

## April 21, 2011 Postsecondary Education Support Workgroup Meeting Minutes

**DSHS support person:** George Smylie

**Subcommittee members in attendance:**

Tim Eastman

James Cox

Kathleen Schmidt

**Public in attendance:**

Mark Mahnkey

Greg Howe

Pat Lassard

Meeting started at 4:15 PM

Two members of the subcommittee feels that Postsecondary Education Support violates equal protection of divorced parents where it doesn't hold married parents to the same requirements. They feel that this is an important enough issue that needs to be addressed.

One member of the subcommittee feels that, since the issue of postsecondary education support has been before the courts for many years, that we will not be able to rescind the law and must make what we have more clear to minimize litigation.

One member of the subcommittee feels that, with limited time and three major workgroup issues to work on. Maybe we shouldn't work on this issue.

One member informed the group that it is the position of FLEC to not make any changes to the statute. This member feels that we have used this statute for 20 years and it doesn't need any changes made.

The group discussed parts of the statute in RCW 26.19.090 that some of the group feels needs to be revised. One of the issues discussed had to do with section (1)(3) of the statute. (The child must enroll in an accredited academic or vocational school must be actively pursuing a course of study commensurate with the child's vocational goals.) It was explained that the part that says, "The child must enroll in a accredited academic or vocational school" was presumed to mean the child must be a full-time student. One member pointed out that, since some people don't see these laws all-of-the-time that the wording doesn't say what the presumption is and feels that this statement could be argumentative.

One member felt that the statute is not clear in regard to the adult child getting paid during long breaks, (ie. Summer breaks when the adult doesn't choose to attend school.)

One member enquired as to whom the support is paid and was informed about section (1)(6) of the statute.

Members of the public would like to see postsecondary educational support statute removed.

Members of the public would like the information that is sent to the subcommittee to be posted on the website.

One member of the public believes that postsecondary educational support is a magnet for litigation and is offensive.

One member of the public thinks that this issue needs to be addressed and it is important to do so. The member believes that it has been twenty years since we have done anything with the statute and we need to look at it.

Members of the public feel that paying for an adult child for a summer break is wrong and should not be allowed.

Kathleen Schmidt agreed to take notes for the next conference call.

The next conference call will be scheduled with George Smylie by next week.