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

-- over --
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.