

Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children in Montana

The Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children across Montana project is a cooperative agreement between the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) and the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) in Washington D.C. The purpose of the project is to improve the response to every child victim and their family by providing consistent, coordinated responses that address the presenting issues and the full range of victim's needs. Using the System of Care committee and other state partner agencies as stakeholder partners, the MBCC will conduct a gap analysis and needs assessment of the current state of services across Montana that inform the policy and procedure recommendations in the final report to the OVC.

Dr. Dusten Hollist and the Criminology Research Group (UM CRG) will use evidence-based methodology to evaluate the victimization screening tools currently in use across Montana; the UM CRG will make recommendations regarding the application of these tools. The program manager (Nicole Camp) and the project coordinator (Dr. June Ellestad) will work together to conduct twenty listening sessions in communities across the state, seven of these will occur on tribal lands. Each listening session will include 12-18 local service professionals (medical, law enforcement, education, child welfare, non-profits) and discussion topics will revolve around trauma informed care in that area; are there gaps in care, what are the needs of the service providers, what does it actually look like to receive care in that community? The information gathered at these listening sessions will inform a statewide needs assessment survey that will be distributed to all service providers in the state of Montana.

Gaining contact with community service professionals is the top priority for the Nicole and June right now; these listening sessions will begin in July and continue through November.

Goals of the Project

- Every child who needs physical and mental health care in Montana will be assessed for victimization.
- Children and their families will be provided comprehensive and coordinated services to fully address their needs.
- Practices and policies will be established to sustain this approach.

For More Information Contact

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