

# Behavioral Health System for Future Generations

Drafted by Mike Yakawich from the mt.gov HB872 site:

Governor Greg Gianforte signed [House Bill 872](#) into law on May 22, 2023, providing a generational investment to reform and improve Montana's behavioral health and developmental disabilities service systems. A central component of the governor's Budget for Montana Families, the \$300 million investment will expand intensive and community-based behavioral health care and developmental disabilities services across Montana.

To ensure the greatest possible impact of this historic investment the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is committed to robust strategic planning and execution.

DPHHS has initiated three projects to begin this crucial work: the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Alternative Settings Project, the Strategic Planning and Alignment Request for Proposal, and the Service Impact Grants Request for Information.

For these reforms and improvements to be successful, public input and comment are critical.

Community and stakeholder engagement is a vital component of prioritizing potential investments. House Bill 872 establishes a commission to make recommendations on investments to the governor. For each commission meeting, time will be reserved for stakeholder engagement and public comments.

DPHHS will support the work of the commission and ensure timely implementation of its recommendations as approved by Governor Gianforte.

## Next HB 872 Commission Meeting

The next commission meeting will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Capital, Helena, MT. Additional meeting information will be posted closer to the meeting, including meeting presentation materials, a Zoom link for remote access, and an agenda.

**Rep. Bob Keenan**, R-Bigfork; **Charlie Brereton**, Director, DPHHS; **Patrick Maddison**, CEO, Flathead Industries; **Janet Lindow**, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Rural Behavioral Health Institute; **Rep. Michele Binkley**, R-Hamilton; **Rep. Mike Yakawich**, R-Billings; **Rep. Dave Fern**, D-Whitefish; **Sen. John Esp**, R- Big Timber; and **Sen. Ellie Boldman**, D-Missoula.

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Near-Term Initiatives (NTIs) reflect common sense, actionable ideas to address largely known and worsening gaps in Montana's behavioral health and developmental disabilities systems. Upon Commission recommendation and approval by the Governor, DPHHS can begin implementing these NTIs now while the Commission continues development of its final report.

**The Attached document is a comprehensive coverage of the NTI's so far presented.**

Respectfully submitted by Mike Yakawich, 406-647-6391, [yak.mike@gmail.com](mailto:yak.mike@gmail.com) for any questions or comments.