



COURT SYSTEM DEPENDENCY NEGLECT TASK FORCE

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Dennis Lenz
Ellie Boldman

HOUSE MEMBERS

Jennifer Carlson
SJ Howell

PUBLIC MEMBERS

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

COMMITTEE STAFF

Griffin Burns – Research Analyst
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

May 08, 2024
Room 172
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.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Dennis Lenz, Chair (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)
Rep. SJ Howell (D)
Judge Rienne McElyea
Jessica Finley
Jon Kadner
Rachel Green
Jennifer Owen
Nikki Grossberg

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Wamnee Ereaux
Kelly Driscoll

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Griffin Burns, Research Analyst
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:00:47 Chair Dennis Lenz called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The committee secretary took roll.
09:01:45 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz

COURT SYSTEM COSTS AND RELATED FISCAL INFORMATION UPDATE

09:02:40 Griffin Burns, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:04:11 Kelly Driscoll joined the Meeting.
09:04:41 Kate Flavin, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)
09:05:41 Griffin Burns, LSD
09:09:33 Kate Flavin, LFD
09:14:58 Wamnee Ereaux joined the meeting.

Public Comment on Updated District Court Caseload and Workload Statistics

09:19:12 None

Task Force Questions and Discussion

09:19:38 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
09:20:14 Kate Flavin, LFD
09:23:09 Griffin Burns, LSD
09:23:34 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
09:24:37 Judge Rienne McElyea
09:26:11 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
09:28:00 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
09:28:58 Kelly Driscoll, Family Defense Bureau Chief, Office of State Public Defender (OPD)
09:29:40 Kate Flavin, LFD
09:30:06 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
09:30:28 Jennifer Owen
09:31:23 Kate Flavin, LFD
09:32:15 Rep. SJ Howell
09:34:29 Griffin Burns, LSD
[EXHIBIT 2](#)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
09:35:11 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman requested data regarding ICWA.

09:35:53 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
09:38:02 Griffin Burns
09:38:26 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
09:38:49 Kate Flavin, LFD
09:40:17 Jennifer Owen requested information regarding judges traveling by themselves or with staff.
09:40:40 Kate Flavin, LFD
09:41:43 Rep. SJ Howell
09:43:03 Kelly Driscoll
09:43:23 Kate Flavin, LFD
09:44:40 Wamnee Ereaux
09:45:19 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
09:47:22 Judge Rienne McElyea
09:50:03 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
09:51:17 Kate Flavin, LFD
09:53:11 Jennifer Owen
09:54:50 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
09:55:15 Wamnee Ereaux
09:55:54 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
09:56:04 Kate Flavin. LFD

09:56:38 **Recessed**
10:16:23 **Reconvened**

INCARCERATED PARENTS REUNIFICATION PROGRAMS

10:16:41 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Corrections (DOC)
10:23:11 Marisa Britton-Bostwick, Education Director, Connecting Adults and Minors through Positive Parenting (CAMPP Montana)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Task Force Questions and Discussion

10:37:59 Kelly Driscoll, OPD
10:38:33 Marisa Britton-Bostwick, CAMPP Montana
10:40:38 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
10:41:27 Marisa Britton-Bostwick, CAMPP Montana
10:48:32 Deputy Director Wolken, DOC
10:49:41 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
10:49:57 Marisa Britton-Bostwick, CAMPP Montana
10:51:07 Deputy Director Wolken, DOC
10:51:17 Rep. Jennifer Carlson requested information regarding the cost for expanding the CAMPP Program.
10:51:30 Deputy Director Wolken, DOC
10:53:03 Marisa Britton-Bostwick, CAMPP Montana

10:53:37 Nikki Grossberg, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
10:54:12 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
10:54:24 Jennifer Owen
10:54:50 Marisa Britton-Bostwick, CAMPP Montana
10:59:00 Deputy Director Wolken, DOC
10:59:45 Kelly Driscoll, OPD
11:00:25 Marisa Britton-Bostwick, DOC

Public Comment on Incarcerated Parents Reunification Programs

11:02:22 None

Invitation to visit CAMPP Montana

11:02:55 Deputy Director Wolken, DOC
11:03:23 Marisa Britton-Bostwick, DOC

11:04:23 **Recessed**

12:30:33 **Reconvened**

DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT PROSECUTION CONSIDERATIONS

12:30:56 Griffin Burns, LSD
12:31:53 Karen Kane, Assistant Attorney General and Supervisor of the Child Protection Unit, Montana Department of Justice (DOJ)

Task Force Questions and Discussion

13:28:26 Kelly Driscoll, OPD
13:29:29 Karen Kane, DOJ
13:33:02 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
13:33:16 Karen Kane, DOJ
13:35:02 Kelly Driscoll, OPD
13:35:26 Karen Kane, DOJ
13:37:10 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
13:37:41 Kelly Driscoll left the meeting.
13:37:43 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
13:39:53 Karen Kane, DOJ
13:45:40 Wamnee Ereaux
13:46:38 Karen Kane, DOJ
13:49:44 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
13:50:26 Karen Kane, DOJ
13:54:41 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
14:05:16 Jessica Finley
14:06:19 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
14:06:56 Karen Kane, DOJ

OFFICE OF CHILD AND FAMILY OMBUDSMAN (OCFO) RESPONSIBILITIES AND SERVICES

- 14:08:36 Dana Toole, Chief, Special Services Bureau, Criminal Investigation Division, DOJ
- 14:09:21 Kaci Gaub-Bruno, Child and Family Ombudsman, Special Services Bureau, Criminal Investigation Division, DOJ
- 14:09:58 Dana Toole, DOJ
[EXHIBIT 6](#) (Slides 1-3)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
- 14:18:53 Kaci Gaub-Bruno, DOJ
(See Exhibit 6, Slides 4-7)

Task Force Questions and Discussion

- 14:27:27 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
- 14:29:00 Dana Toole, DOJ
- 14:36:16 Rep. SJ Howell
- 14:37:36 Kaci Gaub-Bruno, DOJ
- 14:38:31 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
- 14:39:52 Dana Toole, DOJ
- 14:43:50 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
- 14:44:57 Dana Toole, DOJ
- 14:47:33 Judge Rienne McElyea
- 14:48:23 Kaci Gaub-Bruno, DOJ
- 14:51:56 Jennifer Owen
- 14:54:15 Kaci Gaub-Bruno, DOJ
- 14:55:30 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
- 14:56:11 Nikki Grossberg, DPHHS
- 14:58:16 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz

Public Comment on Dependency and Neglect Prosecution Considerations and the Office of Child and Family Ombudsman Responsibilities and Services

14:59:16 None

15:00:12 **Recessed**

15:10:35 **Reconvened**

WORK SESSION

- 15:10:56 Griffin Burns, LSD
- 15:12:59 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
- 15:13:54 Griffin Burns, LSD
- 15:14:58 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
- 15:16:50 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
- 15:18:42 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz

15:19:10 Judge Rienne McElyea
15:20:51 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
15:21:29 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
15:22:36 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
15:23:11 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
15:25:00 Rep. SJ Howell
15:25:25 Jessica Finley
15:26:23 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
15:26:51 Rep. SJ Howell
15:27:41 Wamnee Ereaux left the meeting.
15:28:16 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
15:29:56 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
15:30:35 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
15:31:37 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
15:33:32 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
15:36:45 Griffin Burns, LSD

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:37:19