

**Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery
by the Department of Health and Human Services**

Resolve 2023, chapter 98

Wednesday, May 29, 10:00am

Room 209 (Health and Human Services Committee room)

Cross State Office Building, Augusta ME

AGENDA

- Welcome, *Chairs Senator Duson and Representative Craven*
- Commission member introductions
- Recap of last interim meetings and resolve; agenda; materials distributed (staff)
- Budget initiatives related to child welfare enacted in 2024 supplemental budget (staff)
- Recap of LD 779 (separate department) and 1788 (Office of Inspector General for child welfare) from last session in the HHS committee (staff)
- Office of Program Evaluation and Governmental Accountability Presentation
Peter Schleck, Director
 - Information Brief--Oversight of Maine's Child Protective Services (OPEGA)
 - Frontline Perspectives in Child Protection as Catalysts for Reform (GOC report)
- Department of Health and Human Services Presentations
 - Case study: “Family involved in the child welfare system engaging in reunification activities after children (>1 child) have been removed from the home. Children are placed in two different kinship settings and have concerns about the safety of the children if the family is reunified.” Where do families involved in the child welfare system, foster families, individuals (children and parents) go for services across DHHS? How do the bridges work between offices within DHHS, individuals and courts? What are the options for review of actions taken in child welfare cases (who can people complain to; what does quality assurance look like)?
 - Update on DHHS child welfare initiatives
- Child Welfare Ombudsman Presentation and response to questions
Christine Alberi
- Commission discussions on child welfare
- Next steps

Future meeting dates: June 12, July 10, September 17, October 9, October 30.