

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Eastern Montana Drug Prosecution Coordinator
Receives Montana Board of Crime Control Program Highlight Award**

On April 8, the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) presented its 2016 Program Highlight to the Eastern Montana Drug Prosecution Coordinator, a program previously located in Glasgow, Montana. 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 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.

Kathy Granger, Project Director of Eastern Montana Drug Prosecution Coordinator program, commented, "We would like to thank the Montana Board of Crime Control for the recognition of this program. The need for this kind of support in northeast Montana was at an all-time high when it was funded by the MBCC. The work completed by the Coordinator, Diane Cochran, made a difference in the successful prosecution of drug cases and its effects will be felt in our area for a long time to come."

Diane Cochran, former Drug Prosecution Coordinator, Kathy Granger, Project Director and Bruce Barstad, Chief of Glasgow Police Department received the award on behalf of the program at the MBCC Board of Directors Meeting and will also be recognized at the 10th Annual Crime Prevention Conference held October 5-6 in Billings.

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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