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**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM
COMMITTEE**
67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

John Esp
Mary McNally
Albert Olszewski
Diane Sands

HOUSE MEMBERS

Barbara Bessette
Mary Caferro
Dennis Lenz
Frederick (Eric) Moore
Gordon Pierson
Tom Welch

COMMITTEE STAFF

Sue O'Connell - Research Analyst
Alexis Sandru - Attorney
Fong Hom - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

March 19, 2020 Conference Call
Room 137, State Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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ROLL CALL

Members Present (by phone):

Rep. Frederick (Eric) Moore, Chair
Sen. Diane Sands, Vice Chair
Rep. Barbara Bessette
Sen. John Esp
Rep. Dennis Lenz
Sen. Mary McNally
Sen. Albert Olszewski
Rep. Gordon Pierson
Rep. Tom Welch

Members Excused:

Rep. Mary Caferro

Staff Present:

Fong Hom, Secretary
Sue O'Connell, Research Analyst

VISTORS' LIST (no public attended)
AGENDA (Attachment 2)

COMMITTEE ACTION

Because of national response to the the novel coronavirus, the committee canceled its planned agenda for March 19-20 and instead held a conference call meeting on March 19 to hear a state update on COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Department of Public Health and Human Services officials provided an overview of the state's response and its efforts to work with local public health agencies to contain the spread of the disease.

The committee did not take any action during the meeting. Members will be following future guidance on public gatherings in determining whether to adjust their future meeting dates.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- 13:01:32 Rep. Eric Moore called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The committee secretary called roll. Rep. Mary Caferro was excused.
- 13:02:00 Rep. Moore discussed the potential for rescheduling future meetings and said he is committed to finishing the work of the interim.
- 13:02:55 Sue O'Connell, Research Staff, discussed the public comments that she had received and had sent on to the committee. **(Exhibit 1) (Exhibit 2)**

OVERSIGHT DUTIES: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- 13:03:37 Sheila Hogan, Director, introduced Todd Harwell, Public Health and Safety Division Administrator, and Dr. Gregory Holzman, Public Health Lab. She discussed the creation of the Coronavirus Executive Task Force.
- 13:05:25 Todd Harwell, Public Health and Safety Division Administrator, discussed the public health response.
- 13:15:59 Dr. Gregory Holzman discussed the COVID-19 situation in Montana and the status of testing in Montana.

Questions from the committee

- 13:24:43 Rep. Moore asked Mr. Harwell about the \$4.5 million grant from CDC for preparatory efforts.
- 13:25:15 Mr. Harwell
- 13:25:36 Rep. McNally asked if Mr. Harwell could elaborate on how the money from CDC will be distributed or allocated.
- 13:26:07 Mr. Harwell
- 13:26:34 Director Hogan said she would notify the committee when the allocations are determined.
- 13:26:56 Sen. Olszewski asked about the supply of reagents for testing.
- 13:27:35 Mr. Harwell

13:29:40 Sen. Olszewski asked if there were any additional protections that are required for the lab workers in dealing with COVID-19.

13:30:02 Dr. Holzman

13:31:09 Rep. Welch asked if the state will see a spike in cases involving the elderly (60 to 75), and whether anything special is being done for that age group.

13:32:21 Dr. Holzman

13:34:50 Sen. Sands asked what preventive measures are being taken for the Montana State Hospital and other facilities.

13:35:38 Director Hogan

13:36:23 Mr. Harwell

13:36:58 Rep. Moore asked Mr. Harwell what agency has taken the lead on distributing personal protective equipment.

13:37:27 Mr. Harwell

13:38:14 Sen. Sands asked if the agency needs anything specific from the Legislature that is not covered statewide by the governor's general authority.

13:38:54 Director Hogan

13:41:14 Dr. Holzman

13:42:56 Sen. Sands asked what steps are being taken to encourage college students who have been traveling on spring break to take appropriate precautions when they return to Montana.

13:43:43 Dr. Holzman

13:44:14 Director Hogan

13:44:57 Rep. Moore thanked the presenters for their information and time.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

13:45:58 Ms. O'Connell discussed planning for future committee meetings.

13:46:46 Rep. Moore said the situation is too fluid to set any firm dates right now. If members have any dates that they have commitments, send them to Ms. O'Connell and she can send out a poll to provide a better idea of when the committee can meet again.

ADJOURNMENT

13:47:18 Rep. Moore adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m.