



TRANSITION REVIEW COMMITTEE 69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Dennis Lenz
Christopher Pope

HOUSE MEMBERS

Mary Caferro
Jennifer Carlson

PUBLIC MEMBERS

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

COMMITTEE STAFF

Milly Allen - Research Analyst
Julia Hamilton - Fiscal Analyst
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

May 07, 2025
Capitol Room 137 & Zoom
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.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Jennifer Carlson, Presiding Officer (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Ann Geiger, Public Member
Sara Hanson-Baiamonte, Public Member
Shawna Karjala, Public Member
Mike Lahr, Public Member
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Melanie Williams, Public Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Heather O'Hara, Public Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Reza Ghomi, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Milly Allen, Research Analyst

Julia Hamilton, Fiscal Analyst
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

AGENDA [\(Attachment 1\)](#)

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:32:34 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

08:33:30 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE WORK TO DATE

08:36:58 Milly Allen, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Committee Questions and Discussion

08:46:07 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

08:47:04 Mike Lahr, Attorney, Disability Rights Montana (DRM)

08:56:09 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

COMMUNITY FACILITIES UPDATE

08:58:37 Rose Hughes, Montana Health Care Association (MHCA)

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

09:14:10 Rep. Mary Caferro joined the meeting.

Public Comment

09:19:45 Dr. Kristina Kovacs, Clinical Psychologist and Chief Clinical Officer and Co-Founder, Behavioral Health Solutions (BHS)

Committee Questions and Discussion

09:28:20 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

09:29:29 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope

09:30:32 Rose Hughes

09:36:29 Rep. Mary Caferro

09:36:53 Dr. Kristina Kovacs, BHS

MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL AND RELATED STATE FACILITY UPDATES

09:45:06 Dr. Kevin Flanigan, Chief Executive Officer, Montana State Hospital (MSH)

[EXHIBIT 3](#) (Slides 3-5)

Committee Questions and Discussion

10:04:09 Mike Lahr, DRM

10:05:08 Dr. Kevin Flanigan, MSH

10:16:19 Rep. Mary Caferro

10:17:04	Dr. Kevin Flanigan
10:26:49	Ann Geiger, Executive Director, Liberty Place (LP)
10:28:09	Dr. Kevin Flanigan
10:33:04	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
10:33:43	Ann Geiger, LP
10:33:53	Sara Hansen-Baiamonte, Family Member/Guardian and Self-Advocate for Montana State Hospital Patients
10:34:35	Dr. Kevin Flanigan
10:42:13	Melanie Williams, Program Director, Montana Alzheimer's Association (MAA)
10:42:39	Dr. Kevin Flanigan
10:44:53	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
10:45:30	Dr. Kevin Flanigan
10:52:28	Chad Parker, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
10:54:18	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
10:54:45	Dr. Kevin Flanigan
10:55:22	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
10:56:47	Dr. Kevin Flanigan
10:56:51	Chad Parker, DPHHS
10:57:59	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
10:58:38	Chad Parker
10:59:42	Dr. Kevin Flanigan
11:01:08	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
11:04:03	Gene Hermanson, Chief Financial Officer, Medicaid, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
	(See Exhibit 3 – Slide 7)

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:10:11	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
11:11:39	Gene Hermanson, DPHHS
11:14:46	Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
11:16:51	Gene Hermanson
11:18:23	Dr. Kevin Flanigan
11:21:51	Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
11:24:38	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
11:25:09	Rep. Mary Caferro
11:25:24	Gene Hermanson
11:27:48	Dr. Kevin Flanigan
11:31:52	Rep. Mary Caferro
11:32:02	Chad Parker
11:33:06	Rep. Mary Caferro

11:33:52 Dr. Kevin Flanigan
11:38:53 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
11:39:33 Dr. Kevin Flanigan
11:40:07 Rep. Melody Cunningham
11:40:36 Dr. Kevin Flanigan
11:41:59 Gene Hermanson
11:42:14 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON COMMUNITY PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

11:43:23 Rebecca DeCamara, Executive Director, Medicaid and Health Services,
Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
11:43:49 Lindsey Carter, Administrator, Senior & Long-Term Care Division, Department of
Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
(See Exhibit 3 – Slides 12 – 18)

Committee Questions and Discussion

12:24:25 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

12:29:49 **Recessed**

13:46:23 **Reconvened**

DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON COMMUNITY PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES - Continued

13:46:52 Shawna Karjala, Medicaid Complex Care Coordinator, Department of Public
Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
(See Exhibit 3 – Slides 9 - 10)

Committee Questions and Discussion

13:50:45 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
13:51:08 Shawna Karjala, DPHHS

UPDATES FROM HOSPITALS AND OTHER FACILITIES

13:53:08 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

13:58:58 Rep. Mary Caferro joined the meeting.

Committee Questions and Discussion

14:01:01 Shawna Karjala
14:01:19 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
14:03:10 Melanie Williams, MAA
14:06:41 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
14:08:32 Melanie Williams
14:09:24 Ann Geiger

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE TRANSITION REVIEW
COMMITTEE**

14:11:36 None

WORK SESSION

14:12:16 Shawna Karjala
14:12:28 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:14:49 Rep. Mary Caferro
14:18:07 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:18:11 Mike Lahr
14:20:01 Rep. Melody Cunningham
14:20:59 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:21:07 Rep. Melody Cunningham
14:22:17 Sen. Dennis Lenz
14:22:26 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
14:24:14 Rep. Mary Caferro
14:25:05 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:25:07 Rep. Mary Caferro
14:25:22 Ann Geiger
14:25:48 Milly Allen
14:26:17 Rep. Mary Caferro
14:26:37 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:27:09 Julia Hamilton, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
14:28:10 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:28:35 Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
14:28:43 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:28:55 Sen. Dennis Lenz
14:29:20 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:30:04 Milly Allen
14:31:41 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:33:01 Rep. Mary Caferro
14:33:38 Shawna Karjala
14:35:20 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:36:59 Mike Lahr
14:39:33 Ann Geiger
14:40:31 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:40:57 Ann Geiger
14:41:16 Mike Lahr
14:43:06 Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:46:02 Sen. Dennis Lenz
14:46:53 Mike Lahr

14:50:39	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:52:15	Shawna Karjala
14:53:09	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:54:05	Mike Lahr
14:56:26	Shawna Karjala
14:57:21	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:57:28	Shawna Karjala
14:57:39	Mike Lahr
14:58:11	Shawna Karjala
14:58:58	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
14:59:16	Shawna Karjala
14:59:42	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
15:01:15	Vice Presiding Officer Christopher Pope
15:03:19	Presiding Officer Jennifer Carlson
15:03:47	Rep. Mary Caferro

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:05:18