

Study: HJR 6 Interim Study Poll Rank: #

Short Title: Study methamphetamine and opioid abuse

Staff Recommendation: Assign the Children, Families, Health and Human Services OR the Law and Justice Interim Committee to Monitor the Attorney General's Initiative

Preliminary Analysis

Issue(s) as listed in legislation:

The study resolution asks that the committee review:

- the extent of methamphetamine use and illegal use of opioids in Montana
- the degree to which the substance abuse had affected services provided by law enforcement, the judiciary, state and local government agencies, and programs that work with the drug users or family members affected by the drug use
- the availability of substance abuse treatment and whether the type of treatment affects a person's ability to be reunified with children who have been removed from the home
- efforts being undertaken by law enforcement, the judiciary, and state and local governments to reduce drug use and mitigate the impacts of drug abuse

Preliminary study approach:

Attorney General Tim Fox announced on April 19, 2017, that he was undertaking an interim-long initiative known as Addressing the Impact of Drugs, funded in part with a \$3 million grant from the Montana Healthcare Foundation. The initiative will include:

- information gathering about and analysis of the extent and impact of drug and alcohol abuse in Montana, including data from the Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Office of Public Instruction, and the judicial system;
- six listening sessions around the state during the summer of 2017;
- a substance abuse and addiction summit in the fall of 2017, to bring stakeholders together to discuss best practices and solutions to drug abuse; and

- development of a strategic plan before the 2019 legislative session, including use of work groups to focus on specific areas of the plan.

Sens. Diane Sands and Eric Moore, both members of the Children and Families Interim Committee, have been involved in the Attorney General’s initial efforts on this topic and expect to be a part of the group working on the initiative.

Because the Attorney General has hired a consultant to assist with data collection, analysis, and reporting and will be hosting several meetings on the topic, staff recommends that either the Children and Families Committee or the Law and Justice Committee simply monitor the Attorney General’s initiative during the interim. The assigned committee could receive regular updates from staff and from the Attorney General’s Office on the progress of the plan and – if possible – schedule a committee meeting in conjunction with the summit so that committee members may easily attend the summit.

Deliverables; end products:

- Staff monitoring of the listening sessions, initial reports, and summit
- Regular updates by staff or the Attorney General’s Office
- Presentation of the preliminary or final strategic plan in the summer of 2018
- If desired, a panel discussion in summer 2018 related the initiative and, if available, the elements of the strategic plan

Role for LFD or LAD staff? Yes x No

Role for Executive agency? Yes

Additional costs, over meetings? Yes x No

Estimated LSD staff time: 66-80 hours

Other comments: Staff time would be devoted primarily to attending several listening sessions, the summit, and work group meetings in order to keep the committee apprised of developments

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE = 144 hrs = 18

.10 FTE = 288 hrs = 36 days

.25 FTE = 720 hrs = 90 days

.50 FTE = 1440 hrs = 180 days

.75 FTE = 2160 hrs = 270 days

1 FTE = 2880 hrs = 360 days