MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL
quarterly newsletter

ISSUE NO. 22 | October 2026



September Board Meeting

The Board met at the Best Western Premier Great Northern Hotel in Helena, MT to discuss funding for the FY2026 STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant, FY2026 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act grant, FY2027 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant and FY2026 Title II Juvenile Justice grant.
The agenda, public documents, and more can be found on the MBCC Events Calendar.

Find Out More

Upcoming MBCC Events:

- Youth Justice Advisory Council Meeting: December 2, 2026
- Board Meeting: December 3, 2026

Funding Opportunities:

MBCC is seeking applicants for the following funding opportunities:

- No funding opportunities at this time.

Please visit the Funding Opportunity page for more information.

MBCC Fall Program Highlights

Ravalli County Jail Diversion

The Montana Board of Crime Control will honor Ravalli County Jail Diversion with the Certificate of Outstanding Program Award at the December Board Meeting.

Ravalli County Sheriff Pre-Trial Supervision and Misdemeanor Probation supervise both pre-trial defendants as well as post-conviction offenders to ensure compliance with court ordered conditions and orders to contribute to community safety.

To achieve these goals various technologies are utilized to include drug patches, Urinalysis testing, GPS, remote breath, breath test (24/7), continuous alcohol monitoring and in person supervision meetings with an Officers.

Officers assist defendants by advising them of court dates, mandatory appearances, connect them with available resources and help defendants maintain sobriety. Officers also monitor and assure that offenders are compliant with sentencing orders to include completion of court ordered classes and evaluations.

Enrollment into the Jail Diversion Program is court ordered and offers defendants an opportunity for a reduction in bond in most cases and to seek or continue employment outside of a jail setting.

More information about Ravalli County Jail Diversion can be found on the MBCC Program Highlights page.

Read the Full Article



2026 Montana Crime Prevention Conference

Multi-Disciplinary Solutions for Public Safety

The 2026 Montana Crime Prevention Conference took place at Fairmont Hot Springs on October 20th and 21st.

The Opening Ceremony began with the National Anthem, performed by the Teen Tones, followed by the Presentation of Colors by the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association Honor Guard. Sheriff and MBCC Chairman, Leo Dutton, delivered opening remarks and Youth Justice Advisory Council Chairman, Randy Shipman, welcomed everyone to the 20th Annual Montana Crime Prevention Conference.

Following the Opening Ceremony, Dr. Meradeth Snow, Professor of Anthropology, University of Montana gave a captivating presentation on how forensic investigative genetic genealogy (FIGG) and advanced degraded DNA methodologies can be responsibly applied to real world investigations, particularly in rural contexts and small or isolated populations common across the state.

MBCC honored the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Matthew Cuffe, and the 2026 Innovative Community Improvement Award recipient, Blackfoot Clearwater Neighborhood Watch at the Tuesday, Awards Luncheon.

In addition to the traditional Victim Services, Law Enforcement, and General track sessions, attendees had the option to attend a special track sponsored by the Montana Community Corrections Association (MCCA). MCCA-sponsored sessions included "How Physical Exercise and Nutrition Tie to Recovery", "Department of Corrections Updates including STEP Program Updates", "Leadership and Management—learn tricks of the trade from Joe McClafferty-C.E.O.-Pepsi, Inc." and "Jail Based Programming: Innovative Probation, Tenancy Management, and Opiate Intervention". Thank you to MCCA for your support again this year and for the valuable training opportunities!

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

Find Out More

2026 Lifetime Achievement Award
Matthew Cuffe



Judge Matthew Cuffe
19th Judicial District Court, Lincoln County, Montana

Judge Matthew J. Cuffe is a 4th generation Montana boy, growing up in the same County his great grandfather on his father's side served as Justice of the Peace, and his grandfather on his mother's side served as a city and county law enforcement officer. After graduating from Libby High School, Judge Cuffe attended Jamestown College in North Dakota where he focused on everything except his education. He returned to Libby after marrying his college sweetheart, Christi.

Judge Cuffe began his legal career prosecuting misdemeanor cases for the Missoula County Attorney's Office during his third year of law school. After graduating he was lucky enough to join the firm of Worden, Thane, & Haines, PC in Missoula. Apart from 3 years practicing with the Williams Law Firm, Judge Cuffe spent the next 20 years with Worden Thane representing individuals, small businesses, and banks in all manner of disputes. After winning a contested election in November of 2016, Judge Cuffe returned to Libby and assumed the bench as the 19th District Court Judge in January of 2017. Since taking the bench Judge Cuffe has presided over 80 jury trials and countless hearings dealing with everything from deliberate homicides, juvenile cases, dependency and neglect cases, involuntary commitments, guardianships, as well as dissolutions and parenting cases.

In addition to his duties as the district judge, youth court judge, and treatment court judge, Judge Cuffe is the current president of the Montana Judges Association, Chief Judge of the Asbestos Claims Court, Chair of the Sentence Review Division, a member of the MJA Judicial Education Committee, a member of the Civil Jury Instruction Guidelines Commission, and a former member of the Montana Treatment Court Advisory Committee.

For more information about Judge Matthew Cuffe and the Lifetime Achievement Award, please visit the MBCC Recognition Awards page.

Learn More About Judge Cuffe

2026 Innovative Community Improvement Award

Blackfoot Clearwater Neighborhood Watch



The Montana Board of Crime Control is pleased to present the Blackfoot Clearwater Neighborhood Watch with this prestigious award in recognition of their groundbreaking work in addressing crime, community decay and animal control in the Seeley Lake community.

Blackfoot Clearwater Neighborhood Watch was founded in March 2025 following a standing room only Seeley Lake Council meeting where community members voiced frustration about unmet public services. Neighbors who were tired of paying taxes yet seeing persistent problems with crime, community decay, and animal control came together to form a coordinated, community led response. Since its founding, the Neighborhood Watch has increased neighborhood vigilance, and created practical, community-driven steps to improve quality of life across the Condon, Seeley Lake and Greenough areas.

For more information about Blackfoot Clearwater Neighborhood Watch, please visit the MBCC Recognition Awards page.

Learn More About Blackfoot Clearwater Neighborhood Watch



From left to righ: Jermey Shield, Juvenile Justice Specialist, Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Current Kuwaiti Ambassador, Toni Fairchild, Butte East Teacher, Kayla Bragg, Executive Director of Montana Board of Crime Control

Do the Write Thing National Celebration

Montana's National Ambassadors traveled to Washington D.C. with her family member and teacher for the National 2026 Do the Write Thing (DtWT) celebration. Aurora Radmer from East Middle School in Butte, along with Montana Board of Crime Control staff Jeremy Sheilds, Juvenile Justice Specialist, and Kayla Bragg, Executive Director, were able to visit Senator Daines office as well as tour some of the sights in the Capital.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2026 Do the Write Thing Challenge! MBCC will announce details about the 2027 DtWT Challenge in the coming months.

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

Thank you to our 2026 Montana Crime Prevention Conference sponsor!





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