



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

## WORK PLAN 2023-2024

Adopted  
January 22, 2023



# PLANNING YOUR WORK

## PRIORITIES

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### COUNCIL DUTIES

SB 11, section 8 modified 53-1-216, MCA, which provides for the council's duties:

(4) The council shall:

- (a) provide direction and recommendations to the board of crime control regarding data to be included in the criminal justice data warehouse established in [section 2] and policies to govern the use of and priorities for the criminal justice data warehouse;
- (b) study and recommend solutions to address issues facing the criminal justice system and its constituent state and local agencies;
- (c) monitor the functioning of the criminal justice system; and
- (d) make recommendations to the legislature to address system issues proactively, manage limited resources, improve workloads, make improvements to state and local criminal justice systems, meaningfully address crime, and enhance public safety.

### COUNCIL TOPICS

Many topics fall under the umbrella of the council's statutory duties. Identifying *two or three specific topics* allows the council to delve more deeply into those issues and produce legislation and recommendations in time for the next legislative session.

Prioritizing its selected topics communicates to the public and staff where the council would like to focus most of its time. Agenda items that are not related to these topics may be added to a meeting with the approval of the chair.

Research generally follows three stages. First, the council gathers information when it:

- hears presentations by people with experience and expertise;
- takes public comment from interested parties, who may offer specific suggestions; and
- reviews informational materials.

In the second phase, the council narrows its focus. Members identify specific aspects, ideas, or questions they'd like to analyze further. This phase helps members concentrate on the issues they consider to be of the greatest importance and obtain any additional information needed to make final recommendations.

During the final stage, members review and decide on options for action. Potential solutions, including legislation, are usually reviewed and refined at multiple meetings before the council takes final action. Legislation must be *approved at the September 9 meeting*.

The following table includes the topics set by the council at its meeting on January 22, and identifies how it prioritized the topics.

Topic	Priority
Criminal justice data warehouse	Statutory Duty
Improvements to sentencing process, especially modifications to improve the presentence investigation process	1
Behavioral health services for incarcerated individuals, including youths and the issue of juvenile solitary confinement	2
Violent crime issues, such as the definition of a crime of violence and Montana's violent offender registry	3

## MEETING DATES

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The council adopted the following meeting dates at its November 2023 meeting:

January 22, 2024

March 19, 2024

May 13, 2024

July 24, 2024

September 9, 2024