



# MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

quarterly newsletter

ISSUE NO. 6 | October 2022



## September Board Meeting

The Board met at the Grand Union Hotel in Fort Benton to discuss funding for the STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant, Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) grant, Title II Juvenile Justice grant, Delinquency Prevention Program (DPP) grant, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant, approve a minor change to the MBCC Bylaws, and form a special committee for the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training grant.

The agenda, public documents, and more can be found on the [MBCC Events Calendar](#).

[Find Out More](#)



## MBCC Fall 2022 Highlight Program

Hi-Line's Help for Abused Spouses

The Montana Board of Crime Control honored Hi-Line's Help for Abused Spouses with the Certificate of Outstanding Program Award at the September Board Meeting.

Hi-Lines Help gave a presentation on the important work they do helping victims of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking and how they educate the community, professionals, schools, health care providers, and other human and community service providers on the dynamics of abuse.

More information about Hi-Lines Help for Abused Spouses can be found on the [MBCC Program Highlights page](#).

[Read the Full Article](#)



## 2022 Montana Crime Prevention Conference

Multi-Disciplinary Solutions for Public Safety

The 2022 Montana Crime Prevention Conference took place at Fairmont Hot Springs on **October 4th and 5th, with post-conference training on October 6th and 7th**. There was an excellent turnout with 180 attendees across all sessions.

The Opening Ceremony began with the National Anthem, performed by the Anaconda Schools Choir, followed by the Presentation of Colors by the Lewis & Clark County Honor Guard. Sheriff and MBCC Chairman, Leo Dutton, delivered opening remarks, blessings, and welcomed everyone to the 16th Annual Montana Crime Prevention Conference.

Following the Opening Ceremony, Ken Scott delivered a powerful keynote speech about his experience surviving two consecutive avalanches against impossible odds and why we need to redefine resiliency and hold ourselves and others to a different standard.

Attendees were grateful for the opportunity to hear from Governor Greg Gianforte during his Fireside Chat. Governor Gianforte and Lewis & Clark County Sheriff and Coroner Leo Dutton discussed the importance of law enforcement, efforts to improve public safety in Montana, and how to collaborate across disciplines to create meaningful solutions and impactful change.

MBCC honored the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Tammy K Plubell, and the 2022 Innovative Community Improvement Award recipient, Lea Wetzel at the Tuesday, Awards Luncheon. MBCC thanks Community Medical Services for sponsoring the Tuesday Awards Luncheon.

The Montana Department of Justice Office of Victim Services presented the Victim Advocate of the Year Award to Jamie Rogers, Bureau Chief of the Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services.

Attendees had the opportunity to attend sessions from Victim Services, Law Enforcement, and General tracks. There were two breakout sessions for each track on both Tuesday and Wednesday and one lunch session on Wednesday for a total of 13 presentations.

MBCC Staff facilitated a Subgrantee Training on Thursday while Kevin McKinerny, Patrick Moody, Devin Keller, and Courtney Cosgrove delivered Commercial Cannabis Investigations training. Rodney Toulson led Restorative Practices Training on Thursday and Friday.

Thank you to all of our presenters, sponsors, exhibitors, and all who attended!

[Find Out More](#)

---

## 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award

### Tammy K Plubell



The Montana Board of Crime Control honored Tammy K Plubell with the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her contributions to the criminal justice system. For thirty-seven years, Tammy has worked with children, families, social workers, law enforcement, and the medical community to reform the justice system. She was the driving force behind the child evaluation center in Great Falls and overhauled the Cascade County youth in need of care system. She headed a commission to study criminal sentencing policy, prepared a comprehensive report for improving the sentencing system, and saw the visions from her report implemented by the Legislature in 2017.

Tammy has shouldered Montana's most egregious, notorious, and challenging cases and is the "go to" source when a County Attorney has a vexing legal problem. Her service, professionalism, vision, innovation, grit, and commitment set her apart. Tammy is never out-prepared and never out-worked because she knows victims and prosecutors are depending on her.



*From left to right: Bryan Lockerby, Wyatt English, Leo Dutton, Tammy K Plubell, Rick Kirn, and Kaydee Snipes Ruiz*

MBCC Chairman Leo Dutton presented the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award to Tammy during the Tuesday Awards Luncheon. A recording of Derek VanLuchene, former board

member and president and founder of Ryan United, was played during the ceremony. Derek congratulated Tammy and thanked her for all she has done for his family and the case of his younger brother's abduction and murder. Chairman Dutton then turned the room over to Tammy, who gave a heartfelt, humorous, and powerful overview of her career and impact on the criminal justice system.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do, Tammy, and congratulations!

For more information about Tammy K Plubell and the Lifetime Achievement Award, please visit the [MBCC Recognition Awards page](#).

**Learn more about Tammy K Plubell**

---

## 2022 Innovative Community Improvement Award

**Lea Poonoakkii Wetzel**



The Montana Board of Crime Control is pleased to present Lea Ponokaakii Wetzel with this prestigious award in recognition of twenty years of service to the Great Falls treatment and justice system. She has worked within courts and recovery support programs in an innovative and tribally inclusive manner. She has developed Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) awareness campaigns and served as MMIP Vice President of the North Central Montana task force. She has worked as a Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity Trainer, Warrior Down Talking Circle Facilitator, and Peer Supporter for the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Veterans' Court.

Lea is not afraid to stand up and speak for those in need, and as a survivor of human trafficking, she has risen up from her experience to fights for those who may not have a voice.



*From left to right: Bryan Lockerby, Wyatt English, Leo Dutton, Lea Wetzel, Rick Kirn, and Kaydee Snipes Ruiz*

MBCC Vice-Chairman Rick Kirn presented the 2022 Innovative Community Improvement Award to Lea Poonoakkii Wetzel during the Tuesday Awards Luncheon. A recording of Lea's cousin, Donnie Wetzel, was played during the ceremony. Donnie highlighted the important work Lea has done, congratulated her on the award, and revealed that he was the one who nominated her. Lea then gave a powerful and emotional presentation about the experiences that shaped her and guided her down a path where she has been able to change her community for the better.

We are so proud of the work you do, Lea! Congratulations!

For more information about Lea Wetzel and the Innovative Community Improvement Award, please visit the [MBCC Recognition Awards page](#).

**Learn more about Lea Wetzel**

Thank you to Community Medical Services for sponsoring the Tuesday Awards Luncheon!





*Joan Eliel and Jamie Rogers*

## 2022 Victim Advocate of the Year Award

### Montana Department of Justice

Congratulations to Jamie Rogers, Bureau Chief of the Department of Corrections Victim Services, for receiving the 2022 Matthew Dale Outstanding Advocate of the Year Award!

The award acknowledges the achievements in victim services and allied professions and honors those who have gone above and beyond in their service to others. Matthew Dale, for which the award is named, was a mentor and good friend of Jamie's, making the award all the more impactful.

Jamie's daughter and MBCC State Victim Liaison, Tawny Rogers, announced the winner during the Wednesday Luncheon and spoke about Jamie's many accomplishments and triumphs throughout her thirty three-year career in victim services.

Thank you for the important work you do, Jamie! Congratulations!

[Learn More](#)

# DO THE WRITE THING

HELP STOP THE VIOLENCE



## Do the *Write* Thing National Celebration

Montana's National Ambassadors traveled to Washington D.C. with their parents and teachers for the National 2022 Do the *Write* Thing celebration. Nimalka De Alwis from East Middle School in Butte, and Teague Cromwell from Anaconda Junior/Senior High School, were able to meet Senator Daines and Senator Tester as well as tour some of the sights in the Capital.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2022 Do the *Write* Thing Challenge! MBCC will announce details about the 2023 DtWT Challenge this winter.

For more information about National Student Ambassadors and State Finalists from this year and previous years, challenge rules, and more, please visit [MBCC's Do the Write Thing webpage](#).

**Find Out More**

# 2022 FBI NIBRS Training

## Improving Crime Data for the Next Decade

The FBI offered National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Training for the western region on September 27-29. Montana has been collecting NIBRS data since 2004. Over almost twenty years, issues were discovered that make data entry difficult; or cause data inaccuracies when FBI rules conflict with state laws.

In 2019 Montana received funding to replace an end of life data repository. This repository included system enhancements to resolve the issues identified over the last twenty years. These enhancements were developed in collaboration with Montana Law Enforcement, their records management vendors, the repository vendor and the FBI. Montana also consulted other state programs and national associations.

Montana Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) staff worked with the FBI to receive their training presentations in advance to enable us to extract FBI requirements that have been modified for Montana. This presentation followed the final FBI training session so that we were able to provide timely responses to agencies. Immediacy was important as many of the enhancements remove the NIBRS burden from law enforcement to the Montana SAC, contradicting a number of the training points.

The recorded presentation and PowerPoint slides are posted on our [Just the Facts webpage](#) along with notes to give you an overview of those Montana specific enhancements to the crime reporting system.

As a reminder, the training is eligible for up to 17 POST credit hours across all sessions. If you would like to receive POST credit, please email [MBCCdata@mt.gov](mailto:MBCCdata@mt.gov).

**“JUST  
THE  
FACTS”**



## Just the Facts

### MTIBRS Training & Technical Assistance Series

NIBRS/MTIBRS doesn't have to be scary or annoying. Every other week, MBCC will be providing help and tips to make data collecting more straightforward. The sessions are only 15 minutes, with 15 minutes or more for questions. Your suggestions for topics are always welcome.

By registering below, you are signing up for all 2022 sessions, although you do not need to attend every session.

[Register for Just the Facts](#)

The sessions will be recorded and any materials used for the presentation will also be available on the *Just the Facts* page.

[View Previous Trainings](#)

## Educational Power Hour

The next series of MBCC's EPH will be an overview of the evolution of the juvenile justice system in Montana. Please stay tuned for sessions such as Detention Centers in Montana, An Overview of the Juvenile Probation System, and several sessions exploring restorative justice and mentoring programs for juvenile offenders.

[Subscribe for Email Updates](#)

Be sure to subscribe to the Educational Power Hour email list to receive notifications about video uploads and upcoming series and speakers.

[Register for Educational Power Hour](#)

Thank you to MT DOC Victims Services, our presenters, MBCC's very own Tawny Rogers and Rachel Gemar, and everyone who has attended so far! Your support has ensured a smooth transition and continuation of this important series.

Click the button below for more for the Educational Power Hour schedule, upcoming topics and speakers, recordings of previous presentations, and more.

[Find Out More](#)

Thank you to our 2022 Montana Crime Prevention Conference sponsors!





Stay Connected with:  
Montana Board of Crime Control  
5 South Last Chance Gulch  
P.O. Box 201408  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 444-3604

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:  
[Manage Subscriptions and Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)