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

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE
69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS	HOUSE MEMBERS	COMMITTEE STAFF
John Esp	Melody Cunningham	Milly Allen – Lead Staff
Dennis Lenz	Jodee Etchart - Chair	Maddie Krezowski – Legal Staff
Cora Neumann	SJ Howell - Vice Chair	Emily McKay – Legal Staff
Mike Yakawich	George Nikolakakos	Jolanda Songer – Research Assistant
	Melissa Nikolakakos	

MINUTES LOG – DAY 1

July 08, 2026
Room 152 & 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:

Rep. Jodee Etchart, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. SJ Howell, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Sen. Mike Yakawich (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Melody Cunningham (D)
Sen. Cora Neumann (D)
Rep. George Nikolakakos (R)
Rep. Melissa Nikolakakos (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Milly Allen, Lead Staff
Emily McKay, Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer, Research Assistant

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

AGENDA (Attachment 1)

VISITORS' LIST (Attachment 2)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

09:00:32 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UPDATES

09:02:20 Department Presentation: Updates

09:03:25 Kim Aiken, Deputy Director, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

EXHIBIT 1

Federal Change and Department Actions

09:08:35 Rebecca de Camara, Medicaid and Health Services Executive Director, DPHHS

09:09:21 Sen. John Esp joined the meeting.

09:21:04 Jessie Counts, Executive Director, Human Services Division, DPHHS

Medicaid Process Demonstration

09:41:37 Tori Von Bruening, System Tester, DPHHS

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:52:23 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

09:52:47 Jessie Counts, DPHHS

09:57:03 Sen. Cora Neumann

09:57:48 Kim Aiken, DPHHS

09:58:34 Jessie Counts, DPHHS

09:59:36 Rep. G. Nikolakakos

09:59:59 Jessie Counts, DPHHS

10:00:27 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

10:01:30 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

10:02:24 Jessie Counts, DPHHS

10:05:23 Sen. John Esp

10:06:00 Rebecca de Camara, DPHHS

10:09:00 Sen. Cora Neumann

10:09:41 Jessie Counts, DPHHS

Public Comment

10:13:47 Heather Reel, Missoula

EXHIBIT 2

10:17:21 Cassie Wick, Public Policy & Grass Roots Advocacy Coordinator, Ability Montana

10:19:25 Colleen Rahn, Education Director, NAMI Montana
EXHIBIT 3

10:22:32 Andria Schafer, Policy Analyst, Montana Budget and Policy Center
EXHIBIT 4

10:24:39 Christa Gabriel, Director of Public Policy, Disability Rights Montana

10:26:26 Jennifer Hensley, Montana Speech Hearing Association, Montana Occupational Therapist Association, Montana Academy of physicians Assistants, Ability Montana

10:28:53 Shyla Patera, Policy Peer Program Coordinator, North Central Independent Living

10:32:19 Sierra Riesberg, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana

Rural Health Transformation Program Update

10:33:52 Michelle McNamee, Rural Health Transformation Program
(See Exhibit 1)

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:43:48 Sen. John Esp

Public Comment

10:46:53 Leigh Ann Downie-Economy, Director, Growing Roots Early Learning Center
EXHIBIT 5

10:47:19 Sarah Mitchell, Early Childhood Educator
EXHIBIT 6

10:48:54 Shyla Patera, Policy Peer Program Coordinator, North Central Independent Living

10:49:35 Tara Willamson, Step Inc., Billings

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:51:39 Presiding Officer SJ Howell

10:54:18 Jessie Counts, DPHHS

10:55:15 Sen. Mike Yakawich

10:55:45 Kim Aiken, DPHHS

10:56:07 Tracy Moseman, DPHHS

11:01:55 Sen. Cora Neumann

11:02:37 Kim Aiken, DPHHS

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LEGISLATION

Legislative Proposals

11:03:52 Kim Aiken, DPHHS

Human Services Practice
11:05:52 Jessie Counts, DPHHS

EXHIBIT 7

Committee Questions / Discussion
11:09:18 Sen. Dennis Lenz

Public Health and Safety Division
11:10:41 Dr. Douglas Harrinton, State Medical Officer, DPHHS

(See Exhibit 7)

Committee Questions / Discussion
11:13:56 Sen. Mike Yakawich

11:14:08 Dr. Douglas Harrington, DPHHS

Office of the Inspector General
11:14:42 Kim Aiken, DPHHS

Medicaid and Health Services Practice
11:23:18 Rebecca Decamara, DPHHS

11:23:29 (See Exhibit 7)

Committee Questions / Discussion
11:27:07 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

11:27:19 Rebecca de Camara, DPHHS

11:27:51 Sen. Mike Yakawich

11:28:21 Rebecca de Camara, DPHHS

11:30:59 Sen. Dennis Lenz

11:31:13 Rebecca de Camara, DPHHS

11:32:28 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart left the meeting.

11:32:29 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell assumed the Chair.

11:34:01 Sen. John Esp

11:34:15 Rebecca de Camara, DPHHS

Public Comment
11:34:50 Bob Mullen, Board Member, Central Service Area Authority

11:36:37 Colleen Rahn, Education Director, NAMI Montana

11:37:25 Tara Williamson, Billings

11:37:42 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart resumed the Chair.

Committee Questions / Discussion
11:40:53 Sen. Dennis Lenz

11:41:23 Sen. Cora Neumann left the meeting via Zoom.

11:41:48 Rebecca de Camara, DPHHS

11:43:14 **Recessed**
12:03:13 **Reconvened**

WRAPPING UP THE INTERIM
Review Checklist and Timeline for the Remainder of the Interim
12:03:53 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
12:04:15 EXHIBIT 8
12:06:00 EXHIBIT 9

Committee Questions / Discussion
12:07:14 Sen. Mike Yakawich
12:07:24 Milly Allen, LSD
12:08:09 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell
12:08:52 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
12:09:34 Sen. John Esp
12:10:32 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
12:10:56 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell
12:11:34 Milly Allen, LSD
12:12:47 Sen. John Esp

12:14:03 **Recessed**
13:35:19 **Reconvened**

SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT
16:07:58 Rep. G. Nikolakakos did not return after lunch.
13:35:48 Kevin Bragg, Bureau Chief, Professional Licensing, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
EXHIBIT 10
EXHIBIT 11
EXHIBIT 12
EXHIBIT 13

Committee Questions / Discussion
13:52:21 Sen. John Esp
13:52:27 Kevin Bragg, DLI
13:52:49 Sen. Mike Yakawich
13:53:09 Kevin Bragg, DLI
13:55:05 Erin Sullivan, Policy Analyst, DLI
13:55:48 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
13:56:02 Kevin Bragg, DLI

14:00:57 Sen. Dennis Lenz
14:02:24 Kevin Bragg, DLI
14:06:04 Sen. Mike Yakawich
14:06:46 Kevin Bragg, DLI
14:06:55 Sen. Dennis Lenz

Public Comment
14:08:29 Leanna Troesh, Master Social Worker and Licensed Addiction Counselor
EXHIBIT 14
14:14:19 Jean Ollis, Program Director, Master of Social Work Program, Carroll College
14:19:35 Nathan Stayley, Executive Director, Montana Chapter, National Association of Social Workers

Committee Questions / Discussion
14:22:39 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
14:22:57 Erin Sullivan, DLI

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPACT
14:23:51 Donnie Woodyard, Jr., Executive Director, Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice
EXHIBIT 15
EXHIBIT 16

Committee Questions / Discussion
14:37:42 Sen. Mike Yakawich
14:37:55 Donnie Woodyard, Jr., Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice

Public Comment
14:44:43 Don Whalen, President, Montana Ambulance Association
14:45:35 Kevin Bragg, Bureau Chief, Department of Labor and Industry
14:45:50 Amy Nerison, American Medical Response

Committee Questions / Discussion
14:46:52 Sen. Dennis Lenz
14:47:13 Donnie Woodyard, Jr., Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice
14:52:11 Sen. Dennis Lenz
14:52:56 Kevin Bragg, DLI
14:53:32 Sen. John Esp
14:54:11 Donnie Woodyard, Jr., Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice

14:58:19 **Recessed**
15:21:37 **Reconvened**

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

15:21:58 Stacy Campbell, Administrator, Public Health and Safety Division, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

15:22:53 Allysa Johnson, Trauma System Manager, Montana EMS and Trauma Systems Section, DPHHS

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:32:28 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

15:32:38 Alyssa Johnson, DPHHS

Public Comment

15:42:10 Margaret Morgan, Montana Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

EXHIBIT 17

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:48:42 Sen. Mike Yakawich

15:48:50 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

15:50:52 Alyssa Johnson, DPHHS

15:51:25 Sen. Dennis Lenz

Motion

15:52:46 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell moved to file a formal objection to MAR Notice No. 2025-847.

Discussion on the Motion

15:52:43 Sen. Dennis Lenz

15:52:49 Emily McKay, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Motion - Amended

15:52:59 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell amended the motion to an informal objection.

Vote

17:32:11 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:54:44 Emily McKay, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

EXHIBIT 18

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:57:07 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

15:57:33 Emily McKay, LSD

Public Comment

15:59:03 None

DAY TREATMENT RULES (ARM 37.106.1936): HISTORY OF ARM 37.106.1936 AND PROVISIONAL DRAFT LEGISLATION

History of ARM 37

16:01:57 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

16:02:05 EXHIBIT 19

16:02:17 Emily McKay, LSD

EXHIBIT 20

Review of Second Provisional Draft (AO 1.2)

16:10:07 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, LSD

EXHIBIT 21

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:13:54 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

16:15:20 Sen. John Esp

16:16:20 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

16:18:03 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

16:24:39 Milly Allen, LSD

16:25:32 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

16:25:44 Sen. Dennis Lenz

16:25:53 Sen. Mike Yakawich

16:28:14 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

Public Comment

16:29:12 Leanna Troesh, NRT Montana

16:32:56 Sierra Riesberg, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE THAT IS NOT ON THIS AGENDA

16:34:28 Sarah Mitchell, Early Childhood Educator, Helena, and Circletime Group Member

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:38:00 Sen. Mike Yakawich

16:39:30 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

PUBLIC COMMENT - Continued

16:40:03 Sen. Mike Yakawich on behalf of a constituent.

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:45:24 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

16:45:35 Sen. Mike Yakawich

16:45:45 Sen. John Esp

16:45:56 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

16:46:30 Sen. Mike Yakawich

PUBLIC COMMENT - Continued

16:47:29 Jason George, Executive Director, Montana Health Care Association (MHCA)

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:51:00 Sen. John Esp

16:51:09 Jason George, MHCA

16:53:43 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

16:55:17 Sen. John Esp

16:56:41 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

16:56:50 Sarah Mitchell, Sarah Mitchell, Early Childhood Educator and Circletime Group Member

PUBLIC COMMENT - Continued

17:02:17 Ivan Judson, Gallatin County

Committee Questions / Discussion

17:06:40 Sen. John Esp

17:06:49 Ivan Judson, Gallatin County

17:07:10 Sen. Mike Yakawich

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:07:35