

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DAN WEINBERG**, on April 5, 2005 at 12 P.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Dan Weinberg, Chairman (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Rep. Eve Franklin (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kathleen Ely, Committee Secretary
Susan Fox, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: None.
Executive Action: None.

REP. FRANKLIN moved that the Committee direct Susan Fox to begin drafting a bill that provides a framework for an interim study specifically addressing the issue of developing a mental health crisis response program. Motion carried **2-1** with **SEN. ESP** voting no.

REP. KEENAN, SD 5, expressed how urgent it was to address mental health issues in Montana and his willingness to continue working on a bill that would meet the needs of Montanans.

Joyce De Cunzo, Mental Health, Department of Public Health and Human Services, confirmed the State's commitment to quality mental health care and stated that the Department would make an effort in the interim to provide the information that the Committee felt it needed to make decisions about mental health in Montana.

REP. FRANKLIN moved that the Committee recommend that **SB 499 BE TABLED** in Committee. Motion carried **2-1** with **SEN. ESP** voting no.

Gordon Morris, Montana Association of Counties, warned that the coming years would have serious financial impacts on Montana counties because of the lack of federal funds. He urged the committee to consider the consequences to the state budget in the upcoming years.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:29 P.M.

SEN. DAN WEINBERG, Chairman

KATHLEEN ELY, Secretary

DW/ke

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([jms72aad0.PDF](#))