



Guidelines Review and Oversight Committee (GROC)

2026 February 12, 10:00 AM – Meeting Minutes

I Opening Business and Participants List

A The meeting was called to order by Kim Watne, GROC Project manager, at 10:00 AM.

Members Attending	Division	Role, Title or County	Location
Atkinson, Jade	CSSD	Compliance Manager	Helena
Christensen, Kelsey	CSSD	Investigator	Butte
Hayes, Ford	OAH	Office of Administrative Hearings Administrator	Missoula
Kay, Colleen	Parent	Member with Lived Experience	Missoula
Martin, Chad	CSSD	Investigator	Helena
Pappe, Kate	CSSD	Investigator Supervisor	Missoula
Watne, Kim	CSSD	Guideline Project Manager	Helena

Members Absent	Division	Role, Title or County	Location
Ensey, Miranda	CSSD	Investigator	Great Falls
Lord, Amy	Attorney	Family Law Attorney & UM Law School Professor	Missoula
Swan, Brittany	Director	Chippewa Cree Child Support Director	Box Elder
Timmer, Colleen	Master	Mineral, Missoula	Missoula

Additional Attendees	Division	Role, Title or County	Location
Delaney, Barb	CSSD	Bureau Chief, SPOT	Helena

II Agenda Review and Adoption of Minutes

A The Minutes of the November 13, 2025 meeting were adopted as circulated with no objections or additional comments.

III Unfinished Business

- A **Quadrennial Review Guideline Proposals update** The Decision Brief has not been finalized yet. This is the next step of the process, and the committee will be kept informed as progress is made.
- B **Public Outreach** The committee agreed to postpone public outreach planning until guideline updates are finalized. After that, it will organize CLE conference appearances or other educational options for guideline users, aiming for early in the calendar year to maximize legal field participation. The committee’s outreach will remain focused solely on child support guidelines and related topics, while CSSD will handle broader child support service outreach.



IV New Business

A Annual Guideline updates completed in SEARCHS and posted online.

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/cssd/PolicyManual/cs404-2.pdf>

Notable changes:

1. Mileage rates increased to .725/mile
2. Parents' personal allowance as well as the child's primary allowance increased.
3. Child Tax Credit increased to \$2200/c/y (up from \$2000), refundable amount still at \$1700

Tax updates and changes may result in less tax being paid, leaving more income for child support, resulting in higher orders in some instances.

B Minimum wage for Montana increased to \$10.85/hour

V Adjournment

A The meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM

B Next meeting scheduled for May 14, 2026 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM