

**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*