

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Montana Board of Crime Control Program Highlight Award
Recipient Announced**

The Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) announced today the recipient of its 2016 Program Highlight. 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 Eastern Montana Drug Prosecution Coordinator position which was in operation from August 2013 through June 2015 was selected to receive the award.

The program was established to serve as an expert resource to provide assistance to law enforcement, prosecutors and judges of northeastern Montana where the ability to specialize is severely limited by the size of the average county attorney office. The Eastern Montana Drug Prosecution Coordinator developed an online brief bank and completed a Drug Prosecution Manual which included detailed information and examples on confidential informants, probable cause, search warrants, charging and sentencing, forfeiture and applicable forms. On-site training and consultation with eastern Montana County Attorneys was also provided through this program. While no longer currently funded, the program is a model of a successful program that could be replicated throughout the state.

Deb Matteucci, Executive director of MBCC stated, *"The Eastern Montana Drug Prosecution Coordinator program was a tremendous success. Programs like these would benefit small jurisdictions across the state and I'm hopeful that we will one day have adequate funding to support these innovative justice programs."*

The program will be featured at the MBCC Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for Friday, April 8, 2016 and will be recognized at the 10th Annual Crime Prevention Conference held in October in Billings. Diane Cochran, former Drug Prosecution Coordinator, Kathy Granger, Project Director and Bruce Barstad, Chief of Glasgow Police Department will provide an overview of the program for the Board of Directors.

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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