



BULLETIN

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Executive Director's Message

The Montana Board of Crime Control provides Building Blocks for Safer Communities. These essential tools include grant funding, data to drive decision making and innovative partnerships to meet local crime prevention and intervention needs. The fall and winter provided a great opportunity for our agency to meet with many stakeholders and refine a strategic direction for the coming biennium. Our Board of Directors adopted an aggressive plan and has committed their time and expertise to seeing the plan through to implementation.

Spring represents the start of grant application season for MBCC; Montana's state administering agency for federal grant funds. We are pleased to offer funding opportunities in the areas of victim's services, law enforcement, juvenile justice, criminal justice research and technology enhancements. Our staff works tirelessly to research and secure funding to meet the criminal justice, crime prevention and victim's service needs of Montana communities.

55%

Percentage of homicide victims in Montana in 2013-2014 that were 35 years of age or older.

940

Number of drug related arrests made in FY 2014.

8,343,974

Number of prescriptions in Montana Prescription Drug Registry since 2012

MBCC Board of Directors Winter Meeting

MBCC Board of Directors held its meeting on February 11 in Helena. The Board considered the recommendations of the Anti-Drug Committee, bureau reports, the Youth Justice Council report, update on Linking Systems of Care Project and the Victims Competitive RFP update. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 8 at the MBCC offices in Helena.

The meetings are open to the public and the agenda is made available online on our website.

MBCC Welcomes New Board Members

MBCC was pleased to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors: Michelle Aune of Bozeman and Tim Brurud of Havre.

Shellie has been employed with Mental Health America of Montana since 2009 and is certified in the Peer-to-Peer program. Shellie also serves as a member of the Youth Justice Council.

Tim has been the director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line for the past ten years. Tim has served on the Youth Justice Council for six years and was named Chair of the group this winter.

Join us in welcoming them to the MBCC family!

Special Events to Honor Victims Scheduled

Dillon

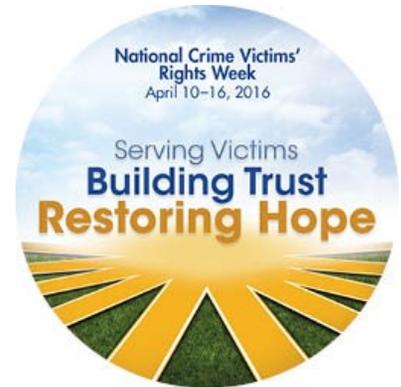
"Women's Resource/Community Support Center in Dillon is organizing a Walk-A-Mile event to be held on 04/12/16 @ 3:30 pm.

"We'll be closing off Atlantic St. and men will be clad in heels! We'll be kicking off the event with guest speakers, Jessica Lahr of MCADSV and Callie Kanthack of Rape Prevention Education Task Force @ UM-Western."

Alison Dunn, Executive Director

For more information, refer to their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/456136831254467/>



April is
Child Abuse
Prevention
Month

Wolf Point

Wolf Point Police Department, which houses the North East Montana Victim Witness Program is hosting a "Walk for our Children" in honor of Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month at 1:00 p.m. on 4/29/16. Call 406-650-2177 or 406-650-8365 for more information.

"The NE MT Victim Witness Program does a "Walk for our Children" and we gather up people from the community including County Commissioners, Tribal Council members, City Councils, Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, etc. to walk with the community in honor of Victims of Crime and Child Abuse Awareness. We do a T-shirt logo contest with the schools and the winning logo goes on the T-shirt that everyone wears. We typically order 100-150 T-shirts in varied sizes to hand out at the walk."

Tina Bets His Medicine, NE MT Victim Witness Program Coordinator

What are all these pinwheels about?!

You may have noticed blue pinwheels pop up during the month of April. Blue pinwheels symbolize what a happy healthy childhood should be. They are a reflection of hope, health, and safety — what we all desire for our children.

Anytime you see a pinwheel, the Montana Children's Trust Fund encourages you to reflect on how you play a role in your community to help strengthen families and keep kids safe. We encourage you to have a conversation with your child about what makes your family strong.

Get your kids involved in April activities! For fun activities you can do with your kids and to see what is going on in your community visit childrenstrust.mt.gov.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Montana Children's Trust Fund works to raise awareness of the many community resources and activities there are to help strengthen families and keep children safe.



BlueCross BlueShield
of Montana

Big Sky...Big Data

More and more decisions are made each day based on data. As our need for information grows, so does the mass of data surrounding us. Ensuring the reliability and accuracy of data becomes critical in making sound decisions to improve safety for all Montanans. The Montana Board of Crime Control began the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) in 1991 by an executive order from Governor Stan Stevens and to meet U.S. Department of Justice guidelines. What does this mean for Montana? Because Montana invested in our data systems early, we now have one of the most robust and accurate data sets in the country to measure trends in crime. While trends are not solutions, they are the first step in recognizing the hot button issues.

Implementation of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is occurring across the country at varying rates. The FBI has certified approximately 44 state-level programs for NIBRS participation. Only 15, including Montana, have been classified as a 100% NIBRS reporting state. Of the 106 local law enforcement agencies across the state, 101 report data to the Montana Incident-Based Reporting System (MTIBRS). This data is compiled and reported to NIBRS. NIBRS is based upon the concept that each crime, and all of its components, is viewed as an incident. Certain facts about the incident are then recorded and organized into segments. The segments that make up a typical incident include: 1) administrative; 2) offense; 3) property; 4) victim; 5) offender; and 6) arrestee.



MTIBRS is capable of producing more detailed, accurate, and meaningful crime data than produced by the uniform crime reporting summary method used in other states. When used to its fullest capability, MTIBRS gives law enforcement the ability to identify when and where crimes occur and the characteristics of those crimes. Characteristics regarding victims and offenders, and certain characteristics of the offense, such as the use of alcohol in the commission of a crime, are collected. Montana law enforcement has the capability to identify and combat criminal issues such as juvenile gangs, white collar crime, weapons offenses, drug/narcotic offenses, drug/alcohol involvement in the commission of a crime, domestic violence, and hate crimes.

The Montana SAC ensures local law enforcement data follows national definitions and standards. The MTIBRS Program Manager, Kathy Ruppert, makes sure the data is error free when it is submitted. Kathy works with agencies and their records management vendors to verify that data submitted monthly meets NIBRS standards and Montana laws. There is also a great deal of training and assistance with local agencies to be sure data is being reported as consistently as possible.

In the next Bulletin... **Big Sky...Big Data** will highlight other SAC efforts to help keep you in the know.

Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Contacts

Kathy Ruppert
MT IBRS Program Manager
kruppert@mt.gov w 406-444-2084

Kathy Wilkins
Statistician & SAC Director
kwilkins@mt.gov w 406-444-4298

Candy Kirby
Quality Assurance Reviewer
candyk@mt.gov w 406-444-3651

Join us at the RMS Vendor Fair — April 16-18 — Helena

The Montana Board of Crime Control is holding a Records Management Systems Vendor Fair at the Radisson Colonial Hotel in Helena on April 18-20, 2016. Vendors will demonstrate their products in an exhibition hall setting for all three days. Training classes geared towards MTIBRS reporting will be given by each vendor each day in a two hour time period (different times for each day). In addition to the vendor classes, Kathy Ruppert and Candy Kirby will present a two hour MTIBRS-scenario training each day and the Department of Justice personnel will do a two hour training class on network security issues. Currently, seven vendors are signed up to present: Appriss (a new vendor to the state), CTS America, Spillman (Nova), Sun Ridge Systems, Swift, Tri-Tech and Zuercher Technologies. As other vendors confirm, notifications will be sent out to law enforcement agencies. Anyone involved in MTIBRS/NIBRS submissions should plan on attending. Registration is **FREE** to this event. Register [HERE!](#) Questions can be referred to Candy Kirby (444-3651, candyk@mt.gov) or Kathy Ruppert (444-2084, kruppert@mt.gov).



- * March 7 — Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces RFP Released
- * April 8 — Board of Directors Meeting, Helena
- * April 18-20 — RMS Vendor Fair
- * April 20 — Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces Applications Due
- * April 30 — Do the *Write* Thing State Celebration, ExplorationWorks!, Helena
- * June 9 — Board of Directors Meeting, Helena
- * June 10 — Residential Substance Abuse Treatment RFP Released
- * July 22 — Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Application Due
- * August 2-3 — Advanced Grant Writing & Subgrantee Workshop, Bozeman
- * August 9-10 — Advanced Grant Writing & Subgrantee Workshop, Great Falls
- * 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 updated daily! Check out our website: www.mbcc.mt.gov

News Regarding Victims Grants

On February 9, 2016, the Federal Government released its proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017. The proposal would release \$2 billion from the Crime Victims Fund, one-third less than the \$3.042 billion Congress released for FY 2016. The Administration's proposal would designate a total of \$481 million for programs that are not authorized under the VOCA statute, including:

- * \$326 million transferred to the Office on Violence Against Women;
- * \$50 million for Vision 21 projects, including \$25 million for tribal victim assistance grants;
- * \$45 million for human trafficking programs; and
- * up to 3% or \$60 million to the National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The proposal estimates \$85 million for Office of Justice Programs management and administrative costs, leaving \$1.4 billion for programs specified under the VOCA statute, compared to the estimated \$2.6 billion allocated for these programs in FY 16.

Major Changes Coming for VOCA Victim Assistance Programs

Thanks to the recent significant increase in annual VOCA cap, state VOCA victim assistance grants for the coming years will have available funding that is four times the amount awarded last year. This increase presents numerous opportunities to greatly expand the capacity of the nation's victim service providers to meet the critical needs of victims of all types of crime. Along with the increased funding comes increased scrutiny and accountability. Congress has provided the Justice Department's Inspector General with \$10 million to audit and monitor the expansion of VOCA funding.

In addition to the increased funding, other changes to VOCA victim assistance programs are forthcoming. This includes the final promulgation of new regulations. The current VOCA Assistance Guidelines were adopted in 1997 and the new regulations will update and expand upon those rules. It is expected the new regulations will be published and take effect sometime in the Fall of 2016.

Anti-Drug Committee Completes Strategic Plan

The Anti-Drug Committee held a strategic planning session on January 12, 2016 for the purpose of considering the distribution of funding under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. Representatives from Montana's drug task forces, law enforcement programs, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education programs, corrections, drug treatment and enforcement programs, planning, evaluation and technology improvement programs and crime victim and witness programs participated in the day long planning session which identified various goals; ultimately incorporated into "Montana's Statewide Three Year Strategic Plan" and adopted by the Board during their February meeting. The Plan identifies emerging trends and prioritized the JAG purpose areas for 2016-2018. The Plan is available on the MBCC website under [Publications](#). Questions concerning the Plan should be addressed to Mark Thatcher, Public Safety & Community Justice Bureau Chief at mthatcher@mt.gov or 406-444-3605.



Upcoming Workshops

Subgrantee Workshops August 2016

MBCC will hold two subgrantee workshops featuring updates on new reporting and fiscal requirements, and provide answers to questions about projects funded through MBCC.

Topics include:

- ⇒ Office for Civil Rights (OCR) Regulations and Training
- ⇒ Budget, Timesheets & Fiscal Update
- ⇒ Data Collection, Reporting and Statistics
- ⇒ Individual Program Updates & Breakout Sessions

**Online Registration
Opens June 1!**

**Hotel Reservations
Available Now!**

Who should attend? Fiscal Officers and Project Directors will gain understanding of compliance with grant requirements. Agencies interested in applying for grants are also welcome to attend.

Advanced Grant Writing Workshop

A three hour Advanced Grant Writing Workshop will be held the afternoon prior to the Subgrantee Workshop in both locations. This training will sharpen your grant writing skills and focus specifically on budget and budget narrative, expectations for the reporting process in the application, and how to write an influential narrative. *The workshop is designed to be a follow up to the Grant Writing 101 presentation held in November 2015.*

August 2-3, 2016 Bozeman

August 2: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Advanced Grant Writing Workshop

August 3: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Subgrantee Workshop

Best Western GranTree Inn
1325 North 7th Avenue, Bozeman
406-587-5261

www.bestwestern.com/grantree

A block of rooms has been held at the rate of \$138.00 + tax. Please refer to the "Montana Board of Crime Control" when making your hotel reservations. Rooms are on a first come, first serve basis. The room block will expire on July 1, 2016.

August 9-10, 2016 Great Falls

August 9: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Advanced Grant Writing Workshop

August 10: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Subgrantee Workshop

Best Western Plus Heritage Inn
1700 Fox Farm Road, Great Falls
406-761-1900

www.bestwestern.com/prop_27029

A block of rooms has been held at the rate of \$89.00 + tax. Please refer to the "MBCC Subgrantee Workshop" when making your hotel reservations. Rooms are on a first come, first serve basis.

MBCC Staff News

Chris Botteron joined MBCC this month as the new Budget Analyst. Chris is a graduate of Helena High School, joined the Army National Guard in 1994 and is in his 23rd year of service. Chris has ten years of accounting, budget analysis and resource management with the federal government in the Department of Defense arena. Chris's responsibilities as Budget Analyst include management of MBCC's budgeted funding streams and assistance in the executive planning process amongst other duties. Chris can be reached at 406-444-2076 and cbotteron@mt.gov.

MBCC also welcomed **Tama Collins** to the staff in March. Tama joined us from DPHHS where she worked as a General Ledger Accountant. Tama has over three years of grant management experience. Her grant experience and thorough knowledge of SABHRS and governmental accounting will be a great asset for the MBCC team.



10TH ANNUAL MONTANA CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 4-6, 2016
BILLINGS RADISSON HOTEL



Pre-Conference Sessions Confirmed

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

Grant Writing 101 Workshop

Christine Johnson & MBCC Staff

CIT Montana

Jim Anderson, CIT Montana

Prevention of Elder Abuse

Alex Ward (AARP); Denise Armstrong (Big Sky Senior Services); Deputy Securities Commissioner Lynne Egan; Wm. (Bill) Mercer; Attorney; Marcus Meyer, Office of Consumer Protection; Chris Romano, Examination Manager, MT Division of Banking and Financial Institutions; Charles Harwood, Federal Trade Commission

Mental Health First Aid

Karl Rosston, Suicide Prevention Coordinator



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The Guardian of the Golden Gate

Sgt. Kevin Briggs, Ret.

California Highway Patrol

Pivotal Points: Crisis Management, Suicide Prevention, Leadership Skills



Registration opens on July 1!

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, through his compassion, gentle voice, eye contact, and his innate ability of “listening to understand” encouraged more than 200 individuals over his career to either not go over the bridge's rail or come back to solid ground from where they had been standing precariously out on the chord of the bridge and 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 to dedicate his life to promote mental health awareness across the globe through Pivotal Points, an organization he founded to promote 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.