



Brian Schweitzer
Governor

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

Chief Public Defender
Randi Hood

Discussion on the PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEES of The Montana Public Defender Commission

Budget Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major budget and accounting issues, including budget requests from the agency and others for the executive planning process and hears public testimony about these requests. The committee makes recommendations to the full Commission on the adoption of budget items. The committee also hears updates from staff on current year budget to actual activity and accounting and audit issues. Members may be asked to participate in budget discussions with the Office of Budget and Program Planning and the Legislature.

Information Technology Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major information technology issues. The committee hears public testimony.

Personnel Committee

The only past activity of this committee was to be involved in the hiring process for the Chief Public Defender.

Legislative Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major legislative issues and is involved in the production of new legislation or changes to existing legislation that affects the agency. The committee hears public testimony on any legislative matter.

Contracts Process Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major contractor-related issues, including current rates for services and information related to possible adjustments to these rates and about other contractor issues. The committee also considers requests from contractors for reconsideration of claims or preapprovals for services that have been denied because they are considered by agency personnel to be outside of the scope of the agency's legislative authority for payment or approval.

Collective Bargaining Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major collective bargaining issues and hears public testimony. Members of the Committee may also be involved in labor negotiations.

Grants Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about grant opportunities or filings and hears public testimony. This committee also offers suggestions about where to obtain grants.

Caseload Standards Committee

This committee receives briefings from staff about major caseload standard issues and hears public testimony.