



Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

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JANE GILLETTE
DENNIS LENZ
ED STAFMAN
DANNY TENENBAUM

COMMITTEE STAFF

SUE O'CONNELL, Lead Staff
ALEXIS SANDRU, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary

AGENDA

March 15, 2021

State Capitol, Room 137 & ZOOM

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

- 8:00 a.m.** **1. Call to Order – Roll Call**
Rep. Ed Stafman, Presiding Officer
- 8:05 a.m.** **2. HJR 45: Child Removal and Family Reunification Triggers**
a. Explanation of Staff-Produced Materials – Sue O'Connell, Committee Research Analyst
b. CPS Investigation, Removal, and Reunification Processes
 i. Nikki Grossberg, Acting Administrator, DPHHS Child and Family Services Division
 ii. Karen Kane, Supervising Attorney, Child Protection Unit, Department of Justice
- 10:00 a.m. **BREAK**
- 10:15 a.m. c. Public Comment* on the HJR 45 Study
- 11:00 a.m. d. Committee Questions of Speakers and the Public
- 11:45 a.m.** **3. General Public Comment*** on any non-agenda item in the committee's jurisdiction
- NOON** **LUNCH**
- 1:00 p.m.** **4. HJR 44: Family Foster Care System**
a. Explanation of Staff-Produced Materials
 i. Key Federal Funding Sources -- Sue O'Connell, Committee Researcher
 ii. Becoming a Foster Parent -- Milly Allen, Legislative Research Analyst
b. DPHHS Overview of Family Foster Care System
 i. Nikki Grossberg, Acting Administrator, DPHHS Child and Family Services Division
 ii. Erica Johnston, Executive Director, DPHHS Economic Security Services Branch
- 1:30 p.m. c. Montana Kinship Navigator Program – Heidi Lester, Program Manager
- 1:50 p.m. d. Public Comment* on the Foster Care System
- 2:20 p.m. e. Committee Questions of Speakers and the Public
- 3:00 p.m.** **BREAK**

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- 3:15 p.m. 5. HB 39: Judicial Pilot Projects in Abuse and Neglect Cases**
a. Overview of Process and Results
i. Rep. Lenz, Presiding Officer, HB 39 Working Group
ii. Rep. Tenenbaum, Vice Presiding Officer, HB 39 Working Group
b. Work Group Findings/Recommendations – Sue O'Connell
- 3:30 p.m. 6. Agency Oversight: Department of Public Health and Human Services**
a. Required Reports – Sue O'Connell
b. Administrative Rule Review – Alexis Sandru, Committee Attorney
c. DPHHS Update – Director Adam Meier
- 4:15 p.m. 7. Committee Work Session**
a. Plans for May Meeting – Sue O'Connell
b. Committee Requests for Information/Direction to Staff on:
i. HJR 44 and HJR 45 Studies
ii. HJR 35 and SJR 14 Studies
- 5:30 p.m. 8. Adjournment**
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Public Participation in the Committee Meeting

The March 15, 2022, meeting of the Children and Families Committee 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 comment during the scheduled public comment periods; or
 - testifying remotely by submitting the [online form for remote participation](#) by **5 p.m. on Monday, March 14**. People who submit the form by the deadline will receive a meeting link before midnight on March 14.
- People may submit written public comment until **5 p.m. on Monday, March 14**, 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 on www.leg.mt.gov 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.