

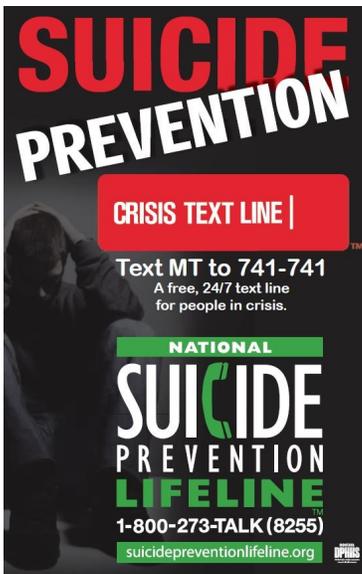


BULLETIN

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Executive Director's Message —

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Throughout the country, community agencies are collaborating to bring attention to the epidemic of suicide. Suicide is not identified with one community, gender, nationality or age — instead it is the second leading cause of death among young people, affects 22 veterans daily and has surpassed car accidents as the number one cause of injury-related death in the United States.



For the past 30 years, Montana has ranked in the top 5 for suicide rates in the nation, in all age groups. For all the statistics that can be gathered, however, the most important is that **suicide is preventable**. In 2000, Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Service began outreach to organizations to begin the development of a statewide suicide prevention plan. The result was the Montana Suicide Prevention Steering Committee which has outlined a strategic direction of prevention, intervention, postvention and coordination.

DPHHS's Addictive & Mental Disorders division has an extensive library online of information relating to suicide including: *Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools*; *Preventing Suicide by American Indians*; *Bullying and Suicide Prevention*; and *Talking to Children About Suicide* (dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/suicide).

MBCC will again offer Mental Health First Aid training at the 10th Annual Montana Crime Prevention Conference. Risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations and where to turn for help will be addressed. MHFA teaches about recovery and resiliency — the belief that individuals can and do get better, and use their strengths to stay well.

MBCC will also feature a special pre-conference session presented by Sgt. Kevin Briggs, Ret. of the California Highway Patrol. Known as the Guardian of the Golden Gate Bridge, Kevin will present two one-hour workshops entitled "***The Bridge Between Suicide and Life***" and "***Mental Illness Contacts, Vicarious Trauma, and Post Incident Mental Health.***" Read further for more information or register online at mbcc.mt.gov.

70%

Warning signs of suicide were available in over 70% of completed suicides

8.9%

Percentage of Montana high school students who attempted suicide 1 or more times in 2015

2x

Montana's rate of suicide is nearly double the national average



10TH ANNUAL MONTANA CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 4–6, 2016
BILLINGS RADISSON HOTEL

Pre-Conference Session

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

The Guardian of the Golden Gate

Sgt. Kevin Briggs, Ret.

California Highway Patrol

Pivotal Points: Crisis Management, Suicide Prevention, Leadership Skills



Registration now open!

The Bridge Between Suicide and Life

&

Mental Illness Contacts, Vicarious Trauma, and Post Incident Mental Health

Following the presentations, Kevin will be available for a question and answer session and book signing.

As an international Crisis Management, Suicide Prevention, and Leadership Skills presenter, Sergeant Kevin Briggs' story and lived experiences have been featured at the Technology, Entertainment, and Design 2014 Conference as a TEDTalk, Ciudad de Las Ideas (Mexico), Yahoo News, The New Yorker Magazine, Men's Health Magazine, NPR's Bob Edwards Radio Show, People Magazine, USA Today, as well as other magazines, newspapers, radio, and podcasts across the world. His first book, *Guardian of the Golden Gate: Protecting the Line Between Hope and Despair*, was released in July 2015.

Briggs is a retired California Highway Patrol officer who spent many years patrolling the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. While on patrol, he encountered numerous individuals clinging to life by a thread – individuals who had lost hope and could see no way out of their current situation - ready to jump off the bridge to what they assumed was a sudden death and ending of their pain and hopelessness.

Briggs, throughout his career, used his compassion, gentle voice, eye contact, and innate ability of “listening to understand” to encourage more than 200 individuals to come back on solid ground from standing precariously out on the chord of the bridge, and to start a new chapter in their life. These challenging, but rewarding efforts earned him the nickname “Guardian of the Golden Gate Bridge.” After a 23-year career with the California Highway Patrol, Briggs retired and now dedicates his life to promote mental health awareness around the world through an organization he founded. Pivotal Points advocates for Crisis Management, Suicide Prevention, and Leadership Skills.

Briggs speaks publicly about not having the right kind of professional training to effectively assist persons in crisis when he first began work as a patrol officer. Throughout his career, he reached out to senior officers who had been in the trenches, asking for their guidance – how to approach an individual in crisis, what to say, what not to say, tone of voice, among many other things. He sought various professional training avenues including hostage negotiator training to continue to improve his skills and abilities. Over time and using all the things he learned, Briggs found a positive way to approach people in crisis, using listening skills he practiced to find the “thread” that would encourage individuals to find hope for tomorrow and allow them to make the decision to live for another day. He is a mental health consumer himself – Briggs suffers from depression related to his highway patrol officer and work leader experiences (including a motorcycle accident in which he was severely injured), as well as losing his grandfather to suicide, and other personal and family experiences.

Today, Briggs is mapping a movement as he speaks publicly about his suicide prevention and crisis encounters with people on the bridge. He shares his “Listening to Understand” skills followed up with key active listening points for anyone to use; his personal triad for healthy living; his RELEASE model to assist anyone in crisis; his crisis plan, and his personal mental health struggles while serving in the Army, as a police officer, as a cancer survivor, as a family member and father, and as a leader and co-worker.

Do the *Write* Thing Ambassadors Honored in Washington, DC



On April 30, MBCC celebrated the finalists of the 9th annual Do the *Write* Thing Challenge at ExplorationWorks in Helena. The Do the *Write* Thing Challenge is an initiative of the National Campaign to Stop Violence (NCSV) and is funded locally by the Youth Justice Council of the Montana Board of Crime Control. Malcolm Peterson from Dillon Middle School and Chloe Shields from Poplar Middle School were selected as the two national ambassadors to represent Montana during the National Recognition Week activities in Washington, DC July 23-27, 2016.

In July, NCSV and the Kuwait-America Foundation welcomed Do the *Write* Thing youth ambassadors from across the United States to Washington, DC. Youth ambassadors, their parents, and their teachers participated in youth violence prevention workshops, had dinner at the Kuwaiti Cultural Center, and visited their Congressional representatives on Capitol Hill.

One of Montana's ambassadors, Chloe Shields, was invited to read her essay at the Supreme Court. While at the Library of Congress, student ambassadors watched as a leather-bound copy of the 2016 book of student writings was placed in the Library of Congress. The National Recognition Ceremony took place in the Ronald Reagan Building, opening with the National Anthem sung by Master Sergeants Caleb B. Green III and Robert McDonald. CBS News Foreign Affairs Correspondent Margaret Brennan was the master of ceremonies, and entertainment was provided by actress Nia Long ("Third Watch"), singer Bryan Bautista ("The Voice"), and Harlem Globetrotters Zeus McClurkin and Ant Atkinson.



Chloe Shields from Poplar Middle School, reading her essay at the Supreme Court



Diana Peterson (mother, Malcolm Peterson), Malcolm Peterson (Dillon Middle School), Kathy Ruppert (MBCC), Morgan Norgaard (Poplar Middle School), Chloe Shields (Poplar Middle School), Randi Belton (mother, Chloe Shields), Julie Fisher (MBCC)

The Challenge is held annually by MBCC. You can find more about the Challenge by visiting <http://www.mbcc.mt.gov/JuvenileJustice/DtWT/DtWT.asp>. Questions? Contact Kathy Ruppert, at kruppert@mt.gov.

Registration Now Open



10TH ANNUAL MONTANA CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 4–6, 2016, BILLINGS RADISSON HOTEL

Pre-Conference Sessions

The Bridge Between Suicide and Life and Mental Illness Contacts, Vicarious Trauma, and Post Incident Mental Health (Afternoon Session)

Grant Writing 101 Workshop

CIT Montana (Morning Session)

Preventing of Crimes Against the Elderly

Mental Health First Aid

New this Year

Law Enforcement Only Sessions — sessions specifically designed for sworn officers

Mental and behavioral health theme for sessions

Networking reception

Recognition of 10 Years of Crime Prevention

Register online at <http://mbcc.mt.gov/Working-Together/Crime-Prevention-Conference>

Registration Fees

	Regular Registration (8/20 to 9/18)	Late Registration (9/19 to 9/26)
Pre-Conference Only (Tuesday, 10/4)	\$50	\$60
Conference Only (Wednesday, 10/5 & Thursday, 10/6)	\$135	\$145
Pre-Conference & Conference Combined (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, October 4-6)	\$160	\$170

Big Sky...Big Data



Categories are often used to group crimes together in a meaningful way. Traditionally, offenses are grouped into *index crimes* and *non-index crimes*.

Index crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft. Arson was also later added as an index crime to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), but is not counted as an index crime in Montana. Index crimes were chosen because traditionally they are the offenses that are the highest in severity and would be most commonly reported to law

enforcement.

The seven index crimes can be further subcategorized into violent crimes and property crimes. The sum of the seven index crimes is the crime index. The crime index is used as a measure to gauge the level of crime in a particular geographic region.

In the Montana Incident-Based Reporting System (MTIBRS) and NIBRS, the list of reportable offenses was greatly expanded beyond the seven index crimes. This expanded list can be grouped into two different categories: Group A offenses and Group B offenses.

Group A offenses includes 23 crime categories collected in MTIBRS:

Arson	Gambling	Stolen Property Offenses
Assault	Homicide	Weapons Law Violations
Bribery	Human Trafficking	
Burglary	Kidnapping	
Counterfeiting/Forgery	Larceny/Theft	
Criminal Mischief/Vandalism	Motor Vehicle Theft	
Drug Offenses	Non-Forcible Sex Offense	
Embezzlement	Obscenity/Pornography	
Extortion/Blackmail	Prostitution	
Forcible Sex Offense	Robbery	
Fraud		

Group B offenses include the following crime categories collected in MTIBRS:

Bad Checks	Non-violent Family Offenses
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	Peeping Tom
Disorderly conduct	Trespassing
Driving under the influence	All Other Offenses
Liquor Law Violations	

An arrest needs to be included with incidents reporting only Group B Offenses.

Both Group A and Group B offenses can be further subcategorized according to Montana Code Annotated law codes. The complete list of the Group A & B offenses is available on our reportable [Offense Code list](http://mbcc.mt.gov/Portals/130/Data/012215MTIBRSOffCodeList.pdf) (<http://mbcc.mt.gov/Portals/130/Data/012215MTIBRSOffCodeList.pdf>).

Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Contacts

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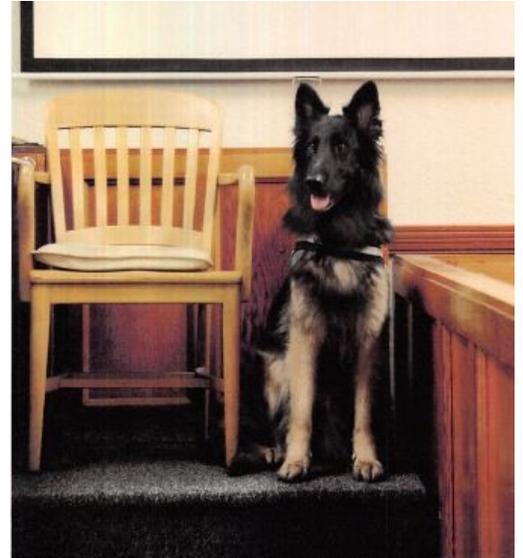
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Fall Program Highlight Recipient Named

Musselshell Golden Valley Victim Witness Assistance Program — Survivor Assistance Dog, Pyper

Montana Board of Crime Control recognizes annually those grant funded criminal justice programs and community-based programs that merit recognition for providing effective services to address public safety-related issues in their communities or statewide. The innovative programs are created to address and solve an issue facing the community. Oftentimes, the program model is adopted by other regions and states while at others, the program is unique to Montana. The Fall 2016 Recipient is Pyper, the Survivor Assistance Dog of the Musselshell Golden Valley Victim Witness Assistance Program.



The Musselshell Golden Valley Witness Assistance Program was created in 2007 to provide comfort to reduce a victim's anxiety, resulting in more accurate interviews, interaction with both prosecution and defense, and ease the stress for victims of violent crime as they prepare to testify and testify in court. The human-animal bond is strong and evidence of its power is being seen in medical and law enforcement offices throughout the country. Pyper's presence in the court room and with victims creates a more humane and efficient system that enables all to accomplish their work in a more positive and constructive manner. Since 2010, Pyper has attended over 25 forensic interviews with children, attended nine rape examinations with adult victims; attended 11 emergency medical treatments after victimization and has attended court hearings with 22 child victims in addition to logging hundreds of hours in the courtroom attending arraignments, change of plea hearings and sentencing hearing. Pyper is available to every agency throughout Montana and routinely travels to assist victims as they prepare to testify in court.

2016 Events



- * September 14 — Board of Directors Meeting, Helena
- * October 4-6 — 10th Annual Montana Crime Prevention Conference, Billings
- * December 8 — Board of Directors Meeting, Helena

Schedules change daily! Check out our website: www.mbcc.mt.gov