

Montana Board of Crime Control

Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth in Montana

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Welcome

Welcome to MBCC's inaugural Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth in Montana stakeholder newsletter. This newsletter will be provided to our stakeholders on a monthly basis in an effort to keep them informed and engaged in the progress being made with the project.

Project Update

Listening sessions

Non-Tribal: August 18 marked the final listening session for the 13 communities selected across Montana. The sessions were audio-recorded and have been transcribed. The University of Montana Criminology Research Group is analyzing the transcriptions with a qualitative software program called NVIVO. The results will inform the needs assessment survey that will be distributed this winter. Some of the major themes identified from these session include the lack of local crisis care and crisis housing, the need for transportation services, and the restrictive nature of Medicaid qualifications.

Tribal: There will be 7 focus groups held within Tribal communities across Montana. These focus groups will be similar to the listening sessions; they will gather data regarding the state of services available within the community for children and youth that have been victims. We anticipate the first of these groups to be held mid November.

Future Funding

The Montana Board of Crime Control has been awarded funding for Phase 2 of the Linking Systems of Care project. Activities for Phase 2 include interviews with families and children that have utilized services in their communities, and a policy review to understand the feasibility of implementing recommendations at the state and community levels.

ATTENTION

The next project stakeholder meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2016. This will be a full day event. Please mark your calendars.

Introducing ICF International

ICF International has been appointed by the Department of Justice to conduct a national study of the Linking Systems of Care demonstration project. As part of the study, ICF will be working with the Montana site to collect data about project activities and outcomes; their results will be shared with project partners and used as reference for future project replication efforts. Recently ICF launched the Network Partner Survey (NPS), the results of which will serve as the baseline measure for tracking how partnerships grow and evolve over the course of the project. In a few days you will receive the NPS FAQ sheet from ICF, this should answer any questions you may have about completing that survey.

Sara, our ICF team leader, will be attending the February Stakeholder meeting to learn more about your role in the project and about how Montana currently addresses child victimization.

ADDRESSES to KNOW

ICF inquiries and information may come from any of the following:

ICF Team Leaders

Sara.Debus-Sherrill@icfi.com

Mary.Spooner@icfi.com

Survey and Inquiry

ICFResearchTeam@icfi.com

Systems of Care in the News

Governor's Protect Montana Kids Initiative

In an effort to improve the Division of Children and Family Services, Governor Bullock announced the Protect Montana Kids Initiative (PMK). Two highlights from the PMK initiative call for improved staff training and the addition of 33 caseworkers. In addition, the PMK initiative includes the creation of an incident review team to investigate serious injury and death cases for possible policy changes.

Click [here](#) for the Governor's Protect Montana Kids Initiative in the news.

Justice Department Awards Millions to Improve Public Safety and Victim Services for American Indians and Alaska Natives

The Department of Justice recently announced 206 awards, totaling more than \$97 million, to American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, tribal consortia, and tribal designees for the improvement of public safety and victim services for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The announcement was made at the 2015 Tribal Leader Briefing, sponsored by the National Congress of American Indians and included Tribal leaders, members of Congress and Administration officials. Montana Tribes received a combined \$3,301,719 for 2015.

Click [here](#) for the Justice Department's Awards in the news.

Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

According to the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, depression and suicide among teens continue to be significant issues in Montana. Over 29% of teens surveyed experience feeling sadness and hopelessness, and nearly 19% have considered suicide. Just over half of the teens surveyed (51%) report having tried E-cigarettes, and more than one-third (37.5%) have smoked marijuana at least once in their life.

Click [here](#) for the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey results.

Montana Still Low on the National List for Child Well-Being

Montana has been ranked 30th in the nation for overall child well being, according to the latest Kids Count data; and remains high on the list for teen suicide rates. Some of Montana's providers are trying to change this through educating Montanan's on the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). Intermountain, one of Montana's youth mental health and therapy centers, has hopes that an understanding of trauma and ACEs will create opportunity for intervention before individuals reach crisis levels.

Click [here](#) for this article in the news.

Click [here](#) for the results of the 2015 Kids Count data.