



## **COURT SYSTEM DEPENDENCY NEGLECT TASK FORCE**

### **68th Montana Legislature**

#### **SENATE MEMBERS**

Ellie Boldman  
Dennis Lenz

#### **HOUSE MEMBERS**

Jennifer Carlson  
SJ Howell

#### **PUBLIC MEMBERS**

Kelly Driscoll  
Wamnee Ereaux  
Jessica Finley  
Rachel Green  
Nikki Grossberg  
Jon Kadner  
Hon. Rienne McElyea  
Jennifer Owen

#### **COMMITTEE STAFF**

Griffin Burns, Research Analyst  
Milly Allen, Research Analyst  
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

# **MINUTES LOG**

March 14, 2024  
Room 152  
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)  
Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Chair (D) – Via Zoom  
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)  
Rep. SJ Howell (D) – Via Zoom  
Judge McElyea  
Jessica Finley  
Jon Kadner  
Rachel Green  
Wamnee Ereaux – Via Zoom  
Jennifer Owen – Via Zoom  
Kelly Driscoll  
Nikki Grossberg

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Griffin Burns, Research Analyst  
Milly Allen, Research Analyst  
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

**AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))**

**VISITORS' LIST**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

09:01:31 Presiding Officer Lenz called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

**COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

09:03:03 Tom Bilteen, Youth Court Services Bureau Chief  
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

**Task Force Questions and Discussion**

09:15:10 Presiding Officer Lenz  
09:16:32 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman  
09:22:55 Rep. Carlson  
09:24:06 Kelly Driscoll  
09:25:32 Wamnee Ereaux  
09:26:33 Rep. Carlson  
09:30:07 Judge McElyea  
09:32:07 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman  
09:33:47 Presiding Officer Lenz  
09:43:35 Jennifer Owen  
09:46:58 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman  
09:51:24 Kelly Driscoll  
09:53:07 Presiding Officer Lenz

**Public Comment on Court Improvement Project**

09:56:38 None

**COURT SYSTEM COSTS AND RELATED FISCAL INFORMATION**

09:57:21 Walker Hopkins, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division

### **Task Force Questions and Discussion**

09:58:00 Presiding Officer Lenz

09:58:35 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman

10:00:40 Walker Hopkins, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division

10:02:00 Judge McElyea

10:04:29 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman

10:06:31 Walker Hopkins

10:09:31 Presiding Officer Lenz

10:11:21 Judge McElyea

10:14:43 Presiding Officer Lenz

10:14:34 Judge McElyea

10:19:13 Nikki Grossberg

10:20:24 Rep. Carlson

10:23:07 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman  
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

10:27:26 Walker Hopkins

10:27:51 Kelly Driscoll

10:28:15 Walker Hopkins

10:28:38 Presiding Officer Lenz

10:30:06 Walker Hopkins

10:30:45 Presiding Officer Lenz

10:31:11 Walker Hopkins

10:31:58 Rep. Carlson

10:32:56 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman

10:33:08 Judge McElyea

10:34:21 Walker Hopkins

**PREVENTION PLANS & FAMILY - CFSD INTERACTIONS PRIOR TO LEGAL ACTION**

10:35:14 Nikki Grossberg, Child and Family Services Division Administrator, DPHHS  
[EXHIBIT 3](#) (Slides 2 – 6)

**Task Force Questions and Discussion**

10:37:56 Presiding Officer Lenz

10:43:38 Rep. Carlson

10:45:20 Presiding Officer Lenz

**PREVENTION PLANS & FAMILY - CFSD INTERACTIONS PRIOR TO LEGAL ACTION**

**Continued**

10:45:55 Nikki Grossberg  
[EXHIBIT 3](#) (Slide 7)

**Task Force Questions and Discussion**

10:47:04 Presiding Officer Lenz

**PREVENTION PLANS & FAMILY - CFSD INTERACTIONS PRIOR TO LEGAL ACTION**

**Continued**

10:48:45 Nikki Grossberg  
[EXHIBIT 3](#) (Slides 8 – 11)

**Task Force Questions and Discussion**

10:51:38 Rep. Carlson

10:52:57 Presiding Officer Lenz

**PREVENTION PLANS & FAMILY - CFSD INTERACTIONS PRIOR TO LEGAL ACTION**

**Continued**

10:53:06 Nikki Grossberg  
[EXHIBIT 3](#) (Slide 12)

**Task Force Questions and Discussion**

10:53:44 Presiding Officer Lenz

10:55:12 Judge McElyea

10:59:03 Presiding Officer Lenz

10:59:28 Judge McElyea

11:00:04 Nikki Grossberg

11:00:24 Presiding Officer Lenz

11:00:37 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman

11:01:44 Jessica Finley

11:03:01 Kelly Driscoll  
11:05:18 Rep. Carlson  
11:07:02 Presiding Officer Lenz  
11:07:27 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman

**PREVENTION PLANS & FAMILY - CFSD INTERACTIONS PRIOR TO LEGAL ACTION**

**Continued**

11:10:58 Nikki Grossberg  
[EXHIBIT 3](#) (Slides 13 – 14)

**Task Force Questions and Discussion**

11:12:48 Jon Kadner, Cascade County Sheriff's Office  
11:13:29 Rep. Carlson  
11:14:32 Presiding Officer Lenz  
11:16:30 Judge McElyea  
11:18:02 Kelly Driscoll  
11:19:09 Presiding Officer Lenz directed a question to Kelly Driscoll.  
11:20:26 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman  
11:28:25 Rep. Howell  
11:32:12 Presiding Officer Lenz

**Public Comment on CFSD Updates**

11:32:36 None

**Task Force Questions and Discussion**

11:33:49 Wamnee Ereaux  
11:37:55 Presiding Officer Lenz

**RECESS**

11:38:30 Reconvened at 13:00:15

**CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD ACT**

13:00:40 Chase Rosario, Attorney, MALCOM & PIERS  
[EXHIBIT 4](#)  
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

**Task Force Questions and Discussion**

13:11:49 Presiding Officer Lenz

13:16:27 Kelly Driscoll  
13:21:18 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman  
13:22:35 Kelly Driscoll  
13:24:00 Nikki Grossberg  
13:25:20 Chase Rosario  
13:29:27 Presiding Officer Lenz directed a question to Nikki Grossberg.  
13:32:26 Chase Rosario  
13:32:44 Rep. Carlson  
13:35:41 Presiding Officer Lenz  
13:39:57 Kelly Driscoll  
13:42:11 Jessica Finley  
13:43:31 Presiding Officer Lenz directed a question to Nikki Grossberg.  
13:47:04 Rep. Carlson  
13:53:04 Rep. Carlson directed a question to Nikki Grossberg.  
13:54:38 Presiding Officer Lenz  
13:57:13 Kelly Driscoll  
13:58:48 Wamnee Ereaux  
14:01:12 Presiding Officer Lenz

**Public Comment on Citizens' Review Board**

14:02:44 Tom Bilteen, Youth Court Services Bureau Chief  
14:03:51 Denise Johnson, Director of Communications, Montana Child Protection Alliance

**Introduction New Staff**

14:16:22 Milly Allen  
14:17:00 Griffin Burns, Research Analyst  
14:18:07 Presiding Officer Lenz

**Task Force Questions and Discussion**

14:18:47 Rep. Carlson directed a question to Tom Bilteen.

14:20:24 Rep. Carlson directed a question to Denise Johnson.

14:29:46 Rep. Carlson directed a question to Nikki Grossberg.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE TASK FORCE NOT ON THIS AGENDA**

14:32:17 None

**RECESS**

14:32:58 Reconvened at 14:46:00.

**WORK SESSION**

14:46:27 Griffin Burns, Research Analyst

14:48:13 Judge McElyea

14:49:56 Presiding Officer Lenz

14:50:17 Kelly Driscoll

14:50:43 Rep. Carlson

14:51:05 Judge McElyea

14:52:21 Griffin Burns

14:53:07 Presiding Officer Lenz

14:53:43 Judge McElyea

14:54:15 Rep. Carlson

14:56:12 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman

14:58:20 Presiding Officer Lenz

14:58:15 Jessica Finley

15:00:53 Presiding Officer Lenz

15:01:19 Judge McElyea

15:01:36 Jessica Finley

15:02:41 Judge McElyea

15:04:01 Kelly Driscoll

15:04:43 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman

15:06:01 Judge McElyea  
15:06:49 Rep. Carlson directed a question to Vice Presiding Officer Boldman.  
15:09:39 Kelly Driscoll  
15:11:06 Judge McElyea directed a question with Kelly Driscoll.  
15:13:08 Jessica Finley  
15:14:48 Presiding Officer Lenz directed staff to do research about drug testing.  
15:15:21 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman  
15:16:46 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:17:14 Judge McElyea  
15:17:55 Kelly Driscoll  
15:18:17 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:19:42 Kelly Driscoll  
15:20:04 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:20:21 Rep. Carlson  
15:21:16 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman  
15:23:04 Rep. Carlson  
15:24:24 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:25:27 Judge McElyea  
15:27:03 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:27:27 Kelly Driscoll  
15:29:12 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:31:35 Rep. Carlson  
15:31:50 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:33:06 Rep. Carlson  
15:33:28 Nikki Grossberg



15:34:21 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:35:09 Griffin Burns  
15:35:16 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:36:54 Presiding Officer directed a question to Judge McElyea.  
15:36:15 Nikki Grossberg  
15:36:39 Vice Presiding Officer Boldman  
15:36:58 Kelly Driscoll  
15:38:13 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:39:19 Nikki Grossberg  
15:39:52 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:40:13 Griffin Burns  
15:40:18 Presiding Officer Lenz  
15:41:58 Griffin Burns

**ADJOURNMENT**

15:42:21 Presiding Officer Lenz adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.