



CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES WORK GROUP 68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Dennis Lenz

HOUSE MEMBERS

Jennifer Carlson
SJ Howell

COMMITTEE STAFF

Milly Allen - Research Analyst
Madelyn Krezowski - Attorney
Daniel Rosenberg - Secretary

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Kelly Driscoll
Hon. Brenda Gilbert
Nikki Grossberg
Lt. Jon Kadner
S. Chase Rosario
Heather Webster

MINUTES LOG

January 19, 2024
Capitol Room 137 & Zoom
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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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Dennis Lenz, Chair (R)
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)
Kelly Driscoll, Public Member
Hon. Brenda Gilbert, Public Member
Nikki Grossberg, Public Member
Rep. SJ Howell (D)
Lt. Jon Kadner, Public Member
S. Chase Rosario, Public Member
Heather Webster, Public Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Milly Allen, Research Analyst
Daniel Rosenberg, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST [\(Attachment 2\)](#)

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:30:58 Presiding Officer Carlson called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

08:32:31 Sen. Lenz

Overview of Council Mission, Duties, and Membership

08:34:23 Nikki Grossberg, Division Administrator, Child and Family Services, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

08:41:26 Presiding Officer Carlson

08:41:36 Sen. Lenz

08:42:27 Joy Jones, Liaison, Capacity Building Center for the States

08:43:37 Mike Burk, Capacity Building Center for the States

08:44:26 Brandi Loch, Deputy Division Administrator, Child and Family Services, DPHHS

Work Group Questions and Discussion

08:45:30 Presiding Officer Carlson

08:45:45 Sen. Lenz

08:45:53 Chase Rosario, Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS), Public Member

08:46:17 Nikki Grossberg

08:46:44 Presiding Officer Carlson

08:47:18 Sen. Lenz

08:48:54 Presiding Officer Carlson

08:49:23 Joy Jones

08:50:35 Presiding Officer Carlson

08:50:44 Nikki Grossberg

08:50:51 Presiding Officer Carlson

08:51:43 Nikki Grossberg

08:53:35 Presiding Officer Carlson

08:54:32 Nikki Grossberg

08:56:03 Presiding Officer Carlson

08:56:13 Nikki Grossberg

08:57:34 Heather Webster, Deputy County Attorney, Yellowstone County

08:58:46 Presiding Officer Carlson

09:00:21 Nikki Grossberg

09:01:10 Sen. Lenz

09:01:37 Nikki Grossberg

09:03:03 Joy Jones
09:03:24 Brandi Loch

Public Comment on State Advisory Council

09:05:55 None

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Updates and Answers to Prior Group Questions

09:06:13 Nikki Grossberg
[EXHIBIT 1](#)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
[EXHIBIT 10](#)

Work Group Questions and Discussion

09:10:47 Presiding Officer Carlson
09:13:51 Lt. Jon Kadner, Cascade County Sheriff's Office joined the meeting.
09:14:37 Presiding Officer Carlson
09:15:34 Kelly Driscoll
09:16:00 Nikki Grossberg
09:16:32 Kelly Driscoll, Family Defense Bureau Chief, Office of State Public Defender (OPD)
09:16:41 Nikki Grossberg
09:16:51 Vice Presiding Officer Howell
09:18:18 Nikki Grossberg
09:18:53 Vice Presiding Officer Howell
09:19:14 Nikki Grossberg
09:19:45 Heather Webster
09:21:11 Vice Presiding Officer Howell
09:21:48 Nikki Grossberg
09:22:27 Kelly Driscoll
09:23:36 Nikki Grossberg
09:25:03 Presiding Officer Carlson
09:26:21 Nikki Grossberg
09:27:17 Presiding Officer Carlson
09:28:28 Nikki Grossberg
09:29:00 Presiding Officer Carlson
09:29:33 Nikki Grossberg

09:30:04 Presiding Officer Carlson

Public Comment on CFS Updates and Information

09:31:52 None

ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORT INVESTIGATION: THE STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

Presentation

09:35:14 Nikki Grossberg

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

[EXHIBIT 12](#) (Powerpoint Presentation viewable at 09:35:00 in the video recording of the meeting)

Work Group Questions and Discussion

09:54:30 Vice Presiding Officer Howell

09:54:55 Nikki Grossberg

09:56:47 Lt. Jon Kadner

09:57:26 Nikki Grossberg

09:58:54 Presiding Officer Carlson

09:59:16 Nikki Grossberg

09:59:25 Presiding Officer Carlson

10:00:58 Nikki Grossberg

10:02:12 Presiding Officer Carlson

10:03:02 Nikki Grossberg

10:03:18 Presiding Officer Carlson

10:04:03 Nikki Grossberg

10:04:40 Presiding Officer Carlson

10:05:00 Nikki Grossberg

10:05:55 Presiding Officer Carlson

10:06:49 Nikki Grossberg

10:07:29 Presiding Officer Carlson

10:07:49 Sen. Lenz

10:08:38 Nikki Grossberg

10:09:43 Sen. Lenz

10:10:08 Nikki Grossberg

10:10:41 Sen. Lenz

10:11:15 Chase Rosario

10:11:57 Nikki Grossberg

10:12:48 Chase Rosario

10:13:09 Nikki Grossberg

10:14:16 Heather Webster

10:15:58 Vice Presiding Officer Howell

10:17:42 Nikki Grossberg

10:18:24 Kelly Driscoll
10:20:07 Hon. Brenda Gilbert
10:21:27 Presiding Officer Carlson
10:23:25 Heather Webster
10:25:56 Kelly Driscoll
10:26:56 Presiding Officer Carlson
10:28:38 Nikki Grossberg
10:29:54 Sen. Lenz
10:30:44 Nikki Grossberg
10:31:11 Vice Presiding Officer Howell
10:33:22 Presiding Officer Carlson

Public Comment on Abuse and Neglect Investigations

10:33:55 Rev. Sue Debee, Retired Pastor

RECESS

10:37:32 Reconvened at 10:46 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE WORK GROUP

10:47:07 Dave Kesler III, Philipsburg

[EXHIBIT 13](#)

10:52:31 Sen. Lenz

RECESS

10:56:50 Committee will reconvene after a closed offsite meeting.

OFFSITE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE: LIVED EXPERIENCE PANEL

11:30:00 Closed Meeting

RECONVENE

13:34:01 Reconvened at 1:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

13:36:26 The committee secretary took roll. All members present.

Public Comment on Foster Care, Child Removals, and Other Issues Related to Child Protective Services

13:36:37 None

LIVED EXPERIENCE PANEL DISCUSSION, COMMENT, AND ACTION

13:37:11 Presiding Officer Carlson

Work Group Questions and Discussion

13:38:21 Nikki Grossberg

13:40:20 Heather Webster

13:41:14	Nikki Grossberg
13:42:03	Chase Rosario
13:42:54	Nikki Grossberg
13:43:53	Presiding Officer Carlson
13:44:03	Chase Rosario
13:44:53	Nikki Grossberg
13:45:52	Chase Rosario
13:46:02	Nikki Grossberg
13:46:25	Vice Presiding Officer Howell
13:47:31	Heather Webster
13:49:34	Nikki Grossberg
13:50:32	Presiding Officer Carlson
13:54:10	Chair Lenz
13:54:59	Presiding Officer Carlson
13:55:19	Kelly Driscoll
13:56:10	Heather Webster
13:57:13	Vice Presiding Officer Howell
14:00:02	Nikki Grossberg
14:00:46	Vice Presiding Officer Howell
14:01:29	Presiding Officer Carlson
14:01:50	Nikki Grossberg
14:02:03	Vice Presiding Officer Howell
14:02:14	Presiding Officer Carlson
14:02:26	Vice Presiding Officer Howell
14:03:44	Presiding Officer Carlson
14:04:06	Nikki Grossberg
14:04:13	Presiding Officer Carlson
14:04:23	Nikki Grossberg
14:04:44	Presiding Officer Carlson
14:05:48	Chase Rosario
14:06:26	Nikki Grossberg
14:07:25	Heather Webster
14:08:15	Vice Presiding Officer Howell
14:09:47	Kelly Driscoll
14:11:10	Sen. Lenz
14:11:17	Presiding Officer Carlson

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE WORK GROUP

14:12:04	None
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WORK SESSION**Finalize Work Plan**

14:12:32 Milly Allen, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

14:12:56 Sen. Lenz

Direction to Staff & Agenda Item Requests

14:13:10 Presiding Officer Carlson

14:15:30 Heather Webster

14:16:20 Presiding Officer Carlson

14:18:14 Vice Presiding Officer Howell

14:20:50 Kelly Driscoll

14:22:21 Presiding Officer Carlson

14:22:33 Hon. Brenda Gilbert

14:24:42 Presiding Officer Carlson

14:24:51 Sen. Lenz

14:29:20 Presiding Officer Carlson

14:30:12 Nikki Grossberg

14:31:28 Presiding Officer Carlson

14:31:53 Lt. Jon Kadner

14:32:35 Sen. Lenz

14:34:15 Vice Presiding Officer Howell

14:35:54 Sen. Lenz

14:39:38 Nikki Grossberg

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE WORK GROUP

14:41:30 Cindy Basnett

Direction to Staff & Agenda Item Requests

14:43:59 Chase Rosario

14:44:55 Nikki Grossberg

14:47:33 Sen. Lenz

14:49:07 Kelly Driscoll

14:51:45 Chase Rosario

14:52:20 Presiding Officer Carlson

14:55:44 Heather Webster

14:56:40 Nikki Grossberg

14:57:42 Presiding Officer Carlson

14:58:34 Sen. Lenz

15:00:34 Presiding Officer Carlson

15:00:58 Sen. Lenz

15:02:36 Milly Allen

15:03:29 Sen. Lenz

15:04:15 Presiding Officer Carlson

ADJOURNMENT

15:05:08 Presiding Officer Carlson adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.