



Brian Schweitzer
Governor

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

Chief Public Defender
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MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION BRIEFING
October 8, 2010 meeting

LEGISLATIVE/BUDGET MEETINGS AND TIMELINES

Law and Justice Interim Committee

- There are no future meeting dates for this interim
- At the September 10 meeting the Committee approved agency draft legislation
- The Committee met with the Commission on December 17, 2009
 - The Committee met during the interim and held panel discussions that included:
 - Animal hoarding (Ed Sheehy)
 - DUI (Chris Petaja)
 - DNA (Jon Moog)
 - Potential Legislation: Please refer to the Summary of Final Recommendations at: http://leg.mt.gov/css/Committees/interim/2009_2010/Law_and_Justice/default.asp

Legislative Finance Committee

- Future 2010 meeting dates: October 7 (set performance measures for next biennium) and October 8 (review joint committee report), and November 16 (final interim meeting).
- March 2010 meeting – agency met all performance standards
- LFD issued reports on the agency and discussed them at the March 5 and June 17 meetings. For copies of the reports please see http://leg.mt.gov/css/Committees/Administration/Finance/2011_lfc_default.asp
- The agency reported on net cases, case durations, and collection of fees on September 30, 2010
- The agency reported on its process for qualification of clients and on local ordinances

Joint LFC and Law and Justice Subcommittee for Section D Agencies

- July 19 – met to discuss possible reduction for Section D agencies – the agency offered legislation that would remove jail time for certain crimes
- September 8 – met to discuss 5% reduction plans for Section D member agencies

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 agency budget submitted September 1, 2010 as approved by the Commission on August 30, 2010. The Commission expects to set its priority items on October 8, 2010.
- The agency and Commission chair(s) to meet with OBPP on October 6
- Agency began the budget process in November 2009, in line with AU Report
- Agency's draft budget items presented to the Commission on December 8, 2009, April 23, 2010, and June 17, 2010
- Agency alerted Budget Office of potential biennium funding shortfall in May 2009 and January 2010
- Agency alerted Commission of its expected FY 2010 shortfall beginning in July 2009 and at every meeting thereafter