

VICTIM SERVICES IN DILLON, MT



6/1/2022

Montana Board of Crime Control State and
Tribal Victim Liaison Project

Data collected from a roundtable discussion with victim service providers who support Dillon, Beaverhead County, and the surrounding areas.

Victim Services in Dillon, MT

MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL STATE AND TRIBAL VICTIM LIAISON PROJECT

PARTICIPANTS

Service providers representing different parts of victim services came together to discuss the services provided, gaps in the system, and solutions for those gaps at the City Hall in Kalispell. Thank you to Chief Overman and Captain Corbett for assisting in procuring our location! Those participating in the roundtable included:

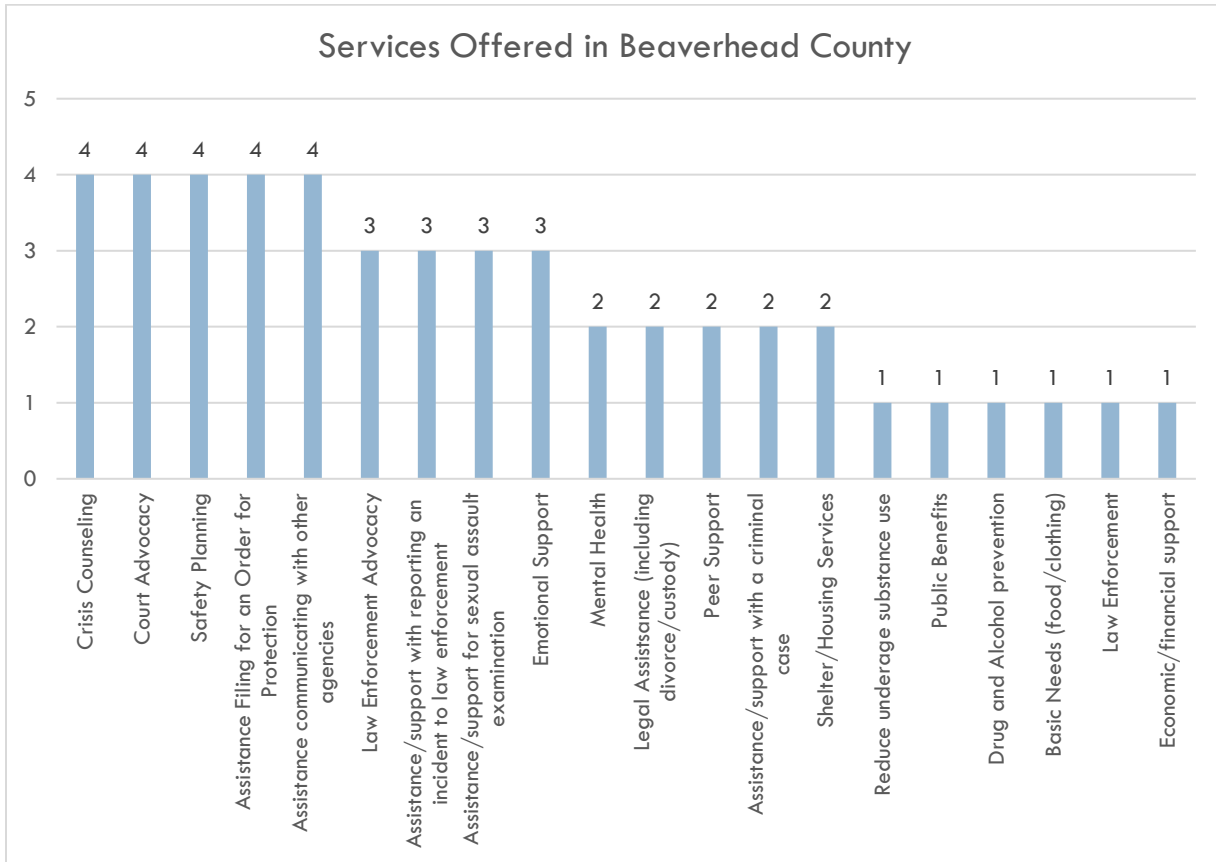
- Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services
- Women's Resource Center
- Beaverhead County Attorney's Office
- Dillon Police
- Be the Change 406 Coalition
- Dillon City Attorney's Office

Services Represented

Service providers and allied partners for the Dillon and Beaverhead County areas completed short surveys addressing the services they provide to the community.

This list summarizes the services from the survey and all the agencies that provide these services. The agencies identified 48 services with many duplicates, as shown in the following lists and graphs:

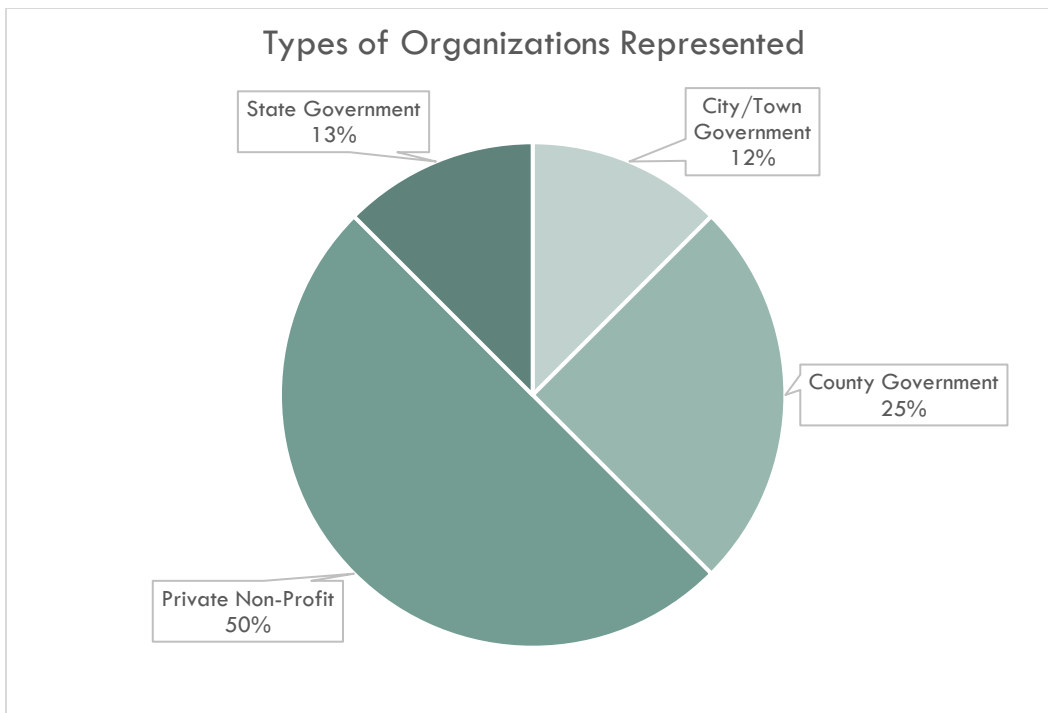
<i>Crisis Counseling</i>	4
<i>Court Advocacy</i>	4
<i>Safety Planning</i>	4
<i>Assistance Filing for an Order for Protection</i>	4
<i>Assistance communicating with other agencies</i>	4
<i>Law Enforcement Advocacy</i>	3
<i>Assistance/support with reporting an incident to law enforcement</i>	3
<i>Assistance/support for sexual assault examination</i>	3
<i>Emotional Support</i>	3
<i>Mental Health</i>	2
<i>Legal Assistance (including divorce/custody)</i>	2
<i>Peer Support</i>	2
<i>Assistance/support with a criminal case</i>	2
<i>Shelter/Housing Services</i>	2
<i>Reduce underage substance use</i>	1
<i>Public Benefits</i>	1
<i>Drug and Alcohol prevention</i>	1
<i>Basic Needs (food/clothing)</i>	1
<i>Law Enforcement</i>	1
<i>Economic/financial support</i>	1
Grand Total	48



Types of Organizations Represented

The following data represents how the organizations and agencies identified their type of organization. It should be noted that private non-profit appears to be strongly represented; however, that representation is due to several individuals from the same agencies attending the roundtable and filling out the survey. Overall, this was an incredibly positive experience, but it should be considered when reviewing the data and notes.

<i>City/Town Government</i>	1
<i>County Government</i>	2
<i>Private Non-Profit</i>	4
<i>State Government</i>	1
Grand Total	8



Gaps Discussed

Victim/Survivor Gaps:

- Victim information across services
- Officer input and impact statements in cases that involve law enforcement
- Access to resources

Service Provider Gaps and Needs:

- Assistance with victim impact statements and the importance of them

Training Needs:

- Training cost for SANE

Justice System Gaps:

- Mental health services
- Substance use services
- Lack of information and access to information between law enforcement and probation and parole
- Access and availability to SANE
- Lack of consistency across the state, ex: courts e-filing across the state and orders of protection
- Lack of understanding for service providers and victims about orders of protection and no contact orders

- The crime lab cannot testify by person and must travel
- No availability of restorative justice in the community

Other:

- Access to childcare

Solutions Discussed:

Service Provider Specific Solutions:

- In Dillon, there's a mandatory victim services form that is handed out by law enforcement at the time of the crime
- More collaborative relationships being build
- Warm hand-offs (and tepid hand-offs)

Justice System Specific Solutions:

- Access to mental health and substance use services
- Systems should be connected to identify offenders from law enforcement through Department of Corrections
- Availability of SANEs and SANE examinations
- Master resource list and a Resource Assistance Center
- Prevention specialist training
- E-filing statewide
- Standardized paperwork

Broader Solutions:

- Having human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault information available at hotels, bars, and other frequented places

Conclusions reached

Visiting with the service providers and allied partners in the Dillon and Beaverhead area showed us what providers in Montana's more rural communities face. In areas such as Dillon, and the surrounding areas, the lack of resources makes it hard to provide victims with meaningful services. This lack of services and barriers to services makes it hard to keep victims and survivors engaged in the criminal justice system.

Dillon Roundtable Action Plan:

- Brining more players to the table: CPS, APS
- More information on collaborations and bringing resources to communities and together

Without the voices and knowledge of victim service providers and agencies, the voices of victims would not be heard in an offender-centric system.