



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

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Director
AMY CARLSON

DATE: December 1, 2011

TO: Legislative Finance Committee

FROM: Lois Steinbeck
Senior Analyst

RE: Department of Public Health and Human Services – Comments on Interim Work Items

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) provided comments on the drafts of interim work items prepared for Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) review at the December 2011 meeting. Nearly all of the suggestions provided by the department were included in the final draft of the work plan writeups.

Several of the comments and commitments made by DPHHS could not be incorporated within the format of the work plan documents, but may be important for LFC consideration. Those comments are excerpted and quoted below.

“Department of Public Health and Human Services Budget Status Report

- Under the section **Issue Statement:**
 - As this section states, the department issues monthly Budget Status Reports from November 15 through fiscal year-end, and includes projections of Medicaid expenses. The department is converting the report methodology to a newer, more effective technology that will enhance the reporting process. The department will continue to provide the reports in the current format that is mutually agreed between the department and the Legislative Finance Committee, as required by 53-6-110 (4), MCA, until there is mutual agreement on a new format.
- Under the section **History and Purpose of Program or Item:**
 - The department strives to provide meaningful information to the LFC, as previously agreed between the bodies. If the LFC doesn't find the current information useful, the department is open to ideas for change the reports.
- Management level detail is used by the department to manage divisions and programs. We recognize the legislature has a different need for information than the executive, and we will consult with the LFC on legislative needs.
- Under the section **Current Status:**
 - The department will take the subcommittee's suggestions into consideration as we update the report technology and scope.
 - We will look forward to a discussion with the LFC about potential changes in format as we move forward.”