



Department of Public Health and Human Services

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Steve Bullock, Governor

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SERVICE AREA AUTHORITIES (SAA)

April 2019 Update

AMDD Bureau

- Two vacant positions to be posted for hire soon;
 - 1 FTE Position to manage the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grants (formally Jackie Jandt's position)
 - 1 FTE Position to manage the PATH grant and several programs funded by MH BG (formally Mindi Askelson's position)
- Free Naloxone training and access to Naloxone medication (to reverse an opioid overdose) is available. For more information, go to:
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/publichealth/documents/EMSTS/prevention/NaloxoneFlyer.pdf>
- The MT Epidemiology Outcome Workgroup developed data reports on Opioid, Meth, Alcohol, and Heroin Use in MT. Check out the most current data on these topics:
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/epidemiology>
- AMDD helped fund the first Montana Conference on Homelessness which was held on April 1-2, 2019. The conference provided an opportunity for homeless providers of all kinds to learn more about and fortify this informal network, celebrate the incredible work that has been done and collectively assess the challenges and outcomes as well as discussed how we can do more. Topics covered during the conference include: the state of homelessness in MT, Homeless Youth Panel, Alternative Housing Options, Accessing Mainstream Resources, and Homeless Youth - Their Rights and Guarantees to name a few.
- Mountain Plains Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network (ATTC) is offering a Compassion Fatigue 4-Part Online Series May 1, 8, 15, 22nd from 10:30 am to 11:30 am MST.
<https://mpattc.wufoo.com/forms/k1934ynf1pen9yq/> Compassion fatigue increases stress resulting in lost productivity, staff turnover, and overall poor organizational health. Professionals in behavioral health or "helping profession" settings are at risk for developing secondary traumatic stress, depression, and/or burnout as they attend to others' needs. Professional's needs are often overlooked in discussions about addressing compassion fatigue in the workforce. Priorities for clinicians, recovery support specialists, and caregivers are to interact with their clients to promote and model healthy coping behaviors. This 4-part online series will increase the capacity of behavioral health professionals to address compassion fatigue in the workforce, especially in the wake of the opioid epidemic. Specifically, this online series will investigate compassion fatigue, as well as compassion satisfaction, and provide practical tools to build awareness, self-compassion, and psychological flexibility as they choose a life of service to others.

Behavioral Health

- New program officer: Betty Franklin. She is the program officer for our State Plan Amendment BH services.

- New Behavioral Health Supervisor, Mackenzie Petersen. She is over all BH Medicaid State Plan services. Mindi Askelson is over all Medicaid waiver services.
- The County and Tribal Matching Grants for FY 19-20, 20-21 will be a RFP. More information coming later.

Communities that Care (CTC)

- Maria Valandra, CTC Coach/Grant Manager attended training in Seattle and is now officially in her coach-in-training status which will allow her to work with 8 communities across the state (Blackfeet, Rocky Boy, Glasgow, Ft. Peck, Billings, Bozeman, Hamilton) to coach/mentor the Community Coordinators
- AMDD is hosting a CTC Community Coordinator training on April 30 – May 2, 2019 in Helena. 8 Prevention Specialists and 5 Regional Technical Assistance Leaders will be in attendance to prepare them to be Community Coordinators back in their communities.

State Opioid Response Grant (SOR)

- 2 year (9/29/18 to 9/29/20) SAMHSA grant that focuses on prevention and treatment activities to address the opioid crisis in Montana.
- One of our current prevention is to expand the use of the PAX Good Behavior Game, across Montana. Currently the PAX program is in 18, K-3 schools. With this grant funding, school personnel in these existing schools will be trained to expand the program through 5th grade, and up to 35 new schools will be trained to implement in their K-5 classes. This evidenced based prevention program has been shown to decrease the mental, emotional, and behavioral health problems that often lead to opioid and other substance use in later life. School personnel will be supported in a number of ways to build the capacity to successfully implement the program and to fidelity. These include having access to regional PAX consultants and with the internal support from school based teams that include other professionals such as social workers and principals. The grant will also contract with the University of Montana to expand their evaluation activities to include the new and existing schools and these evaluation data will help us better understand the impact on students and the school environment.

Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grant (SABG) and Partnership for Success Grant (PFS)

- Through these grants 25 new prevention specialists and 19 returning prevention specialists have been hired. We hosted a CADCA mini-boot camp in Bozeman, MT on April 2-4 to provide an overview of primary prevention of substance use and skills training on coalition capacity building. The PFS grant will be hiring two epidemiologists that will collect and analyze substance use data that will provide more detailed information on substance use issues in the prevention specialist communities.