

Hess, Sara

From: Regier, Amy
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 9:41 PM
To: Hess, Sara
Subject: Fw: BHDD Commission request to Law and Justice interim committee

From: Keenan, Bob <Bob.Keenan@legmt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:55 AM
To: Regier, Amy <Amy.Regier@legmt.gov>
Cc: Brereton, Charlie <Charles.Brereton@mt.gov>; Esp, John <John.Esp@legmt.gov>; Gerard, David <David.Gerard@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: BHDD Commission request to Law and Justice interim committee

From: Keenan, Bob
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 6:08 PM
To: Regier, Amy <Amy.Regier@legmt.gov>
Cc: Brereton, Charlie <Charles.Brereton@mt.gov>; Gerard, David <David.Gerard@mt.gov>; Esp, John <John.Esp@legmt.gov>
Subject: BHDD Commission request to Law and Justice interim committee (Corrected Copy)

Hello Amy,

I hope you are well.

As you know, I have been appointed as Chair of the Behavioral Health System for Future Generations Commission (BHSFG) Commission. Under H.B. 872, the Commission is charged with recommending how certain funds allocated to DPHHS through the behavioral health and developmental disabilities state special revenue fund are expended. The Commission will review and assess initiatives, anticipated outcomes, including performance measures, and recommend expenditures to the Governor.

Initial discussions with stakeholders confirm the complexity of the State Behavioral Health System. The commission continues to hear from the public and legal, clinical, and psychiatric professionals, as well as representatives of law enforcement, the judiciary, and local governments who all play a role in Montana's current behavioral health system. It has become apparent that the current statutory structure requires careful navigation by a significant number of state and private-sphere actors and is generally not well understood. It is also evident that the shortcomings in our current system cannot be understood or resolved solely by viewing them through a fiscal lens.

To understand the design needs for Montana's BHSFG, more study and/or legislative action is required. Therefore, I would like to formally ***request that the Law and Justice Interim Committee undertake a review of Montana's civil and forensic commitment systems, especially as it relates to the associated statutory framework.*** Please let me know your thoughts on how we can collaborate with your committee.

If you would like additional information and/or discussion, please let me know. I would be happy to discuss further, whether individually or with members of the Commission.

Sincerely,
Bob

Representative Bob Keenan
Chair, Behavioral Health System for Future Generations Commission

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