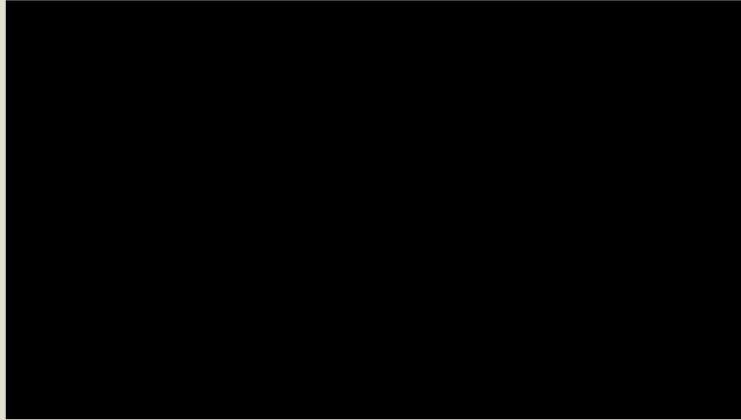


# Misdemeanor Probation

## MPO Tyler Edwards



## Problems in Northeastern Montana

- Geographic isolation
  - Distance
  - Communication
  - Transportation
  - Confidentiality (Everybody will know)
  - Family Ties or Name
- Low Conviction Rate
  - Lack of Evidence
  - Victim Recanting
  - Prosecution based off of money
- Limited Resources
  - Time
  - Education
  - Follow up
  - What about the Victim

## Early Years

- The Women's Resource Center and the Glasgow Police Department established two teams
  - DART Domestic Assault Response Team
    - Law Enforcement
    - Victim/Witness Advocate(Specialist)
    - CPS
  - MDT, Multiple Disciplinary Team
    - School Officials
    - Juvenile Probation
    - Adult Probation
    - Misdemeanor Probation
    - Victim/Witness Advocate(Specialist)
    - CPS

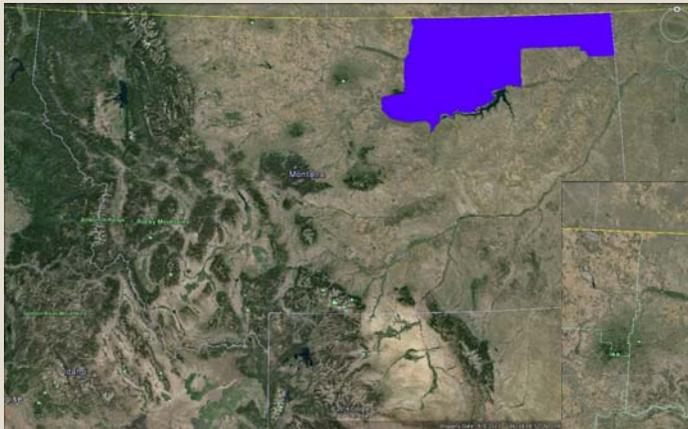
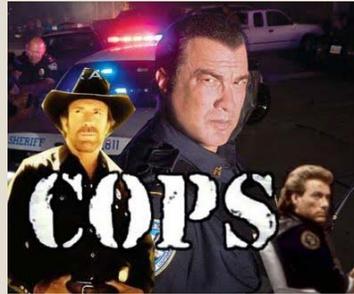


## Early Goals of Misdemeanor Probation

- To provide victim safety measures
  - Work collaboratively
  - Ensure that DART continues to be represented
  - To provide a lethality assessment
  - To provide a victim based service approach
- To increase offender accountability
  - Establish a probation officer to supervise all people convicted of PFMA
  - Establish a screening process
  - Track sentencing requirements and compliance
  - Track success or failures
  - Improve safety of victim by close supervision of offenders

## The Big Three MPO

- August 2009 to November 2009-Casey Yager
  - Offenders around 5
- November 2009 to July 2012-Jared Kuka
  - Offenders around 10-15
- July 2012-Present- Tyler Edwards
  - Offenders mid 20's-30 plus
  - Cap?



Service Area



## Misdemeanor Probation involvement

- **PFMA**
- Assault
- Negligent Endangerment
- Stalking
- Sexual Assault
- Resisting Arrest
- Other
  - Alcohol issues
  - Drug issues
  - Mental Health issues
  - Judge's Order



## Who Qualifies for Misdemeanor Probation.

- Adults (someone over eighteen) who commit a misdemeanor offense and have been found guilty or plead to a misdemeanor offense.
- The judge, attorney, or the probation officer see a need for involvement to stop a person from continuing his or her criminal behavior or progressing into more heinous crimes.
- Mental Issues
- Repeated Chemical Dependency Issues
  - Drugs
  - Alcohol



## Starting out on Probation

- Sentencing
  - Judge
  - Attorneys
  - Probation Officer
  - Defendant
- Judge orders a person to be on probation
  - Before/After sentencing
- Standard Judges Order
  - The Defendant shall be under the supervision and control of the Glasgow Misdemeanor Probation Program and shall abide by and subject to all its rules and regulations.

## Face to Face

- Initial Interview
  - Address
    - Who they live with
  - Phone Number
  - Employer
    - Contact Information
- Presentence Investigation Form
- Reading through the MP Registration with them
  - Sign that they acknowledge the rules
  - Copy for them with my number
- Risk Assessment
  - To establish frequency of officer contact



## Keeping the Victim Safe

- Signing the Offender up for MP as soon as possible
- Communication between MPO and Victim Witness Specialist
- Victim Witness Specialist's Contact with the Victim
- Conditions that restrict communication or no contact

## Presentence Investigation

- Read the PSI return from offender
- Look into their criminal history
  - Local
  - Other Jurisdictions
  - Reservation
- Attach officer reports from the conviction
- Make suggestions for sentencing based off of the totality of past and present



# Accountability

- Sentencing
  - Restrictions on travel
  - Mental Health
  - Jail time
  - Money(Restitution)
- Sanctions
  - Jail Time
    - Pay for incarceration
    - Work in jail
    - Community service
  - Community service
    - In lieu of MPO fees
    - In lieu of fees in some cases
  - Travel Restrictions
- Revocation of Sentence

# Sanctions

- Restricted Travel
  - State
  - County
  - Town
  - House Arrest
- Compliance Monitoring
  - Alcohol
  - GPS
  - Drug Patch
- GPD's Version of the 24-7 program
  - Aids in getting to compliance monitoring

# Revocation

- Violations
- Not completing jail time
- Not completing Mental Health Requirements
- Not paying fines and fees

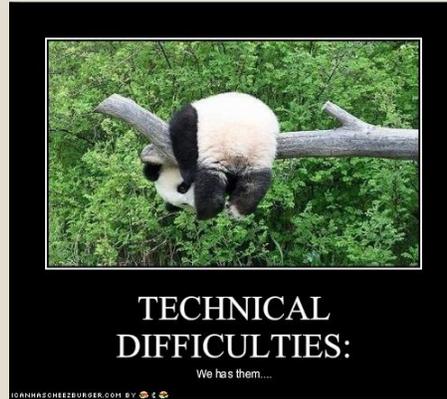


# Program Outcomes

- Successfully Completes Probation Early
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  of their sentence no violations
- Completion of Probation Minor Violations
- Unsuccessful Probation
  - Revocation/ Extended Probation
- Committing Felony's While on MP
  - Making Misdemeanor Probation fill the void until sentencing on their Felony
    - Community Safety
    - Offender Safety

## Issues/Problems

- Time/ Number of offenders
- Money
  - Offenders
  - Department
- Mental Health
- Area expansion
- Jurisdictional issues
  - Reservation
    - Records
    - Fleeing
  - Loosening the reins
    - Allow MPO to have offender
    - Proper conditions
- Departments and knowledge
  - Evidence based prosecution
  - Old school mentality
  - Not knowing there is an issue/Not caring
- Lack of prosecution/arrests



## Success

- Reduction in offenders reoffending.
- Created a positive relationship with offenders and law enforcement.
- Kept offenders who cannot remain law abiding off the streets.
- Tied together the communication with other entities and aided them to identify and correct flaws in their system.
- Provided accountability of offenders
- Limit access or tampering with the victims
  - Making them feel safer
  - Accurate statements
  - Time for Victim to remove themselves from the Defendant
- Drug intelligence

## What Makes it Work

- Personnel
  - Trust one another
  - Free flowing information
  - Communication with Offenders
  - Communication with Victims
- Immediate Accountability
  - Arrest Powers
  - MPO not over worked
- Everyone under the same roof or easily accessible in a timely manner
  - MPO
  - Victim Witness Specialist
  - Compliance Monitoring Systems
  - Judges/Attorneys
- Knowing what the Offender and the Victim are feeling
- Financial Assistance
  - Offenders

## Questions?



