



Court System For Dependency & Neglect Task Force

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

ELLIE BOLDMAN
DENNIS LENZ

HOUSE MEMBERS

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SJ HOWELL

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JENNIFER OWEN

COMMITTEE STAFF

MILLY ALLEN, Research Analyst
JOLANDA SONGER, Secretary

UPDATED AGENDA (as of Jan 16, 2024)

January 16, 2024

State Capitol, Room 102 and Zoom

PLEASE NOTE:

- All times are approximate; some items may take more or less time than allotted.
- The agenda may be adjusted at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- See page 3 of this agenda for information on accessibility and public participation.

9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Dennis Lenz

9:05 a.m. **1. Work Plan Finalization**

Milly Allen, Research Analyst

- Task force questions, discussion, and edits
- Public comment on work plan
- Further task force questions, discussions, and edits
- Task force adoption of work plan

9:30 a.m. **2. Parent and Guardian Issues in Dependency and Neglect Cases (previously agenda item 4)**

Kelly Driscoll – Family Defense Bureau Chief, Office of State Public Defender

- Presentation
- Public comment on parent and guardian issues in DN cases
- Task force questions and discussion
- Task force action, if any

11:00 a.m. **Break**

11:15 a.m. **3. DPHHS Changes and Efforts to Reduce Dependency and Neglect Cases In Montana**

Nikki Grossberg – Child and Family Services Division Administrator, DPHHS

- Presentation
- Public comment on DPHHS changes/efforts to reduce DN cases
- Task force questions and discussion

- Task force action, if any

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. **4. Public Comment** on any matter within the scope of the task force not on this agenda (previously agenda item 5).

2:00 p.m. **5. The Role of CASA/GAL in Montana** (previously agenda item 2)
Glenda Noyes – Executive Director, CASA/GAL of Gallatin County

- Presentation
- Public comment on the role of CASA/GAL in Montana
- Task force questions and discussion
- Task force action, if any

3:00 p.m. **6. Public Comment** on any matter within the scope of the task force not on this agenda (new agenda item).

3:05 p.m. **Break**

3:20 p.m. **6. Work Session**

Chair Lenz and Ms. Allen

- Discussion of today's topics and prior meeting topics
 - Family friendly court issues (from October meeting) as related to parent and guardian issues in DN cases (from today's meeting)
 - Other topics
- Direction to staff
 - Research requests
 - Agenda items and topics for next meeting from SB 182, section 2 (*Presiding Officer and Ms. Allen*)

4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

TASK FORCE MATERIALS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Download meeting materials, view a list of committee members, and sign up for meeting notices on the task force website: <https://leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/court-system-dependency-neglect-task-force/>

ACCESSIBILITY

The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. Please contact Dan Messerli to request accommodations as soon as possible:

Dan Messerli
(406) 444-4456
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Deadline for written public comment and remote testimony registration: January 12, 5:00 p.m.

The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in the Capitol, remotely via Zoom, or in writing. The presiding officer will announce opportunities for public comment. Please note that the council may be ahead or behind the agenda when it is time for public comment.

To testify remotely, register online by 5:00 p.m. the business day before a meeting. You will receive an email the with login information by 11:59 p.m. the night before the meeting.
<https://leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/court-system-dependency-neglect-task-force/remote-participation-csdn-task-force/>

Written comments may be mailed or sent via the online form. Comments provided by 5:00 p.m. the business day before a meeting will be provided to the committee at that meeting; comments received after this deadline will be distributed at the next meeting.

Online form for written comment: <https://leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/court-system-dependency-neglect-task-force/public-comments-csdn-task-force/>

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