

## THE CHALLENGE

- Violent crime has been on the rise in Yellowstone County – up 81 percent from 2010-2017.
- The total number of positive methamphetamine tests for adults under the supervision of Billings Probation and Parole grew 865 percent from 2010-2018.
- Child neglect cases in Yellowstone County grew 149 percent from 2014-2018. 80 percent of neglect cases in Yellowstone County are due to drugs, and 80 percent of those are due to methamphetamine.
- Meth is the #1 illicit drug of choice for patients in treatment in Yellowstone County.
- Violent crime in Yellowstone County has increased significantly since COVID-19 appeared in Montana. There have been 67 more victims of murder, robbery and aggravated assault this year between March and July than there were in the same period last year, a 21 percent increase.

## RECENT ACTIVITY

### Substance Abuse Connect (SAC) Announces the Hiring of Executive Director



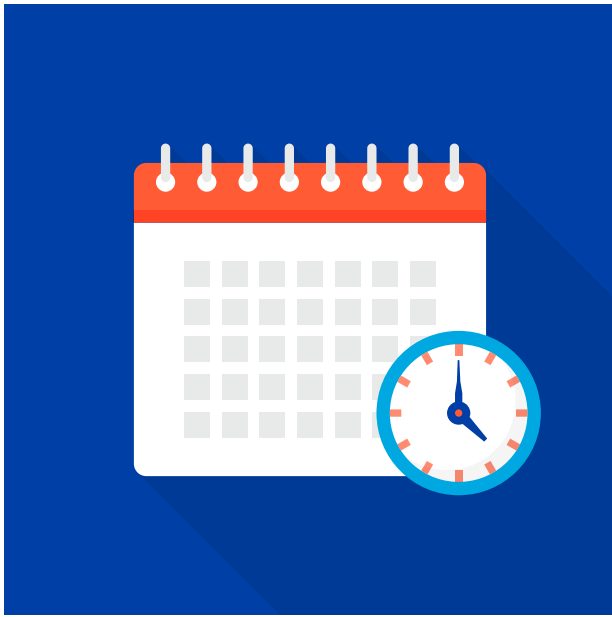
Substance Abuse Connect is pleased to announce the hiring of the Coalition's first Executive Director, Kristin Lundgren. Kristin will assume the Executive Director role on May 1, 2021. Kristin was one of the founders of the coalition and has continued as a key leader in developing and implementing the community plan to substantially reduce drug abuse and drug related crime in Yellowstone

County. As Executive Director, Kristin will be a visionary and strategic leader for our community as we build out the Crisis Continuum to serve "Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime". She will lead the coalition in collaborating with community partners to continue the implementation of the Action Plan established in 2020. The plan identifies three areas of need including system capacity, prevention, and diversion/treatment. Additionally, the plan identifies the need for a robust data dashboard to track the work of the coalition and provide real time information to make decisions to grow and evolve the community's crisis continuum.

SAC recently formed an Executive Committee, represented by key leadership from our community partners. This committee will work directly with Kristin to oversee the Coalition's mission of "Uniting Yellowstone County to substantially reduce drug related crime and addiction through effective prevention, treatment, and diversion." The coalition has over 90 partner organizations and over 280 active individuals connected with the work.

Prior to becoming the Executive Director of Substance Abuse Connect, Kristin worked with Rimrock as Director of Grants and Special Projects. Kristin previously worked at United Way for thirteen years and MSU Billings for six years. She holds an M.Ed. from the University of Minnesota.

Please join us in welcoming Kristin to her new role. She can be reached at [klundgren@rimrock.org](mailto:klundgren@rimrock.org)



## UPCOMING EVENT

### Big Sky Drug and Alcohol Symposium May 20-21st | Double Tree Hotel, Billings

The Yellowstone County DUI Task Force is hosting this exciting symposium bringing people, techniques, processes, and ideas together. Attendees should include treatment providers, prevention technicians, law enforcement professionals and interested community members. Topics will include drug and alcohol trends, addressing the trauma beneath addiction, therapeutic cannabis, addiction and family law, treatment court models, substance abuse disorders and military veterans, and neurological functions of adolescents and adults. Registration cost is \$100. Registration and additional information can be found at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/big-sky-drug-and-alcohol-symposium-big-skies-big-possibilities-tickets-141974859627>

## WHAT'S NEXT?

### Updated Action Plan

Substance Abuse Connect Coalition workgroup co-chairs and action committee chairs recently met to update the 2020-2023 Community Action Plan to reflect what has been accomplished in 2020 as well as to note lessons learned. The work groups made revisions, adjustments and additions to the plan based on the needs of the community, updated partner programs, and to reflect additional resources and grant awards. The updated plan will be available in May and will be available in both printed and electronic form.



### New Substance Abuse Connect Website to Launch

Stay tuned as we prepare to launch our newly designed website later in May! The new and improved website will be a resource for all partners, community members, and anyone interested in the work of Substance Abuse Connect. It will feature life experience stories from those aided by Coalition work, contain an up-to-date event calendar, highlight community partners, and provide regularly updated data and information.

We will be inviting you to a Website Launch event in late May/early June! Watch your email!

For more information or to become involved please contact Kristin Lundgren, SAC Executive Director @ 406-670-8526 or [klundgren@rimrock.org](mailto:klundgren@rimrock.org), or go to our website at <https://www.uniterwayyellowstone.org/substance-abuse-connect>

The Coalition is convened by, and receives systematic support from:

