



Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

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67th Montana Legislature

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HOUSE BILL 39 WORKING GROUP AGENDA

March 2, 2022

State Capitol, Room 455 & ZOOM

Please note: All times are tentative. Some items may take more or less time than scheduled.

- 10:00 a.m. 1. Call to Order – Roll Call**
Rep. Dennis Lenz, Presiding Officer
- 10:05 a.m. 2. Follow-up Items from Previous Meeting**
- a. Potential Cost of Expanding the Use of PHCs and EPS Hearings
 - i. Beth McLaughlin, Court Administrator, Montana Supreme Court
 - ii. Brian Smith, Administrator, Public Defender Division, Office of the State Public Defender
 - b. Update on Use of Optional EPS Hearings – Brian Smith
- 10:30 a.m. 3. Additional Stakeholder Experiences with PHCs and EPS Hearings**
- a. Office of the State Public Defender
 - i. Kelli Sather, Missoula
 - ii. Brigitte Carneal, Bozeman
 - iii. Nathan Prohaska, Great Falls
 - iv. Emily Lamson, Kalispell
 - b. PHC Facilitators
 - i. Christina Larsen, Flathead County
 - ii. Gabby Weber, Yellowstone County
 - iii. Lisa Leckie, Lewis and Clark County
 - iv. John Guinn, Special Projects Coordinator, University of Montana, Center for Children, Families, and Workforce Development
- 11:30 a.m. 4. Update: Pilot Project Efforts in the Fifth Judicial District**
District Judge Luke Berger

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- 12:00 p.m. 5. Follow-Up Item from Previous Meeting: SB 400 Interaction with EPS Hearings**
Assistant Attorney General Karen Kane, Supervising Attorney, Child Protection Unit
- 12:30 p.m. LUNCH**
- 1:30 p.m. 6. Revisions to Draft Proposed Findings**
a. Overview of Changes – Sue O'Connell, Legislative Research Analyst
b. Work Group Questions and Discussion
- 2:00 p.m. 7. Draft Proposed Recommendations**
a. Overview of Draft Recommendations -- Sue O'Connell
b. Work Group Questions and Discussion
- 2:30 p.m. 8. Public Comment**
- 2:45 p.m. 9. Work Session**
Work Group Discussion and Action on:
a. Findings
b. Recommendations for Statutory or Other Changes
- 3:30 p.m. 10. Adjournment**

Please see Page 3 for information on public participation in the meeting.

Public Participation in the Working Group Meeting

The March 2 meeting of the HB 39 Working Group is open to the public in the following ways:

- Members of the public may offer public comment during the meeting by:
 - attending in person at the State Capitol and offering public comment during the scheduled public comment period; or
 - testifying remotely by submitting the [online form for remote participation](#) by **5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1**. People who submit the form by the deadline will receive a meeting link before midnight on March 1.
- People may submit written public comment until **5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1**, either through the [online form for written comment](#) or by sending the comments to Sue O'Connell, P.O. Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.
- The meeting will be [streamed live online](#) and broadcast on the Montana Public Affairs Network (MPAN) for people who wish to view the meeting but not offer public comment. An archived recording of the meeting will also be made immediately available on [leg.mt.gov](#).

At the time specified on the agenda for public comment, the presiding officer will call for public comment from people attending in person and people attending via Zoom. The committee may be slightly ahead of or behind the time scheduled for public comment on the agenda.

** Public comment provided in person or remotely at a committee meeting is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the Internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a committee meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative Web site as part of the minutes log for the committee meeting.*

The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodation, please contact Jessica James of the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3627 or Jessica.James@mt.gov as soon as possible before the meeting date.