



Brian Schweitzer
Governor

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

Chief Public Defender
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MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION BRIEFING

August 30, 2010 meeting

LEGISLATIVE/BUDGET MEETINGS AND TIMELINES

Law and Justice Interim Committee

- Future 2010 meeting dates: September 9-10.
- Met with Commission on December 17, 2009
- Met on April 5-6 and June 29-30 for panel discussions (Jon Moog – DNA) Also discussed DUI Courts
 - Met on September 28-29, 2009: Held panels for 3 issues:
 - Animal hoarding (Ed Sheehy)
 - DUI (Chris Petaja)
 - DNA (Jon Moog)
- Potential Legislation:
 - SJR 29 – Study retention of biological evidence in felony cases (DNA)
 - SJR 39 – Study DUI laws and enforcement
- Agency legislation due to the committee during the summer of 2010

Web site: http://leg.mt.gov/css/Committees/interim/2009_2010/Law_and_Justice/default.asp

Legislative Finance Committee

- Future 2010 meeting dates: October 7-8, and November 16.
- Performance reports on FTE and contractor evaluations provided to the March LFC
- LFD issued a report on the agency and discussed it at the March 5 and June 17 meetings. The reports are http://leg.mt.gov/css/Committees/Administration/Finance/2011_lfc_default.asp
Commissioner Hensley, Chair of the Budget Committee, attended the meetings. The agency also discussed its need for a transfer of funds from FY 2011 to FY 2010 – about \$600,000
- Agency must report on “net cases” “case durations” and “collection of fees” on 9/30/2010
- The agency reported on it process for “Qualification of Clients.”

Joint LFC and Law and Justice Subcommittee for Section D Agencies

- July 19 – met to discuss possible reduction for Section D agencies
- September 8 – second meeting

62nd Legislative Session and Budget Process

- Session begins January 2011 and usually progresses through April
- Governor’s budget due to legislature in November-December 2010
- Final budgets are due September 1, 2010 as presented to the Commission on 8/30/10
- Agency began the budget process in November 2009
- Agency’s draft budget items presented to the Commission on 12/8/09, 4/23/10, and 6/17/2010
- Budget reductions to the Commission’s budget were provided on 1/29/2010
- Agency alerted Budget Office of potential funding shortfall - May 2009 and January 2010
- Agency alerted Commission of its shortfall in July/October/December 2009 and February/April 2010