



OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION BRIEFING
October 31, 2014

LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATE INTERIM ACTIVITY

Law and Justice Interim Committee

- The committee approved all legislation submitted to them by OPD for drafting.
- Work plan for OPD: approve legislation, monitor operations, and review reports.
- Required reports: The Commission submits its annual report to the Governor, Supreme Court and Legislature ("Governor's Report") to this legislative committee during the interim. The fiscal 2014 report will be submitted to legislative staff for distribution to the entire 2015 legislature in December. A draft of the 2014 Governor's Report is included with the October 31 Commission meeting materials.

Legislative Finance Committee

- During the LFC's September 25 meeting, a legislator requested information related to capital case expenditures and dependent and neglect activity. The agency is preparing a response.
- The final meeting for this interim is scheduled for November 12.
- Work plan for OPD: Monitor agency expenditures against appropriations, review employee turnover, and hear updates on capital case expenditures.
- Required reports: In accordance with 47-1-201 (10) (a) and (b) the agency submitted the following required reports on September 30, 2014: Net case, case duration, and collection/assessment. The collection/assessment report stated that that agency could only provide summary reporting as detailed information was no longer available. This may be a legislative audit issue as the statute requires detailed reporting. These reports are included in the draft Governor's Report.

64th Legislative Session and Budget Process (working backwards in time)

- The session begins January 5, 2015 and usually progresses through April.
- The Governor is expected to release his budget to the legislature on November 15, 2014.
- Commission/agency personnel are expected to meet with the Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) before the budget is released.
- The final Commission-approved budget was submitted to OBPP on May 12, 2014 and was updated based on an attorney pay survey on October 3, 2014. A copy of the updated budget submission and the letter to the budget director are included with the meeting materials under Item 6.