



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

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Director
AMY CARLSON

DATE: December 8, 2015
TO: Legislative Finance Committee
FROM: Cynthia Hollimon, Fiscal Analyst
RE: Child and Family Services Interim Study Scope – December 2015 LFC Meeting

LFC has chosen as part of its interim work plan to study various aspects of the Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS). The work plan specifies the following areas of interest:

- Managerial performance
- Employee retention
- Effectiveness at promoting child safety
- Child safety as compared to other states

Legislators have also expressed interest in adding prevention-focused analysis to the work plan including:

- Current prevention programs (structure and implementation)
- Prevention staffing and funding
- Best practices specifically regarding Montana's increasingly drug related caseload

In addition to these, the LFD has identified the following related topics of potential interest:

- HB 612 pilot project
 - Implementation
 - Progress
- CFS performance audit
 - Memo to committee
 - Evaluate outcome for potential presentation
- Connections to the Office of Public Defender Task Force
- Connections to the Court Appointed Special Advocate program

Project Objective

The committee indicated that its interest is to determine if institutional changes need to be made to improve the performance of Child and Family Services.

Timeline:

- September 2015: Initial status update on CFSD from Sarah Corbally, the division administrator
- March 2016:
 - Presentation on performance audit (Will Soller, Legislative Audit)
 - Response to audit (Ms. Corbally or other DPHHS representative)

- Update on CFSD, especially implementation of governor's initiative (Ms. Corbally)
- Update on initial implementation of HB 612 (Beth McLaughlin, Court Administrator)
- September 2016:
 - Update on CFSD, especially implementation of governor's initiative (Ms. Corbally)
 - Update on initial implementation of HB 612 (Ms. McLaughlin)

Additionally, the LFD will include brief discussions of topics of interest as a part of its budget status report documents during the interim.