



Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY

September 2, 2025

Governor Greg Gianforte
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Creation of MT Medical Assistance Advisory Council

Dear Governor Gianforte,

In accordance with Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-122, as Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry I request your approval of the following agency-created advisory council.

Name of Advisory Council

The name of the advisory council is the Montana Medical Assistance Program Advisory Council. The council will be supported and staffed by the Department of Labor & Industry.

Purpose of Advisory Council

The purpose of the MT Medical Assistance Program Advisory Council is to review and provide options to reform the existing medical recovery program. The Council's goals are to:

- review the general structure of the medical recovery program in the state, including data on the prevalence of mental health and substance use conditions among licensed health care professionals;
- examine the effectiveness of the medical recovery program, including but not limited to, overall trends in enrollment, completion rates, non-completion rates, program design, eligibility criteria, application requirements, wait times for admissions, program duration, conditions of participation, penalties for noncompliance, privacy and confidentiality protections, and return-to-work restrictions;
- identify best practices in voluntary versus mandatory programming or alternative-to-discipline rehabilitation programs that have been adopted in other states and any opportunities to modernize standards in the current program; and
- make recommendations to the department, to include contracting for services of the program, transition needs, audit findings, eligibility criteria for admission into the program, size, scope and design of the program, the level of staffing and other resources necessary to adequately operate the program, appropriate professions to include, and any other attributes necessary for operation of the program.

The MT Medical Assistance Program Advisory Council is created solely for the purpose of acting in an advisory capacity to the department as described in Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-102(1) and will not administer a program or function or set policy.



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Composition of Council

The MT Medical Assistance Program Advisory Council shall consist of no more than 9 individuals, including:

- the board chair or designee of each of the following boards:
 - Board of Chiropractors
 - Board of Dentistry
 - Board of Medical Examiners
 - Board of Nursing
 - Board of Pharmacy
 - Board of Veterinary Medicine;
- one member or staff designee of:
 - the Montana Hospital Association;
 - the Montana Medical Association; and
- the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry or her designee.

Council members are appointed by the Commissioner and serve at the Commissioner's pleasure. The Commissioner designates the presiding officer, and any other officers consider appropriate, who serve Commissioner's discretion.

Council Duration

The council will expire on January 1, 2027, unless rescinded or renewed by the Commissioner.

Reimbursement

Eligible council members shall be reimbursed for travel and related expenses pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-122(5). Council members shall not receive any other compensation, except that board members or their designees are entitled to daily compensation under Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-122(5)(a).

For further information, contact [Kevin Bragg, kevin.bragg@mt.gov, 406.841.2390].

Sincerely,

Sarah R. Swanson
Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry

cc: Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Kristen.Juras@mt.gov
Hannah Slusser, Boards and Appointments Advisor, Hannah.Slusser@mt.gov