



CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Laura Smith
Barry Usher

HOUSE MEMBERS

SJ Howell
Amy Regier

PUBLIC MEMBERS

David Armstrong
Eldena Bear Don't Walk
Luke Berger
Charlie Brereton
Alan Doane
Mark Dunn
Jessica Flint
Shantelle Gaynor
Brandon Kelm
Koan Mercer
Jimmy Patelis
Eric Strauss
Amy Tenney
Scott Twito

COMMITTEE STAFF

Laura Sherley - Lead Staff
Abbie J.N. Cziok - Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

May 8, 2026
Capitol Room 172 & Zoom
Helena, Montana

Minutes logs provide an annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of a meeting and the time at which a topic is presented or discussed, a motion made, or a vote taken. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion in the video. The minutes log is only a guide to the video of the meeting. The official record of the meeting is the video. Minutes logs can be accessed at <https://committees.legmt.gov> and videos can be accessed at <https://media.legmt.gov>.

For more information, please contact:

The Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for policy committees;
The Legislative Fiscal Division at 406-444-2986 for fiscal committees; or
The Legislative Audit Division at 406-444-3122 for the Legislative Audit Committee.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Barry Usher, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. SJ Howell (D)
Rep. Amy Regier (R)
David Armstrong, Public Member
Alan Doane, Public Member - via Zoom
Jessica Flint, Public Member
Shantelle Gaynor, Public Member
Jimmy Patelis, Public Member - via Zoom
Dir. Koan Mercer, Public Member
Dir. Eric Strauss, Public Member
Meghan Peel, Representing DPHHS

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Hon. Luke Berger, Vice Presiding Officer
Sen. Laura Smith (D)
Sheriff Brandon Kelm, Public Member
Hon. Mark Dunn, Public Member - via Zoom
Scott Twito, Public Member
Eldena Bear Don't Walk, Public Member
Amy Tenney, Public Member

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH MANAGEMENT: JERRY HOWE, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • ANGUS MACIVER, LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR • AMY CARLSON, LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST • TODD EVERTS, LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTOR • DALE GOW, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER • RACHEL WEISS, RESEARCH DIRECTOR • ANGIE CARTER, FINANCIAL OFFICE DIRECTOR • KELLY DASILVA, HR DIRECTOR

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Sherley, Lead Staff
Abbie J.N. Cziok, Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

08:00:34 Presiding Officer Barry Usher called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

MEETING OVERVIEW

08:01:58 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
08:02:21 Meghan Peel, Division Administrator, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) Services Division, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA WAREHOUSE UPDATE

08:05:54 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
08:06:52 Kayla Bragg, Executive Director, Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)
08:08:09 Janice Fries, Director, Statistical Analysis Center, MBCC
[EXHIBIT 1](#)
08:09:47 Hon. Mark Dunn joined the meeting via Zoom.
08:21:25 Adam Carpenter, Chief Data Officer, Department of Administration (DOA)

Public Comment

08:25:47 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Council Discussion / Questions

08:28:47 Council Member David Armstrong
08:29:11 Dir. Janice Fries, MBCC
08:31:21 Council Member Shantelle Gaynor
08:31:57 Dir. Janice Fries, MBCC
08:35:21 Meghan Peel, DPHHS
08:35:35 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
08:37:04 Dir. Janice Fries, MBCC

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 45 – STUDY OF COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND CRIMINAL RECORD EXPUNGEMENT

Review of Expungable Crimes and Expungement Eligibility Criteria

08:37:19 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
08:38:13 Brett Irigoin, County Attorney, Dawson County
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

08:53:42 Caitlin Creighton, Assistant Attorneys General, Montana Department of Justice (DOJ)
08:56:10 Rep. Amy Regier

Client Feedback and Legal Perspectives on Record Expungement Process

08:56:35 Nate Holloway, Attorney, Holloway & Huling PLLC
09:06:21 David Maldonado, Attorney, Maldonado Law PLLC
09:27:14 Brett Irigoien, Dawson County

Public Comment

09:29:36 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Council Discussion / Questions

09:32:33 Dir. Koan Mercer
09:32:49 Nate Holloway, Holloway & Huling PLLC
09:34:42 David Maldonado, Maldonado Law PLLC
09:37:12 Council Member Jessica Flint
09:37:29 David Maldonado, Maldonado Law PLLC
09:39:44 Council Member Shantelle Gaynor
09:40:48 Nate Holloway, Holloway & Huling PLLC
09:43:34 Caitlin Creighton, DOJ
09:44:59 Brett Irigoien, Dawson County
09:48:39 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
09:49:32 Brett Irigoien, Dawson County
09:52:01 Nate Holloway, Holloway & Huling PLLC
09:54:03 Caitlin Creighton, DOJ
09:56:09 Meghan Peel, DPHHS
09:57:57 David Maldonado, Maldonado Law PLLC

10:07:20 **Recessed**
10:20:38 **Reconvened**

VICTIM SERVICES

Input from Child Advocacy Centers (CAC)

10:20:39 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
10:22:27 Brenda George, Director, Children's Alliance of Montana (CAM)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
10:33:39 Tricia Loving, Coordinator, Yellowstone Valley CAC, Riverstone Health (See Exhibit 3)

10:41:55 Sue Parker, Program Finance CAC Director, Fort Peck Tribes' CAC (See Exhibit 3)
10:55:33 Kent Sipe, County Attorney, Fergus County & Central Montana CAC
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Public Comment

- 11:12:29 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana County Attorney's Association (MCCA) & Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)
- 11:14:58 Beth Brenneman, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV)
- 11:16:52 Joliene Bush
- 11:17:37 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
- 11:18:08 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Council Discussion / Questions

- 11:21:24 Meghan Peel, DPHHS
- 11:22:10 Brenda George, CAM
- 11:22:18 Tricia Loving, Riverstone Health
- 11:23:43 Council Member Shantelle Gaynor
- 11:24:31 Kent Sipe, Central Montana CAC
- 11:25:23 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
- 11:25:32 Brenda George, CAM
- 11:28:37 Council Member Jessica Flint
- 11:28:56 Kent Sipe, Central Montana CAC
- 11:30:19 Brenda George, CAM
- 11:31:11 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
- 11:31:37 Dir. Koan Mercer
- 11:31:57 Kent Sipe, Central Montana CAC
- 11:33:43 Presiding Officer Barry Usher

- 11:35:39 **Recessed**
- 14:44:59 **Reconvened**

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER TOUR

- 14:45:01 Presiding Officer Barry Usher

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (COR)

Update on Projects at Women's Facilities

- 14:46:02 Eric Strauss, Director, COR
- 14:46:56 Jamie Rodgers, Bureau Chief, Victim Services Bureau, COR
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

Public Comment

- 14:57:48 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Council Discussion / Questions

- 15:01:47 Council Member David Armstrong
- 15:02:05 Jamie Rodgers, COR

15:03:04 Council Member Shantelle Gaynor
15:03:49 Jamie Rodgers, COR
15:06:22 Presiding Officer Barry Usher

COUNCIL LEGISLATION

Provisional Draft 1 (CJOC-PD1) – Repeal Sunset Date on the Crime Victims Compensation Account

15:06:39 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
15:06:51 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Motion

15:08:43 Dir. Eric Strauss moved to adopt Provisional Draft 1 as a council bill and be brought forth to the 2027 Legislative Session.

Discussion on the Motion

15:09:04 Council Member Alan Doane
15:09:34 Rep. SJ Howell
15:10:53 Presiding Officer Barry Usher

Vote

15:11:29 Carried unanimously by voice vote. Vice Presiding Officer Luke Berger, Sen. Laura Smith, Dir. Charlie Brereton, Sheriff Brandon Kelm, Council Member Scott Twito, Council Member Eldena Bear Don't Walk, and Council Member Amy Tenney by proxy.

Provisional Draft 2.2 (CJOC-PD2.2) – Revise the Definition of Sick Leave to Include Preventative Medical or Mental Health Care

15:12:59 Laura Sherley, LSD
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Council Discussion / Questions

15:14:56 Rep. Amy Regier
15:15:57 Council Member Shantelle Gaynor
15:17:03 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
15:17:58 Dir. Koan Mercer
15:18:29 Rep. SJ Howell
15:19:17 Presiding Officer Barry Usher

Provisional Draft 3 (CJOC-PD3) – Revise Laws Related to Partner or Family Member Assault

15:19:46 Laura Sherley, LSD
15:19:54 Abbie J.N. Cziok, Legal Staff, LSD
[EXHIBIT 10](#)
[EXHIBIT 11](#)
15:22:39 Presiding Officer Barry Usher

15:23:01 Benjamin Halverson, Domestic Violence Prosecutor, City of Billings
15:28:00 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana County Attorney's Association

Public Comment

15:29:29 Kelsen Young, Executive Director, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV)
15:32:32 May Simmons, Lake County Resident
15:35:21 Josh Butterfly

Council Discussion / Questions

15:37:54 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
15:38:29 Council Member Alan Doane

Motion

15:39:22 Council Member Alan Doane moved to have the council not take further action on Provisional Draft 3 until the whole council has had an opportunity to review the draft language.

Discussion on the Motion

15:39:48 Rep. SJ Howell
(See Exhibit 11)
15:40:50 Benjamin Halverson, City of Billings
15:43:24 Dir. Koan Mercer
15:43:36 Benjamin Halverson, City of Billings
15:44:50 Council Member Shantelle Gaynor
15:45:09 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
15:45:22 Rep. Amy Regier

Vote

15:45:44 Carried unanimously by voice vote. Vice Presiding Officer Luke Berger, Sen. Laura Smith, Dir. Charlie Brereton, Sheriff Brandon Kelm, Council Member Scott Twito, Council Member Eldena Bear Don't Walk, and Council Member Amy Tenney by proxy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC UNDER CJOC JURISDICTION

15:46:48 Valynda Holland, Senate District 11 Candidate
15:49:47 Barbara Calahan, Helena Resident
[EXHIBIT 12](#)
15:54:37 Joliene Bush
15:59:31 Tanner Jones
16:00:37 Lacey Lane, Great Falls Resident
16:02:21 Randy Knox
16:05:48 Cindy Cooney
16:09:52 Delsa Piedalue
16:14:10 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

16:18:32 Josh Butterfly
16:19:53 Michaela Miesmer

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

16:22:02 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
16:22:12 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
16:23:27 Dir. Eric Strauss
16:23:46 Rep. SJ Howell
16:24:48 Council Member Shantelle Gaynor
16:25:03 Laura Sherley, LSD
[EXHIBIT 13](#)
16:26:14 Dir. Koan Mercer
(See Exhibit 5)
16:26:28 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
16:26:58 Rep. SJ Howell
16:29:00 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
16:30:19 Abbie J.N. Cziok, Legal Staff, LSD
16:30:29 Laura Sherley, LSD
16:30:42 Dir. Koan Mercer
16:31:14 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
16:32:31 Council Member Jimmy Patelis
16:33:42 Meghan Peel, DPHHS
16:34:00 Rep. Amy Regier left the meeting.
16:34:28 Council Member Shantelle Gaynor
16:35:31 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
16:35:52 Dir. Eric Strauss
16:36:42 Laura Sherley, LSD
16:37:09 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
16:37:56 Dir. Koan Mercer
16:38:02 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
16:38:16 Meghan Peel, DPHHS
16:39:06 Council Member Shantelle Gaynor
16:39:54 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
16:40:09 Abbie J.N. Cziok, LSD

MEETING WRAP-UP

16:40:17 Presiding Officer Barry Usher
16:41:37 Council Member Shantelle Gaynor

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:41:46