



PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

Economic Affairs Interim Committee

68th Montana Legislature

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SHANE MORIGEAU
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ERIN SULLIVAN, Lead Staff
JAMESON WALKER, Staff Attorney
LJ JENNINGS, Secretary

AGENDA

Economic Affairs Interim Committee

January 17, 2024

State Capitol, Room 137 and Zoom

Please note:

- Instructions on how the public can participate in this meeting are on page 4.
- All agenda times are in Mountain Time and are tentative. Some items may take more or less time than scheduled.
- The order of presenters listed is subject to change.

8:15 a.m.

Call to Order – Roll Call – Opening Remarks

Representative Josh Kassmier, Presiding Officer

1. Overview of meeting agenda

8:20 a.m.

Childcare & the Workforce

1. Overview of topic & introduction of presenters: **Erin Sullivan**, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

8:20 a.m. –

2. Topic 1: Availability Strategies (Where do I take my child?)

9:05 a.m.

Topics of conversation may include barriers for providers – capital, licensing, insurance, wages & benefits

- a. Department of Commerce – **Liane Taylor**, Business MT Division Administrator
- b. Mentorship model: Zero to Five Montana – **Caitlin Jensen**, Executive Director; The Larch Child Care Center – **Christine Miller-Fitzpatrick**, Larch Early Childhood Care, Owner
- c. Raise Montana – **Angie Armour**, Executive Director
- d. Child Care Connections - **Tori Sproles**, Executive Director
- e. State Auditor's Office – **Frank Cote**, Deputy Insurance Commissioner
- f. Montana Chamber of Commerce – **Todd O'Hair**, President & CEO
- g. Wonderschool – **Kristina Miller**, Government & Employer Solutions

9:05 a.m. –

3. Topic 2: Accessibility Strategies (When can I get care for my child?)

9:55 a.m.

Topics of conversation may include public/private partnership stories, grant programs, licensing options for alternative care programs, cooperatives, other success stories or ideas

- a. Montana Cooperative Development Center – **Tracy McIntyre**, Executive Director
- b. Montana Chamber of Commerce – **Chad Moore**, SBDC State Director

- c. Zero to Five Montana – **Jason Nitschke**, Senior Child Care Business Advisor
- d. Child Care Connections – **Tori Sproles**, Executive Director
- e. Montana Chamber of Commerce – **Todd O’Hair** – President & CEO
- f. Wonderschool – **Kristina Miller**, Government & Employer Solutions
- g. Florence Crittenton – **Carrie Krepps**, Executive Director
- h. Community Capacity Building Cohorts – Introduction by Zero to Five Montana – **Caitlin Jensen**, Executive Director
 - i. SMART and Baker Child Care Project – **Vaughn Zenko**, Executive Director
 - ii. Missoula Child Care Advantage – **Sally Henkel**, Coordinator
 - iii. St. Johns United – **David Trost**, CEO

9:55 a.m. BREAK

10:05 a.m. Childcare & the Workforce, Cont.

- 10:05 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.*
4. Topic 3: Achievement Strategies (Who will care for my child?)
Topics of conversation may include opportunities for career ladders, apprenticeships, CTE opportunities, higher ed promotion, benefits for employees, tax credits, assistance with child care for child care workers
- a. Department of Labor – **Amy Watson**, Senior Economist
 - b. Montana State University – **Dr. Christine Lux**, Associate Professor, MSU Child Development Center Director
 - c. Montana Early Childhood Project – **Taylor Boylan**, Director; **Dawn Zimdars**, Special Projects Coordinator
 - d. Discovery Kidzone Learning Centers – **Rachel Supalla**, Chief Executive Officer
 - e. Florence Crittenton – **Carrie Krepps**, Executive Director
 - f. Montana Cooperative Development Center – **Tracy McIntyre**, Executive Director
 - g. Raise Montana – **Angie Armour**, Executive Director
 - h. Zero to Five Montana – **Caitlin Jensen**, Executive Director

- 11:00 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.*
5. Topic 4: Affordability Strategies (How can I pay for the care?)
Topics of conversation may include market rates, benefits cliffs, Best Beginnings, tax credits, additional licensing opportunities
- a. Department of Public Health & Human Services – **Tracy Moseman**, Division Administrator
 - b. Florence Crittenton – **Carrie Krepps**, Executive Director
 - c. Child Care Connections - **Tori Sproles**, Executive Director

- 11:35 a.m.*
- 6. Public comment*
 - 7. Committee questions & discussion
 - a. Committee action – next steps for study topic

12:15 p.m. LUNCH

- 1:15 p.m. Agriculture Study Topic: Agriculture Production**
1. Overview of topic & introduction of presenters: **Erin Sullivan**, LSD
 2. Agriculture production metrics: **Dan Kayser**, Data Analyst, LSD
 3. Briefing on meatpacking & processing: **Erin Sullivan**, LSD
 4. Livestock production & CIS program: **Mike Honeycutt**, Administrator, Department of Livestock
 5. Agriculture grown incentives & programs: **Zach Coccoli**, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture
 6. Public comment*
 7. Committee questions & discussion
 - a. Committee action – next steps for study
- 2:15 p.m. BREAK**
- 2:30 p.m. Housing Study Topic: HB819 Monitoring**
1. Overview of topic & introduction of presenters: **Erin Sullivan**, LSD
 2. Community Reinvestment Organization Program Update: **Mark Blasdel**, Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development
 3. State Trust Lands Update: **Shawn Thomas**, Division Administrator/State Forester, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
 4. Public comment*
 5. Committee questions & discussion
 - a. Committee action – next steps for study
- 3:15 p.m. Marijuana Study Topic: Synthetic Marijuana Task Force Update**
1. **Kristan Barbour**, Division Administrator, Cannabis Control Division
 2. Public comment*
 3. Committee questions & discussion
 - a. Committee action – if necessary
- 3:30 p.m. Administrative Rule Review**
1. Review of administrative rule memo: **Jameson Walker**, Attorney, Legislative Services Division
 2. Cannabis Control Division rule updates: **Kristan Barbour**, Division Administrator
 3. Public comment*
 4. Committee questions & discussion
 - a. Committee action – if necessary

4:00 p.m.

Committee Work Session

1. **Public comment*** on any item in EAIC's subject matter jurisdiction
2. Directions to staff for agenda items for the next meeting (***March 5-6, 2024**)
3. **Wrap up and adjournment**

***Public Participation in the Committee Meeting**

The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in the Capitol or provide public comment either remotely via Zoom or in writing.

To offer public comment via Zoom during the meeting, please submit the [online form for remote participation](#). You will receive an email with the login information by 5 p.m. the night before the meeting. The committee may be slightly ahead of or behind the time scheduled for public comment on the agenda.

Written public comments may be submitted either through the [online form for written comment](#) or by mailing the comments to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee, PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

** Public comment provided in person or remotely at a committee meeting is a public record that is recorded, archived, and available on the Internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a committee meeting is a public record that will be posed to the legislative Web site as part of the minutes log for the committee meeting.*

The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Jessica James at 406-444-3267 or jessica.james@legmt.gov as soon as possible before the meeting date