



MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

quarterly newsletter

ISSUE NO. 2 | October 2021



From left to right: (bottom row) Sheriff Leo Dutton, Lacey Bateman, Nichole Griffith, Shantelle Gaynor, Rick Kirn, (middle row) Bryan Lockerby, Kaydee Snipes Ruiz, (top row) Jared Cobell, Mike Sanders, and Wyatt English

September Board Meeting

The Board met at the Grand Union Hotel in Fort Benton to discuss the 2021 JAG Application and Governor's Certificate, the COAP Grant, and Board member updates. Following the Board meeting, the Board of Directors and staff convened for MBCC's annual Strategic Planning session to inform new Board members of their role, expectations, and resources; to review and revise the Board Mission Statement; to reflect on previous goals; and to set new Strategic Goals.

Fall 2021 Program Highlights

The MBCC Board of Directors presented Nichole Griffith and Lacey Bateman of Victim-Witness Assistance Services (VWAS) with the Fall 2021 Certificate of Outstanding Program Award at the 2021 September Board Meeting at the Grand Union Hotel in Fort Benton, MT.

VWAS provides invaluable victim services within Cascade County, including free and confidential community-based, system-based, and 24-hour crisis response to all victims of crime. For more information about VWAS, please visit the [MBCC Program Highlights page](#).

The Board Meeting agenda, public documents, instructions on how to submit public comment, and more can be found on the [MBCC Events Calendar](#).

[Find Out More](#)



2021 Montana Crime Prevention Conference

Multi-Disciplinary Solutions for Public Safety

The 2021 Montana Crime Prevention Conference took place at Fairmont Hot Springs on **September 28th and 29th, with post-conference training on September 30th and October 1st.**

The Opening Ceremony began with the National Anthem, performed by the Anaconda Schools Choir, followed by the Presentation of Colors by the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA) Honor Guard. Sheriff and MBCC Chairman, Leo Dutton, delivered opening remarks, blessings, and welcomed everyone to the 15th Annual Montana Crime Prevention Conference.

Following the Opening Ceremony, Deputy Director Cynthia Wolken from the Montana Department of Corrections, Sheriff Mike Linder from the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office, Gallatin County Attorney Marty Lambert, and Alan Doane, Deputy Attorney General from the Montana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General provided a 2021 Legislative Panel Update.

Assistant Attorney General David Ortle delivered an informative cross-sector presentation on Public Vs. Private Criminal Justice Information during the Tuesday luncheon. A copy of the presentation slides can be downloaded from the [Session Descriptions page](#) on the MBCC website. MBCC thanks Community Medical Services for sponsoring the Tuesday luncheon.

Lt. Governor Kristen Juras opened the 2021 Recognition Awards Luncheon on Wednesday and MBCC Vice Chair Rick Kirn introduced the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award and 2021 Innovative Community Improvement Award recipients. MBCC thanks AARP Montana for sponsoring the Wednesday Awards Luncheon.

Attendees had the opportunity to attend sessions from our Victims, Law Enforcement, and General Tracks. There were two breakout sessions for each track on both Tuesday and Wednesday for a total of 12 presentations. Materials from some of the sessions can be downloaded from the [Session Descriptions page](#).

MBCC Staff facilitated a Subgrantee Training on Thursday, and Rodney Toulson led Restorative Practices Training on Thursday and Friday. MBCC Thanks Community Solutions, Inc. for sponsoring the Thursday Luncheon.

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

[Find Out More](#)

2021 Lifetime Achievement Award



From left to right: Dr. David Lechner, Myk Lechner, Tom Lechner, and Valerie Weber

Dr. David Lechner, Myk Lechner, Tom Lechner, Valerie Weber, and Marwan Saba, attended the 2021 Recognition Awards Luncheon at the Montana Crime Prevention Conference on behalf of the late Ted Lechner.

Dr. Lechner accepted the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of his father, Ted Lechner, and gave a heartfelt presentation about Ted's life and achievements.

With five decades of sheer dedication to youth, families, and juvenile justice reform, Ted Lechner is truly the father of juvenile justice in Montana. Ted taught, coached, and mentored countless juvenile justice professionals and created many youth programs that are still in existence today.

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



[Learn more about Ted Lechner](#)

2021 Innovative Community Improvement Award



From left to right: Wyatt English, Lt. Governor Kristen Juras, Brie Schulman, Tara Cook, Rick Kim, Natalia Bowser, and Hon. Kaydee Snipes Ruiz



The Montana Board of Crime Control honored Tara Cook with the 2021 Innovative Community Improvement Award at the Montana Crime Prevention Conference in recognition of Inner Roads, Inc.

Brie Schulman, Inner Roads, Inc. Program Therapist and MBCC Youth Justice Council Member, spoke about Tara's invaluable efforts in ensuring a single summer did not go by without providing the diversion program for youth on the track to years of incarceration.

Tara then gave a presentation about Inner Roads, Inc., including the methodology behind the program, examples of the kinds of evidence-based techniques used to teach kids in the program, and some of her favorite quotes and success stories from youth they have treated.

To find out more about Inner Roads, Inc. at: <https://www.innerroadsmt.org/>

[Learn more about Tara Cook](https://www.innerroadsmt.org/)



2021 Do the Write Thing Challenge

MBCC Congratulates Montana's State Finalists and Student National Ambassadors

MBCC hosted a celebration for Montana's 2020 and 2021 State Finalists and Student National Ambassadors on Saturday, September 25, 2021. MBCC Chairman, Sheriff Leo Dutton, and Lt. Governor Kristen Juras opened the celebration, thanked the students for their courage to speak about youth violence, and encouraged them to continue raising awareness about issues that affect youth.

Students took turns reading their essays aloud to their families, teachers, and MBCC staff in attendance; and each student was presented with an award plaque.

After the local ceremony, students and families tuned in for the virtual National Do the *Write* Thing Celebration.

For more event photos and more information about the Do the *Write* Thing challenge, please visit the [MBCC DtWT webpage](#).

[Find Out More](#)

MBCC Victim Liaison Project

Tawny Rogers provided an overview of MBCC's Liaison Project and discussed ways in which attendees could be a part in supporting victim services in Montana. State Victim Liaison Tawny Rogers and Tribal Victim Liaison Jen Buckley will seek and collaborate with all service providers and organizations that want to help identify and address the gaps that victims encounter throughout Montana. MBCC believes that services should be available to all victims despite their geographic location.

Statistical Analysis Center Reports and Updates

Interactive Crime in Montana Reports are Now Available!

The MBCC Statistical Analysis Center is transitioning away from publishing annual Crime in Montana (CIM) reports in favor of **interactive reports using more timely data**. From 2005 forward, all Montana crime data will be accessible in [Tableau](#). Crime in Montana reports from 1972-2020 will still be available in their original PDF format below.

The new platform will allow users to select a workbook, such as Drug Seizures, Property Crime, or Violent Crime. Within each workbook, users will have the ability to select the specific dashboard they are interested in (i.e. the Drug Trends dashboard within the Drug Seizures workbook). Within each dashboard, users will be able to view and filter graphs, drill down into specific data points of interest, and create custom reports.

For more information, please visit the MBCC [Crime in Montana Reports webpage](#).

[Explore Interactive CIM Reports](#)

Thank you to our 2021 Montana Crime Prevention Conference sponsors!



Community Solutions, Inc.



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