesnik
- Act 35 Overview – Mueller and Marek
- Racial Equity Discussion-  
Jacquelyn L. Boggess

# DCF 150 PREFACE

- The standard is based on the principle that a child's standard of living should, to the degree possible, not be adversely affected because his or her parents are not living together. It determines the percentage of a parent's income and potential income from assets that parents should contribute toward the support of children if the family does not remain together.
- Same – not higher or lower
- Circumstance – Predetermined
- Finite Resources
- Allocating Between Parties

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# Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs

- New Ways of Thinking
- Evidence of Ability to Pay
- Specific Circumstances
- Extent Known
- Emphasis on Low Income



- Document Basis for Support Amount
- Collect Data
- Negative of Effect of Uncollectable Orders
- Transparency

# Jacquelyn Boggess

## Nina Collective



- Racial Inequities Exist
- Difference Between Support and Care
- Many Can't Pay Presumed Income Orders
- Are Current Practices Hurting Low Income Families?
- Less Adversarial

**Second  
Meeting  
September  
2, 2021**

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Racial Disproportionality in Child Support  
Maggie Renno - DCF BAR

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The Use of Child Support Guidelines in  
Wisconsin: 2010 and 2013  
Steven Cook - IRP

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Child Support Payments, Income Imputation and  
the Low-Income Guidelines  
Dan Meyer - IRP

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Alternative Approaches to Income Imputation in  
Setting Child Support Orders  
Leslie Hodges - IRP



# EMERGING THEMES

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- Racial Disparities Exist
- Economic Disparities Exist
- Right Sized Orders
- Based on Actual Income
  - Impute only when information unknown
- Each Person has Unique Circumstances
- Negative Consequences to High Unpaid Orders
- Family Centered Approach



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**Questions?**