



Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

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COMMITTEE STAFF

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

AGENDA

May 12-13, 2022

State Capitol, Room 137/ZOOM

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

Thursday, May 12

9:00 a.m. 1. **Call to Order – Roll Call**

Rep. Ed Stafman, Presiding Officer

9:05 a.m. 2. **March Meeting Follow-Up and Interim Committee Updates (Tab 1)**

- a. Sue O'Connell, Committee Research Analyst
- b. Law and Justice Interim Committee: Sen. Jen Gross
- c. Section B Interim Budget Committee: Rep. Mary Caferro and Sen. Mary McNally

9:15 a.m. 3. **HJR 45 Study: Child Removal and Family Reunification Triggers (Tab 2)**

- a. Introduction to Topics and Speakers – Sue O'Connell
- b. Judicial Processes in Abuse and Neglect Cases
Montana Supreme Court Justice Ingrid Gustafson
- 10:00 a.m. c. Jury Trials in Parental Termination Proceedings
 - i. Joe Belcher, Director, Wyoming Office of Guardian Ad Litem
 - ii. Kim Skoutary-Johnson, Chief Trial and Appellate Counsel, Wyoming Office of Guardian Ad Litem
 - iii. Christina McCabe, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Wyoming
- 10:30 a.m. d. Effective Legal Representation for Parents -- *Brett Ballew, Lead Attorney, Parents Representation Program, Washington State Office of Public Defender*
- 11:00 a.m. e. Safety Science in Child Welfare – *Scott Modell and Noel Hengelbrok, Co-Founders, Collaborative Safety, LLC*

NOON LUNCH

- 1:00 p.m. f. **Public Comment*** on the HJR 45 Study
- 1:30 p.m. g. Additional Committee Questions

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- 1:45 p.m. 4. HJR 44 Study: Family Foster Care System (Tab 3)**
- a. Introduction to Topics and Speakers – Milly Allen, Legislative Research Analyst
 - b. Barriers to Becoming/Remaining A Foster Parent
 - i. Nick Domitrovich, Helena
 - ii. Carrie and Brett Lutkehus, Helena
- 2:15 p.m. c. Indian Child Welfare Act Provisions and Considerations**
- i. Georgette Boggio, Attorney, Elk River Law Office
 - ii. Fort Peck Tribal Judge Stacie FourStar
- 2:45 p.m. d. Public Comment* on the HJR 44 Study**
- 3:15 p.m. e. Committee Questions**
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- 4:00 p.m. 5. Bill Drafts: HB 39 Study (Judicial Pilot Projects) and HJR 45 Study (Tab 4)**
- a. Overview of Bill Drafts and Related Considerations
 - i. HB 39-1: Revise EPS Hearing and PHC Laws -- Sue O'Connell
 - ii. HJR 45-1: Revise Child Abuse and Neglect Laws -- Alexis Sandru, Committee Attorney
- 4:15 p.m. b. Public Comment on the HB 39 and HJR 45 Bill Drafts**
- 4:45 p.m. c. Committee Questions**
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- 5:15 p.m. 6. Committee Work Session**
- Discussion and Direction to Staff on:
- a. HB 39 and HJR 45 Bill Drafts
 - b. Other Items Related to the HJR 44 and HJR 45 Studies
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- 5:30 p.m. 7. Recess until 8 a.m. on Friday, May 13**

Friday, May 13

8:00 a.m. 1. Reconvene – Call to Order
Rep. Ed Stafman, Presiding Officer

8:05 a.m. 2. Mental Health Studies: SJR 14, HJR 35, and HJR 39 (Tab 5)

- a. Overview of Bill Drafts and Related Considerations – Sue O’Connell
 - i. HJR 35-1: Increase Access to In-State PRTF and TGH Treatment
 - ii. HJR 35-2: Strengthen Qualified Provider Pool Statute
 - iii. HJR 35-3: Institute PRTFs and TGH Utilization Fee
 - iv. SJR 14-1: Revise Licensing Reciprocity for Behavioral Health Licensees
 - v. HJR 39-1: Revise Involuntary Commitment Laws for Dementia/TBI Patients
 - vi. HJR 39-2: Share Montana State Hospital Abuse and Neglect Reports
- 8:25 a.m. b. DPHHS Update: Mental Health Study Topics**
 - i. Crisis Beds and Mobile Crisis Units – Melissa Higgins, Treatment Bureau Chief, DPHHS Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Division
 - ii. Universal Screening – Rebecca de Camara, Administrator, DPHHS Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Division
 - iii. Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Model – Director Adam Meier
- 9:25 c. Public Comment*** on bill drafts and other mental health study items
- 9:55 d. Committee Questions**

10:30 BREAK

10:45 a.m. 3. Agency Oversight: Department of Public Health and Human Services (Tab 6)

- a. Statutorily Required Reports – Sue O’Connell
- b. Administrative Rule Review – Alexis Sandru, Committee Attorney
- c. DPHHS Update – Director Adam Meier
 - i. Montana State Hospital Update
 - ii. Other Agency Updates

11:15 a.m. 4. General Public Comment* on any non-agenda item in the committee’s jurisdiction

11:30 a.m. 5. HJR 45 Study: Child Removal and Family Reunification Triggers (Tab 7)

- a. Family Resource Centers
 - i. Susan Dawson, Bozeman
 - ii. Andrew Russo, Co-Founder and Director, National Family Support Network
- b. **Public Comment*** on Family Resource Centers
- 12:00 p.m. c. Committee Questions**

12:15 p.m. 6. Committee Work Session
Committee Discussion and Direction to Staff on:

- a. Bill Drafts for the Mental Health Studies
- b. Additional Items Related to the HJR 44 and HJR 45 Studies
- b. Other Items Related to Committee Studies and Agency Oversight

2:00 p.m. 7. Adjournment

Please see Page 4 for ways in which the public may participate in the meeting.

Public Participation in the Committee Meeting

The May 12-13, 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 public comment during the scheduled public comment periods; or
 - testifying remotely by submitting the [online form for remote participation](#) by **5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11**. People who submit the form by the deadline will receive a meeting link before midnight on May 11.
- People may submit written public comment until **5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11**, 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.