

**Organizational Meeting of Governor-elect Gianforte's COVID-19 Task Force**

Written Minutes  
November 24, 2020

**10:00** Meeting called to order by Kris Hansen

**10:01** Roll Call read by Kris Hansen

**10:03** Invocation by Father Patrick Beretta

**10:05** Opening remarks by Governor-elect Greg Gianforte

**10:08** Self-introductions by COVID-19 Task Force Members

1. Patrick Beretta: *Parish priest at St. Patrick + Immaculate Conception churches*
2. Jesse Slaughter: *Cascade County Sheriff*
3. Austin Knudsen: *Attorney General-elect*
4. Brenda Connelly: *COO of The Springs Living*
5. Brian Rigby: *President of Iron Workers Local No. 732*
6. Carley Robertson: *Primary Care Physician and Vice president of the MMA*
7. Cherie Taylor: *CEO of Northern Rockies Medical Center*
8. Dan Schmidt: *Superintendent of Poplar Schools*
9. Christi Jacobsen: *Secretary of State-elect*
10. Dax Cetraro: *Owner of Village Inn Pizza, Grand Plaza Casino, Rialto Bar*
11. Don Beeman: *Member of the Bozeman Health Board of Directors*
12. Greg Chilcott: *Ravalli County Commissioner*
13. Gwyn Palchak: *President of District 7 Nurses Association of MNA*
14. Hannah Nieskins: *Superintendent of Whitehall*
15. Heidi Duncan: *Medical Director at the Billings Clinic*
16. Kaci Walette: *Ft. Peck Tribal Executive Board member and nurse*
17. Karen Sullivan: *Butte-Silver Bow Public Health Officer*
18. Elsie Arntzen: *Superintendent of Public Instruction*
  - Introduced by Kris Hansen due to audio difficulties
19. Kurt Alme: *U.S. Attorney for Montana*
20. Liz Moore: *Executive Director of the Montana Nonprofit Association*
21. Adj. Gen. Matthew Quinn: *Commander of the Montana National Guard*
22. Randy Swenson: *Owner of TenderNest Assisted Living*
23. Rick Norby: *President Montana League of Cities & Towns, Mayor of Sidney*
24. Scott Malloy: *Program Director at Montana Healthcare Foundation*
25. Steve Wahrlich: *Owner of Best Western Plus Clocktower & Stella's Kitchen*
26. Todd O'Hair: *President and CEO of the Montana Chamber of Commerce*
27. Troy Downing: *Auditor-elect*
28. Daniel Bierschwale: *Executive Director of Big Sky Resort Area District*

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- 10:33** Hansen introduces work plan for the Task Force. Hansen asks Task Force members to give detailed responses to previously-emailed written questions. Responses due 5:00PM Monday, Hansen will compile responses, identify subject matter areas to focus on, create focus groups. Breakout meetings of focus groups will be hosted the week of 12/1-12/9. Hansen will take that feedback, develop draft plan, reconvene group(s) as necessary
- 10:38** Hansen opens the meeting up to questions about logistics and work plan
- 10:40** Kurt Alme asks questions about breakout groups—can outside experts be asked to provide additional data and information? Hansen will make requests of entities that may have information
- 10:41** Don Beeman asks question on how COVID data is displayed. Hansen says data compilation and display will be discussed during focus group breakout sessions
- 10:44** Father Beretta asks question on whether focus groups will be determined prior to receiving answers to emailed questions
- 10:45** Dan Bierschwale introduces self, announces surveillance testing program in Big Sky. Asks whether anything this group should review from existing sources? Hansen answers that she has begun that process, including information from the Bullock administration and vaccine distribution plan as it becomes available, and will provide info about that background material to the subgroups
- 10:47** Cherie Taylor asks question on whether Kris has access to “Juvare” health care data. Hansen answers no, but has been working with Gen. Quinn who may have access
- 10:48** Karen Sullivan comments on how public health officials make decisions, such as restrictions — decisions aren’t made in a vacuum; listens to community, schools, and economic interests. Sullivan asks question on how breakout groups will combine their efforts. Hansen answers that she intends for the group to review the entire comprehensive plan created by focus group—plan will not be siloed, will be cohesive
- 10:51** Todd O’Hair asks procedural question—how does Hansen feel about substitutes for Task Force members? Hansen answers that yes, a representative from your entity can stand in if there is a scheduling conflict
- 10:52** Liz Moore asks question on sources of data for mental health, isolated seniors, domestic violence? Hansen answers will rely on Moore’s and others’ expertise to identify and use those data sources

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**10:53** Dan Bierschwale asks question on timeframe, evolving scope of work. Hansen says can't make conclusive statements on that at this point, will need to discuss with Gov-elect and his team

**10:55** Hansen notes there are comments in the Zoom chat box. Hansen and staff will look at those comments and respond after the meeting

**10:55** Hansen notes Tony Ward and Pamela Cutler also present

**10:56** Hansen thanks the group

**10:56** Governor-elect Gianforte thanks the group and encourages them to put their energy into developing a good plan

**10:56** Hansen adjourns meeting

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