



Health and Human Services Interim Budget Committee

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68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

CARL GLIMM – Vice Chair
DENNIS LENZ
CHRISTOPHER POPE

HOUSE MEMBERS

BOB KEENAN – Chair
MARY CAFERRO
JANE GILLETTE

COMMITTEE STAFF

JOSH POULETTE, Senior Fiscal Analyst
JULIA HAMILTON, Fiscal Analyst
GRACE GIBNEY, Clerk

March 13, 2024
Room 152
Helena, Montana

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Bob Keenan, Chair (R)
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Sen. Carl Glimm, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Josh Poulette, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Julia Hamilton, Fiscal Analyst
Adam Sechrist, Fiscal Analyst
Jennifer Whitt, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:00:30 Rep. Bob Keenan called the meeting to order. Staff took committee roll.

LFD QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT AND MEDICAID MONITORING REPORT:

09:01:40 Adam Sechrist, Fiscal Analyst with Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD), began presenting quarterly financial report (QFR)

09:11:32 Julia Hamilton, Fiscal Analyst (LFD), continued QFR starting with HB 2

09:21:24 Josh Poulette, Senior Fiscal Analyst (LFD), presented Medicaid monitoring report

09:33:15 Rep Mary Caferro requested dollar amount represented in vacancy savings

09:35:21 Sen Christopher Pope requested clarification on discrepancy with Medicaid enrollment, expansion and re-enrollment

DPHHS UPDATES:

09:41:47 Charlie Brereton, Director, Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS) provided organizational highlights, vacancies filled, reorganization

09:52:05 Seana Westcarr-Gray introduced as Information and Regulatory Affairs Counselor

09:52:33 Charlie Brereton, Director (DPHHS), continued with organizational highlights

09:55:05 Rep Mary Caferro requested additional data on cost of organization, Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) and vacancies

09:55:46 Kim Aiken, Chief Financial and Operating Officer DPHHS, provided agency financial update. Answered questions on funding for child and family services, adjusting funding to market rates, vacancies and outside contractors

10:17:34 Charlie Brereton, Director, Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS) continued presentation with HB 190 Annual Plan Update

10:28:04 Paula Stannard, Chief Legal Counsel DPHHS, responded to questions concerning annual revisions to plan

10:30:02 Charlie Brereton, Director, Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS) answered questions on implementation of new yearly review and progress updates

10:32:50 Jessie Counts, Administrator of Human and Community Services Division DPHHS, provided Medicaid Redetermination Update. Answered questions on lower utilization, discrepancy between population and renewal enrollment, average wait times, ease of process.

BREAK:

11:15:00 Reconvened at 11:29:28

DPHHS UPDATES:

- 11:29:31 Gene Hermanson, Medicaid Chief Financial Manager DPHHS, presented HB 5 project updates including funding for Montana State Hospital
- 11:34:11 Rachel Zietlow, Vice President Maximus Workforce Services Practice, presented on redesign of training, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) pathways programs, refugee relocation and engagement tools brought to the state by Maximus
- 12:07:53 Charlie Brereton, Director (DPHHS) and Rachel Zietlow, Vice President Maximus, answered questions on contract length, capital expenses incurred during switch to Maximus, qualifications for public assistance, amendments to contract, case loads and eligibility

BREAK:

- 12:31:02 Reconvened at 13:00:25

DPHHS UPDATES

- 13:00:25 Rebecca de Camara, Administrator of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Division DPHHS, provided update on HEART 115 Waiver. Answered questions in regards to tenancy support, providing treatments and eligibility
- 13:15:55 Jennifer Savage, Chief Administrator Officer Healthcare Facilities Division and Interim Chief Executive Officer of Montana State Hospital, provided highlights, recertification efforts, vacancies and leadership announcements. Answered questions on coordination efforts and provided clarification on data.
- 13:29:00 Charlie Brereton, Director (DPHHS) presented Hiring Incentive and Retention Initiative. Answered questions on how housing bill for state employees has affected this initiative

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION

- 13:38:40 Sarah Carlson, Senior Management and Program Analyst, Legislative Audit Division(LAD), spoke on how the audit division works with and for the budget committees

DPHHS UPDATES

- 13:47:54 Barb Smith, Administrator of the Senior and Long-Term Care Division DPHHS, gave update on Olmstead Plan
- 13:50:55 Charlie Brereton, Director DPHHS and Barb Smith, Administrator of the Senior and Long-Term Care Division DPHHS presented on Senior and Long-Term Care Division Region Analysis
- 13:54:10 Tracy Moseman, Bureau Chief, Early Childhood, DPHHS, presented on Best Beginnings Childcare Subsidies Update
- 13: Rep Jane Gillette requested date broken down by county and the number of families applying for subsidy.
- 13: Tracy Moseman, Bureau Chief, Early Childhood, DPHHS, answered questions on home visiting, contracts status, disbursement of funds

HB 872 UPDATE

14:07:05 Rep Bob Kennan, Chairman BHSFG Commission and Charlie Brereton DPHHS Director on HB 872: Behavioral Health System for Future Generations Update

Next Steps and IBC Agendas

14:18:53 Josh Poulette, Senior Fiscal Analyst (LFD) reviewed requests made

14:20:25 Brian Hannan, Lead Budget Analyst Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) provided timeline on where committee is within the budget process.

Committee Discussion

14:38:28 Rep Jane Gillette requested clarification on COVID funds expended

PUBLIC COMMENT:

14:48:36 Jackie Mohler, Executive Director of Family Outreach made comments on Best Beginnings Subsidy and funds to assist struggling families.

14:50:48 Stacey Anderson, Director of Policy for Montana Primary Care Association, provided comments on HEART 1115 waiver, contingency management, and tenancy waivers/vouchers.

Break

14:55:13 Reconvened at 15:15:41

Global Budgeting

15:16:10 Rep Jane Gillette introduced Dr Joshua Sharfstein, Distinguished Professor of the Practice at Johns Hopkins,

15:17:09 Dr Joshua Sharfstein presented on Global Budgeting

15:35:31 Sen Carl Glimm inquired on how hospitals decide on which treatments they offer under Global Budgeting

15:37:10 Rep Jane Gillette questioned how hospitals account for sicker population and if that gets built into the budget. Questioned how to account for consistent transference of patients from one hospital to another.

15:43:31 Sen Christopher Pope questioned whether the overall healthcare costs in Maryland have dropped because a lot of hospitals are now focusing on preventative medicine

15:50:55 Charlie Brereton, Director DPHHS, inquired as to what authorities were utilized in order to participate, what statute allowed for rate setting.

16:00:32 Rep Jane Gillette requested quality measures, questioned how they determine people are getting healthier with this approach

ADJOURNMENT:

16:06:23 Rep. Bob Keenan adjourned the meeting.