



## Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

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### 62nd Montana Legislature

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### COMMITTEE TO REVIEW BILL DRAFTS, CONTINUE CHILDHOOD TRAUMA STUDY

HELENA -- The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee will continue its study of childhood trauma in May, with a focus on learning more about how child abuse and neglect cases are handled in Montana.

Also at its May 14 meeting, the committee will review:

- preliminary bill drafts related to its study of childhood hunger, and
- the activities of more than a dozen advisory councils to the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).

For the Senate Joint Resolution 30 study of childhood trauma, the committee will hear more about the duties of caseworkers who handle abuse and neglect cases and about early intervention efforts for children from birth through 3 years of age. The committee wants more information about the barriers to providing a greater array of early intervention services.

Committee members also will take a first look at two bill drafts they requested as part of the House Joint Resolution 8 study of childhood hunger. After studying the topic last summer and fall, the committee asked for bills to appropriate money for making grants to programs that provide food support to children, paying start-up costs for new school breakfast programs, and reimbursing schools if they serve breakfast for free to children whose family income ranges from 131 percent to 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

The committee will review the drafts and take public comment on them before deciding whether to revise the proposed legislation.

Committee members also will review revisions to a bill that would make payments to Medicaid providers to compensate them for the elimination of a scheduled rate increase in fiscal year 2011.

And the committee will spend time reviewing the various groups that have been created in state law to advise DPHHS on a variety of topics. The groups range from the Advisory Council on Aging to the mental health Service Area Authorities and the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council. Legislation passed in 2011 requires interim committees to review both advisory

councils and agency reports that are established by law. The committees are to decide whether any of the councils or reports should be eliminated or revised.

The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on May 14 in Room 137 of the Capitol.

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