

**Executive Committee Meeting**Thursday, December 17, 2020
Via Videoconference

**MINUTES**

3:00–4:30 PM Eastern • 2:00–3:30 PM Central • 1:00–2:30 PM Mountain • 12:00–1:30 PM Pacific

Members & Attendees

 **NAME ROLE(S) NAME ROLE(S)**

✓ Jim Fleming\* President, Employer Collaboration ✓ Carla West\* Region 4, Systems & Data

✓ Erin Frisch\* Past President, Region 5, Policy ✓ Jeremy Toulouse\* Region 6

✓ Michele Cristello\* Vice President, Audit ✓ Cindy Wiesen\* Region 7

✓ Kate Cooper Richardson\* Secretary, Website ✓ Chad Dexter\* Region 8

A Liesa Stockdale\* Treasurer, Finance ✓ Heather Noble\* Region 9

✓ Karen Hebert\* Region 1, Mentoring ✓ Sharon Redmond\* Region 10

✓ Eileen Stack\* Region 2, Policy & Practice A Robin Arnell Systems & Data Sharing

A Ted Mermigos\* Region 3 ✓ Ann Coffin Pandemic Resilience

 ✓ David Kilgore Public Relations

 *\*Voting member*

Welcome

* President Jim Fleming called the meeting to order

Roll Call

* Attendance as noted
* Quorum present

Approval of Minutes

* Executive Committee November 18, 2020 – *approved without changes*

Treasurer’s Report

* None

President’s Report – *accepted*

* No meeting with OCSE this month
	+ Next meeting scheduled in January
	+ Look forward to new commissioner appointment, hopefully early 2021
* Director meeting convened to discuss IRS reversals and issues arising from amount of reversals exceeding the amount of offsets
	+ Followed by a meeting with OCSE and BFS
	+ Follow-up requests conveyed to OCSE; some implemented, some rejected
	+ Waiver expansion granted for two-day distribution; likely too narrow to serve its intended purpose (subsequently amended)
* Comments compiled, submitted to OCSE for update to guide on changing child support order
* NCCSD meeting in July 2021: Contracts signed with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, City of Medora, and transportation company
	+ Penalty-free cancellation provisions either 90 or 60 days before the meeting
	+ Gives enough time to determine if in-person meeting is feasible
* OCSE issued a final AT on interstate cases; shared with directors in a compare format along with an explanatory spreadsheet from OCSE
* CSLN presentation held December 8 demonstrating new functionality for reporting and collection of employer lump-sum payments
* Perhaps will see before end of current administration the final rule issued creating exceptions to the prohibition against treating incarceration as voluntary unemployment
* Still watching developments on another stimulus payment—right now appears to be $600/person, but is unknown whether would be offset
	+ Shared again the NCCSD comments with House W&M

Committee Reports

* Audit Workgroup – Michele
	+ Met today, OCSE joined
		- Received yesterday a 13-page response from OCSE Audit head Mona Ferrell to inquiries made in August; Mona attended meeting today
		- OCSE indicated in meeting that they want to provide support, want joint process, want to collaborate and put together more training for directors—all positives
	+ Next step: Review document from OCSE, meet again with OCSE
* Child Support-Employer Collaboration Workgroup – Jim
	+ Workgroup received similar CSLN presentation on lump-sum reporting functionality, discussed in meeting today
	+ OCSE will expand functionality of lump-sum reporting
	+ Employers unsure they would use CSLN feature because they still would have to use OCSE
	+ Today’s meeting: Verification of Employment (VOE)
		- Still dealing with 54 different jurisdiction requirements
		- Want more consistency, must outsource often
		- Hoping to improve the form to capture more history of wages
		- What’s being asked for? Some info on standard template, isn’t being used or asked for
		- Will be the focus for the next couple of meetings
	+ Heather: Should OCSE be taking on the role for CSLN? What happens when Sharon Santilli retires to Rhode Island’s role? Should NCCSD take more active role?
		- Jim had asked Sharon this a couple years ago, Rhode Island might continue
* Finance Committee – Jim for Liesa
	+ Will provide two reports next month
	+ Deposits are down considering time of year
* Joint Committee on Public Relations – David
	+ Reviewed final versions of talking points covering variety of topics related to pandemic
	+ Spent balance of meeting discussing national campaign on child support
		- What it would entail
		- Next step: determine a focus for campaign
	+ For March: NCSEA Idea Exchange
	+ Cost avoidance study
		- He, Jeremy Toulouse, Greg Wilson connected with Laura Wheaton of Urban Institute
		- She is booked, so would be a 2-year timeline
		- Good discussion, is interested
		- Need to update 1999–2020, impact of Covid
		- National cost-avoidance ratio, state by state cost-avoidance
		- Kate: Supports strongly, encourages getting it underway
* Mentoring Committee – Karen
	+ Transitioning to “Huddles,” all-inclusive for new, interim, or not-so-new directors
	+ Well attended call
	+ For new directors, creating a first logical step through informal mentoring program
		- Current focus on Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, reach out to new directors, email sent
		- Let relationships form naturally
		- Would appreciate any feedback about how that works
	+ Discussed guidebook for new directors
		- First, discussed format – interactive? Simple initially, then build from there
		- Will reach out to Kate on website, hyperlinks to other sources
		- Lily (KY) had great ideas as a new director
		- More of an onboarding theme, at 3 months, 6 months
		- Long-term project
		- Jim: suggest compilation of important documents—by topic
		- Will help for knowledge transfer
* Pandemic Resilience – Ann
	+ Last report for this group
	+ Following last meeting, worked with OCSE to suggest tabling workgroup until next administration
	+ OCSE agreed; Ann notified workgroup members
	+ Jim: Thanked Ann for taking it on
* Policy & Practice Committee – Eileen/Erin
	+ Met December 3, next on January 7
	+ Some courts moving backwards
	+ Carla Q: NC counties request: *telephonic* signatures for other agencies, want OCSE to authorize
		- Erin: Haven’t found the same need because of electronic signature tool
		- Jim: AT or modernization rule provisions on signature flexibility?
		- Ann: Collections notices, also flexibility language in preamble
			* Eileen: linked to IVR
		- Karen: AT regarding electronic signatures on applications for services
		- Heather: In AZ, court rules govern signatures on documents that are filed, so it may expand beyond what is acceptable in your court rules
		- Chad: Montana policy allows—and Covid-19 FAQs from OCSE does allow a verbal “signature” for IV-D applications for individuals who do not have access to technology to apply—as a temporary measure to get things rolling, but does need a signature by mail or electronically asap.
	+ Committee is starting a new subcommittee to review administrative enforcement options
		- Will be sending invitation to all states via listserv
	+ Also started reviewing the Strengthening Families for Success Act, will continue in new year
	+ Another topic: impacts of delays or reversals in courts getting up and running, interested in hearing from states with success working child support cases during pandemic
* System Modernization & Data Sharing Workgroup – Carla
	+ Cancelled December meeting
	+ First topic: Cynthia Longest had been working with OCSE for collaboration tool, to house documents and materials
		- As of Monday, 21 states had registered (10 directors, 23 other staff), including OCSE regional program specialists
		- Encouraging registration by others
	+ Second topic: NCCSD sponsored OCSE webinar on APD on December 3
		- Have been sponsoring the Cynthia Longest/Joey Arthur webinars on data analytic tools
		- Working on topic on current support, ready for February
		- Is NCCSD still willing to sponsor?
			* Executive Committee consensus yes!
	+ When workgroup started, there was a question about who could be a member of the committee
		- OCSE was uncomfortable with contractors on committee
		- Solved with 2 separate meetings—committee members only, then one with OCSE
			* Eventually decided to combine to one meeting with OCSE
			* At same time, working on streamlined feasibility study effort
			* A state asked for inclusion of exclusive-to-the-state contractor
		- Broad discussion of OCSE concerns about NCCSD committee membership
			* Define what is a vendor? Privatized programs?
			* Will have a conversation with OCSE to identify specific concern, solutions
	+ Still planning a series of webinars on stages of modernization
		- Will send out save the dates early in 2021
* Website Committee – Kate
	+ Some updates needed to WordPress site
	+ Focus on the future
		- Long-term sustainable (contract)
		- More options now
		- Maybe not so reliant on volunteers
	+ Jeff Cohen has finally been retired off the committee since he’s been actually retired for many years!

Unfinished Business

* IRS offset reversals
	+ OCSE reversal file versus IRS reversal file
	+ MA paid off negative balance, received file the next day—couldn’t use OCSE file
		- OCSE told FL that if state pays the negative balance by a Wednesday, the regular weekly file on Thursday will include the EIP joint return reversals

New Business

* NCCSD co-host an NCSEA Idea Exchange, February 2021
	+ Collecting suggestions for the new administration
	+ Receive and discuss proposals or thoughts for recommendations for new administration
	+ Not necessarily vouching for the recommendations
* National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) reached out to Jim with question from a state legislator
	+ Interested to know to what extent states would opt to implement the cost recovery changes early, and subsequently receive higher FFP for 2 additional years
	+ Jim’s initial thought on response: Legislation is so new that states are still figuring out what the bill would do and are not yet in a place to anticipate their state’s decision
	+ One reality in bill that might be problematic to do so: The enhanced FFP is only available for the first two years
		- That’s not much time for the bill to pass and for states to complete the procurement process, let alone get such programming underway
	+ Thoughts from committee on response
		- Huge system change, so would take time.
		- Policy & Practice Committee will be doing review
		- NCSEA is evaluating its position
* NCSEA Policy Forum
	+ Registration open
	+ Won’t be having annual NCCSD dinner ☹

Next Meeting – January 21, 2021 at 2:00 PM Central

*Meeting adjourned at 3:29 PM Central*

Addendum – Action Taken Post-Meeting

* Motion made via email on January 29, 2021, by Treasurer Liesa Stockdale to approve agreement with new accounting firm, Haga Kommer, CPAs, for annual compilation engagement, estimated at $1900 annually
	+ Seconded by President Jim Fleming
	+ Email vote: 12 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Jim)

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Kate Cooper Richardson, NCCSD Secretary*