



Licensing Reform Task Force

AGENDA

June 8, 2026

10:30 a.m.

In-Person & Via Teleconference

City College
3803 Central Ave., Billings, MT

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 814 0841 7046
Passcode: 822321

All times are approximate. Some agenda items may take more or less time than allotted.

Rocky Vista University - Tour

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| 8:30 a.m. | Tour of Rocky Vista Campus
<i>*Limited to Task Force Members*</i> |
| 10:00 a.m. | <i>Break; Travel to City College</i> |

City College

- | | |
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| 10:30 a.m. | Healthcare Workforce Discussion
<i>Welcome & Introductions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah Swanson, Commissioner, DLI; Chair• Vern Gagnon, Dean, City College |
| 10:40 a.m. | <i>Employer Reality: healthcare workforce challenges</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Adam Smith, Billings Clinic - Logan Health• Nick Malisani, Benefis Health System• Peter Christ, St. Johns United• Leighann Knight, AWARE, Inc.• Mike Chavers, Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch• Charlie Wellenstein, Youth Homes |
| 11:15 a.m. | <i>406 Jobs: the umbrella workforce framework; Apprenticeships, education pathways, and licensing-adjacent barriers</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jennifer Owen, Policy & Public Affairs, DLI |

11:55 a.m.	<i>Billing & Reimbursement: the practical test</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gene Hermanson, DPHHS • Mary Lemieux, DPHHS • Frank Cote, Blue Cross Blue Shield 	
12:30 p.m.	BREAK / BEGIN WORKING LUNCH	
12:45 p.m.	<i>Telemedicine & telehealth reimbursement</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gene Hermanson, DPHHS • Mary Lemieux, DPHHS • Frank Cote, Blue Cross Blue Shield 	
1:15 p.m.	<i>Healthcare Education: pipeline & statewide replication</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine Simonson, Billings Public Schools • Vern Gagnon, City College • Dr. Thomas Miller, Touro • Dr. Angela Jukkala, University of Providence • Dr. Benjamin Wilde, Rocky Vista University • Dr. Bob Wilmouth, Rocky Mountain College 	
2:00 p.m.	BREAK	
2:30 p.m.	General Session	
	<i>Welcome & Introductions</i>	Commissioner Sarah Swanson <i>Chair</i>
2:40 p.m.	<i>Review of Healthcare Workforce Session</i>	Commissioner Sarah Swanson <i>Chair</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Task Force Discussion</i> 	
	<i>Subcommittee Reports:</i>	
3:00 p.m.	<i>Barriers Subcommittee</i>	Rep. Josh Seckinger; Dir. Eric Strauss <i>Co-Chairs</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review Subcommittee Work</i> • <i>Public Comment</i> • <i>Task Force Discussion</i> 	
3:15 p.m.	<i>Construction Subcommittee</i>	Sen. Derek Harvey; Bob Dean <i>Co-Chairs</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review Subcommittee Work</i> • <i>Public Comment</i> • <i>Task Force Discussion</i> 	
3:30 p.m.	<i>Healthcare Subcommittee</i>	Rep. Jodee Etchart; Tony King <i>Co-Chairs</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review Subcommittee Work</i> • <i>Public Comment</i> • <i>Task Force Discussion</i> 	

3:45 p.m.	<i>Sunset Subcommittee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Review Subcommittee Work</i>• <i>Public Comment</i>• <i>Task Force Discussion</i>	Sen. Daniel Zolnikov; Allen Lloyd <i>Co-Chairs</i>
4:00 p.m.	<i>Additional Member Topics</i>	Commissioner Sarah Swanson, <i>Chair</i>
4:20 p.m.	<i>Instructions to Staff for Next Meeting</i> <i>Final Full Task Force Meeting:</i> August 21, 2026, Butte, MT	
4:30 p.m.	<i>Public Comment</i> <p>The task force now offers the public in attendance an opportunity to comment on any public matter under the jurisdiction of the task force that is not on the current agenda. The task force cannot act but will listen to comments and may ask staff to place the issue on a future agenda. The Chair may limit the comment period to proceed with the task force meeting.</p> <p>Public commenters should state their first and last name when offering comments.</p>	

NOTICE

For disability accommodations, or help accessing the meeting, please call (406) 841-2209.

The agenda may be changed up to 48 hours before the meeting. The most current agenda can be found at [Licensing Task Force Website](#).