



Brian Schweitzer
Governor

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

Chief Public Defender
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MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION BRIEFING APRIL 23, 2010 MEETING

LEGISLATIVE/BUDGET MEETINGS AND TIMELINES

Law and Justice Interim Committee

- Future 2010 meeting dates: June 29-30, July 12, and September 3.
- Met with Commission on December 17, 2009
- Met on April 5 and 6 for panel discussions (Jon Moog – DNA) Also discussed DUI Courts
 - Met on September 28 and 29, 2009: Held panels for 3 issues:
 - Animal hoarding (Ed Sheehy)
 - DUI (Chris Petaja)
 - DNA (Jon Moog)
- Met on August 3, 2009 to discuss their work plan for the interim
- 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: June 14-15, 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 LFC meeting. The report is at http://leg.mt.gov/css/Committees/Administration/Finance/2011_lfc_default.asp Commissioner Hensley, Chair of the Budget Committee attended this meeting. The agency also discussed its need for a transfer of funds from FY 2011 to FY 2010 – about \$800,000
- Agency reported on “net cases” “case durations” and “collection of fees” before 1/1/10

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
- Agency final budgets sent to OBPP in late August 2010; draft due in May 2010
- Agency began the budget process in November 2009
- Agency’s draft budget items presented to the Commission on 12/8/09 and 4/23/10
- Budget reductions to the Commission’s budget were provided on 1/29/10
- Agency alerted Budget Office of potential funding shortfall - May 2009 and January 2010
- Agency alerted Commission of this shortfall in July, October, December 2009 and February 2010