

VICTIM SERVICES IN BUTTE, MT



9/12/2022

Montana Board of Crime Control State and
Tribal Victim Liaison Project

Data collected from a roundtable discussion with victim service providers who support Butte, Butte/Silver Bow County, and the surrounding areas.

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MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL STATE AND TRIBAL VICTIM LIAISON PROJECT

PARTICIPANTS

Thank you to the graciousness of Montana Highway Patrol's Butte office for allowing us to use their conference room to host multiple service providers who support survivors and victims. These service providers and allied professionals came together to discuss the services provided, where there are strengths and weaknesses in the community, and where there are opportunities for growth. We finished off the meeting with a discussion regarding our top priorities. Those participating in the roundtable included:

- Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services
- Be the Change 406 Coalition
- Action Inc.
- Butte-Silver Bow County Attorney's Office
- Butte Native Wellness Center
- Safe Space
- Butte-Silver Bow Law Enforcement
- Montana Legal Services Association

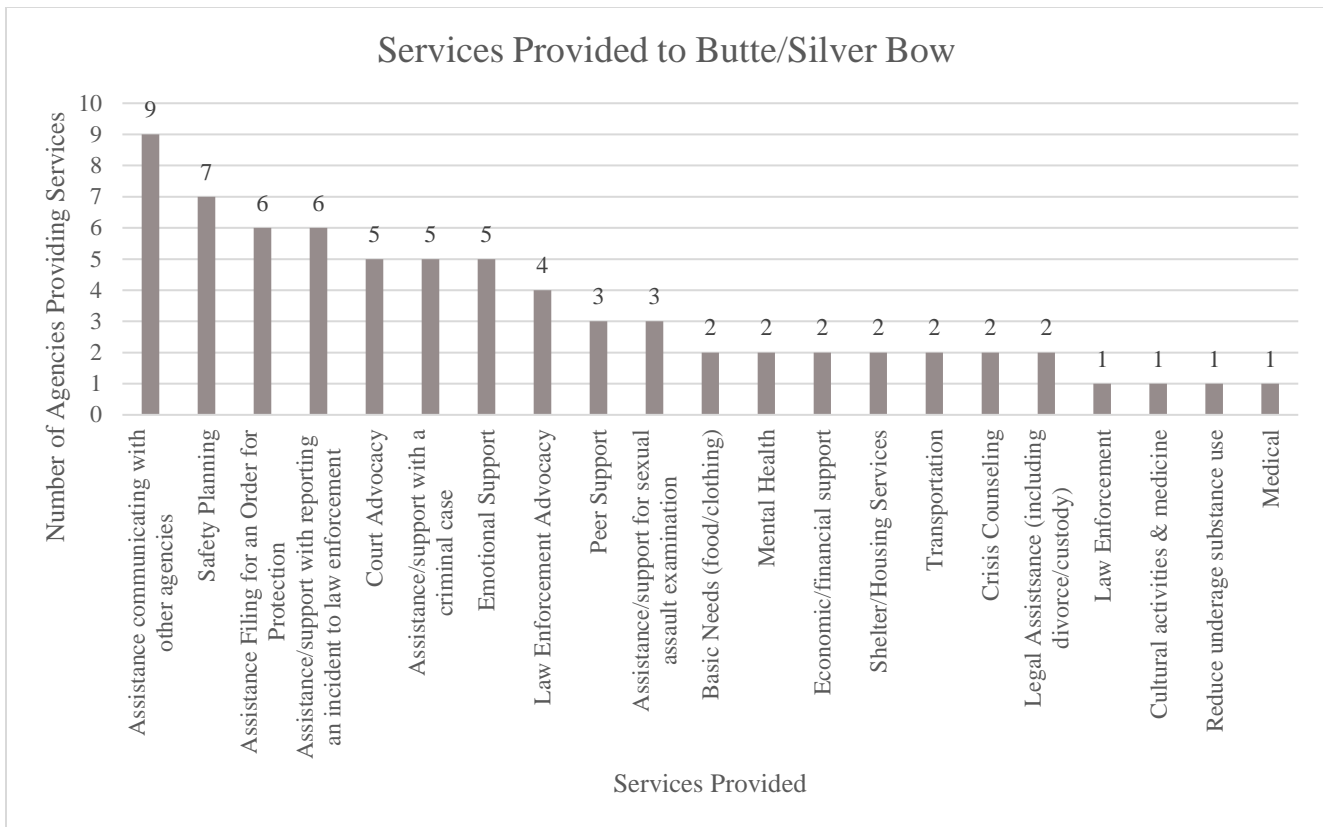
Services Represented

Service providers and allied partners for the Butte-Silver Bow and surrounding 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 71 services with many duplicates, as shown in the following lists and graphs:

<i>Assistance communicating with other agencies</i>	9
<i>Safety Planning</i>	7
<i>Assistance Filing for an Order for Protection</i>	6
<i>Assistance/support with reporting an incident to law enforcement</i>	6
<i>Court Advocacy</i>	5
<i>Assistance/support with a criminal case</i>	5
<i>Emotional Support</i>	5
<i>Law Enforcement Advocacy</i>	4
<i>Peer Support</i>	3
<i>Assistance/support for sexual assault examination</i>	3
<i>Basic Needs (food/clothing)</i>	2
<i>Mental Health</i>	2
<i>Economic/financial support</i>	2
<i>Shelter/Housing Services</i>	2
<i>Transportation</i>	2
<i>Crisis Counseling</i>	2
<i>Legal Assistance (including divorce/custody)</i>	2
<i>Law Enforcement</i>	1

<i>Cultural activities & medicine</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Reduce underage substance use</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Medical</i>	<i>1</i>
Grand Total	71

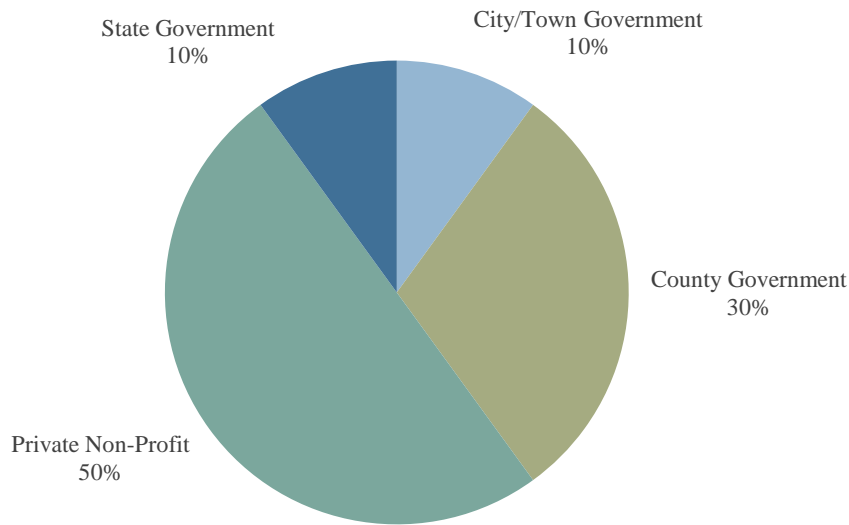


Types of Organizations Represented

The following data represents how the organizations and agencies identified their type of organization. This data outlines what agencies are providing services and derives from agencies supporting Butte/Silver Bow and the surrounding communities.

<i>City/Town Government</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>County Government</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Private Non-Profit</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>State Government</i>	<i>1</i>
Grand Total	10

Butte/Silver Bow County Organizations Represented



Strengths

What does Butte/Silver Bow do well?

- Sense of community
- Community support
- Great people
- Pull together with minimal resources
- Collaboration with law enforcement officers
- Coordinated entry system/collaboration

What valuable resources exist for Butte/Silver Bow?

- Safe Space
- Rescue Mission Shelter
- Law Librarian, Katrina (limited capacity)
- Action, Inc.
- Safe Space advocates support temporary order of protection petitions
- Detectives are assigned to follow-up on domestic violence and partner family member assault cases

Weaknesses

What could be done better?

- Instances of follow-up and follow through
- Lack of current manpower for adequate follow-up by patrol officers
- Lack of connected systems
- Misinformation: "do you want to press charges?"

- Victims do not press charges
- Need for more domestic violence attorneys
- Shortage of staff across the board
- Need for more education on human trafficking
- Better communication
- Collaboration
- More resources
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of mental health crisis services
- Lack of transportation to and from the surrounding communities
- Not knowing all community resources that are available for victims
- Long waits for evaluations
- High levels of poverty, addiction, mental health, and a lack of housing

Opportunities

What opportunities do we have to do better?

- MLSA – setting up time with the self-help law librarian
- Recruit attorneys to come offer assistance – however, there's a lot of red tape, maybe involving the state bar
- Collaboration between existing community partners
- Direct referrals and intake processing for MLSA
- Referral system – list of resources and steps of referral
- Law enforcement advocates
 - Responding advocates
- Multi-agency database for offender information

Actionable Priorities

What can we do when we leave here today?

- Money/more money
- Services/resources
- Collaboration
- Money for law enforcement victim specialist
- Recruiting professionals to fill positions

Action Items:

- Invite Katrina Heinrich
- MBCC will send 4C list and contacts to attendees
- Include HER Campaign information
- Human Trafficking training – Safe Space, Action Inc, MLSA

Conclusions reached

Discussing victim services in communities across Montana allows us to determine where Montana is meeting the needs of victims of crime and survivors. The discussion in Butte was a productive conversation that opened up the collaboration of providers and allowed us to see what resources are available and where there is more need. This discussion also allowed us to see what these service providers really with for, such as transitional living and culturally appropriate activities.

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