



TRANSITION REVIEW COMMITTEE

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Dennis Lenz
Christopher Pope

HOUSE MEMBERS

Mary Caferro
Jennifer Carlson

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Ann Geiger
Dr. Reza Ghomi
Sara Hansen-Baiamonte
Mike Lahr
Heather O'Hara
Shawna Karjala
Melanie Williams

COMMITTEE STAFF

Milly Allen - Research Analyst
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

July 15, 2024
Room 102
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 (R)
Rep. Jennifer Carlson, Chair (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Ann Geiger, Executive Director, Liberty Place
Dr. Reza Ghomi, Co-Founder, Frontier Psychiatry
Sara Hansen-Baiamonte, Family Member of Individual Residing at the Montana State Hospital
Mike Lahr, Attorney, Disability Rights Montana
Heather O'Hara, Vice President, Montana Hospital Association
Shawna Karjala, Medicaid Complex Case Coordinator, DPHHS
Melanie Williams, Program Director, Montana Alzheimer's Association

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Milly Allen, Research Analyst
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:35:44 Chair Jennifer Carlson called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

1. REVIEW OF DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

08:37:07 Milly Allen, Research Analyst

2. STATUTORY ANALYSIS OF HB 29

08:39:20 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

08:40:13 Julie Johnson, Deputy Legal Director, Legislative Services Division
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Committee Questions and Discussion

08:45:18 Sen. Dennis Lenz

08:46:06 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

08:47:11 Julie Johnson

08:49:08 Sara Hansen-Baiamonte

08:49:29 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

08:50:26 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope

08:55:11 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

08:56:04 Sen. Dennis Lenz

08:58:47 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

3. DPHHS UPDATE AND REPORT

09:01:28 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

09:04:36 Shawna Karjala – Medicaid Complex Case Coordinator, Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Committee Questions and Discussion

09:08:07 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

09:11:43 Sen. Dennis Lenz

09:12:25 Rebecca de Camara, Administrator, Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Division, DPHHS

09:17:21 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

09:17:35 Sen. Dennis Lenz

09:18:08 Rebecca de Camara
09:18:49 Dr. Douglas Harrington, State Medical Officer, DPHHS
09:21:19 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
09:28:57 Dr. Douglas Harrington
09:30:30 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
09:34:06 Rebecca de Camara
09:34:25 Heather O'Hara, Montana Hospital Association
09:35:23 Dr. Douglas Harrington
09:35:59 Heather O'Hara
09:36:40 Shawna Karjala
09:37:31 Heather O'Hara
09:38:33 Dr. Douglas Harrington
09:40:51 Ann Geiger, Executive Director, Liberty Place
09:41:18 Shawna Karjala
09:42:00 Melissa Williams, Montana Alzheimer's Association
09:42:48 Shawna Karjala
09:44:22 Melissa Williams
09:45:23 Dr. Douglas Harrington
09:47:06 Rebecca de Camara
09:48:46 Mike Lahr, Attorney, Disability Rights Montana
09:50:07 Shawna Karjala
09:51:09 Barb Smith, Administrator, Senior and Long-Term Division, DPHHS
09:53:14 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
09:53:45 Rebecca de Camara
09:55:44 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
09:58:09 Paula Stannard, Chief Legal Counsel, DPHHS
10:00:39 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
10:03:43 Dr. Douglas Harrington
10:05:23 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
10:06:39 Dr. Douglas Harrington commented regarding the new CEO of the state hospital, Kevin Flanigan.
10:13:40 Rebecca de Camara
10:14:25 Ann Geiger, Liberty Place Association
10:15:51 Barb Smith
10:17:20 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
10:17:29 Dr. Douglas Harrington
10:18:31 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
10:18:51 Dr. Douglas Harrington requested a recommendation from the TRC Committee to explore the option of bridging.
10:19:05 Ann Geiger

10:19:38 Barb Smith
10:20:15 Melanie Williams
10:20:48 Dr. Douglas Harrington
10:22:03 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
10:31:45 **Recessed**
10:51:54 Sen. Dennis Lenz left the meeting
10:51:54 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope left the meeting.
10:51:55 **Reconvened**

4. LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES UPDATE

10:52:08 Rose Hughes – Executive Director, Montana Health Care Association
[EXHIBIT 3](#) & (See Exhibit 2)
11:13:08 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope rejoined the meeting.
11:13:15 Sen. Dennis Lenz rejoined the meeting.

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:14:29 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson (See Exhibit 2, Page 4)
11:16:00 Shawna Karjala
11:16:41 Ann Geiger
11:17:17 Shawna Karjala
11:18:37 Melanie Williams
11:19:10 Rose Hughes
11:22:31 Ann Geiger
11:26:01 Rose Hughes
11:26:37 Heather O'Hara
11:29:00 Rose Hughes

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4

11:32:26 None

Representative of Families of People in the Montana State Hospital

11:33:55 Sara Hansen-Baiamonte shares her father's story.
11:41:38 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

6. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND ACTION ON AGENDA ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5

11:43:23 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
11:46:24 Sara Hansen-Baiamonte
11:46:56 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
11:48:21 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
11:48:54 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
11:49:17 Shawna Karjala
11:49:59 Ann Geiger

11:50:27 Shawna Karjala
11:51:37 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
11:53:20 Julia Hamilton, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
11:54:50 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
11:57:54 Heather O'Hara
11:59:13 **Recessed**
13:29:51 **Adjourned** (Roll Call at 13:30:22)

7. TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY UPDATE

13:31:04 Ann Geiger, Certified Brain Injury Expert and Executive Director of Liberty Place
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
13:40:11 Ann Geiger shared her Recommendations with the Committee.

Committee Questions and Discussion

13:51:13 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
13:51:31 Ann Geiger
13:54:39 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
13:55:41 Ann Geiger
14:01:10 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:01:41 Shawna Karjala
14:02:14 Sen. Dennis Lenz
14:03:46 Ann Geiger
14:08:48 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:09:12 Ann Geiger
14:12:40 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:12:51 Milly Allen

QUALITY CARE AND TRANSITIONS

14:14:45 Melanie Williams, Executive Director, Montana Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
14:35:41 Andrew Ross, State Affairs Director, Alzheimer's Association
14:39:10 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:40:44 **Recessed**
14:55:26 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson left the meeting.
14:55:26 Sen. Dennis Lenz left the meeting.
14:55:26 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope assumed the chair.
14:55:27 **Reconvened**

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

- 14:56:39 Dr. Kristina Kovacs, Chief Clinical Officer, Behavioral Health Solutions
[EXHIBIT 10](#)
- 15:01:39 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson resumed the chair.
- 15:02:09 Sen. Dennis Lenz rejoined the meeting.

Committee Questions and Discussion

- 15:08:48 Heather O'Hara
- 15:09:13 Sara Hansen-Baiamonte
- 15:09:31 Shawna Karjala
- 15:10:23 Sara Hansen-Baiamonte asked a question regarding Mountain Pacific.
- 15:10:24 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
- 15:11:13 Rebecca de Camara
- 15:16:18 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
- 15:17:47 Dr. Kristina Kovacs
- 15:22:18 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

9. BUDGET OFFICE AND FISCAL UPDATE

- 15:23:51 Brian Hannan, Lead Budget Analyst, Governor's Office of Budget and Planning

Committee Questions and Discussion

- 15:25:27 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
- 15:26:31 Brian Hannan
- 15:29:21 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
- 15:30:34 Brian Hannan
- 15:35:34 Julia Hamilton

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 9

- 15:36:57 Angela Wathan, Self and Daughter

WORK SESSION

- 15:47:36 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
- 15:49:29 Rebecca de Camara
- 15:51:04 Julia Hamilton
- 15:52:19 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
- 15:52:53 Rebecca de Camara
- 15:53:16 Julia Hamilton
- 15:53:56 Rebecca de Camara
- 15:54:05 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

Committee Discussion of Recommendations to add to report

- 15:55:41 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
- 15:56:04 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

15:56:58 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson shared her list of recommendations as requested by Vice Presiding Officer Pope.
16:01:50 Sara Hansen-Baiamonte
16:02:24 Shawna Karjala
16:02:54 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
16:06:33 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
16:07:39 Rebecca de Camara
16:12:42 Heather O'Hara
16:14:28 Ann Geiger
16:16:34 Melanie Williams
16:17:36 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
16:19:03 Rose Hughes
16:23:59 Heather O'Hara
16:26:23 Ann Geiger
16:27:24 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
16:28:56 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson requested information regarding the electronic health records from the Department.
16:29:10 Rebecca de Camara
16:29:19 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
16:31:24 Sen. Dennis Lenz
16:33:06 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
16:34:27 Rebecca de Camara
16:36:27 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
16:36:51 Heather O'Hara
16:38:23 Ann Geiger
16:39:25 Sen. Dennis Lenz
16:39:37 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
16:39:55 Heather O'Hara
16:40:10 Rebecca de Camara
16:41:13 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
16:42:23 Ann Geiger
16:43:25 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
16:47:23 Mike Lahr
16:51:12 Rebecca de Camara
16:51:57 Milly Allen

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:53:22