

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission receives the
2015 Program Highlight Award**

On March 12, the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) presented its 2015 Program Highlight to the Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission. The Program Highlight honors statewide or community-based criminal justice programs that merit recognition for providing effective services to address public safety-related issues.

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission is an agency under the Department of Justice whose goal it is to identify gaps in Montana's system for protecting battered women and to better coordinate multi-agency efforts to protect those most at risk of domestic homicide. The Commission members are appointed by the Attorney General and include representatives from state and private agencies, the medical and mental health community, law enforcement and the courts, Native Americans, the legislature and concerned citizens.

Matthew Dale, coordinator of Montana's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission commented, "We are grateful for MBCC's recognition of the work accomplished by the Commission. MBCC has been an integral part of our success through its grant funding and support. Since its inception, funding provided by MBCC has enabled the Commission to meet its objectives to conduct reviews across the state, in order to better understand the impact of domestic violence fatalities among Montana families and communities. Our work enables us to recommend changes and improvements to our state's domestic violence safety net that will help keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable."

The Commission received the award at the MBCC Board of Directors Meeting and will also be recognized at the 9th Annual Crime Prevention Conference held in October in Missoula.

Information about the award can be found on the MBCC website at www.mbcc.mt.gov.

About MBCC

The Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) is the designated state agency that administers millions of grant dollars dedicated to preventing and addressing crime statewide. MBCC is headed by an eighteen member board appointed by the Governor. Board members represent law enforcement, criminal and juvenile justice system stakeholders, and citizens, including the first Montanans, our state's Native Americans.

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Pictured: Matthew Dale, coordinator of Montana's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission and Laura Obert, Chair, Montana Board of Crime Control.