



The Substance Abuse Connect Coalition is a cooperative, community-wide effort to substantially reduce drug-related crime and addiction in Yellowstone County through prevention, intervention and treatment and increased system capacity.

## RECENT ACTIVITY

### Substance Abuse Connect Team Hosts Governor For National Launch Of Recovery Pathways

During a July 26th press conference the SAC team in collaboration with Rimrock and GOMO Health launched Recovery Pathways. This new digital care coordination therapeutic provides a concierge style app for treatment providers like Rimrock to monitor and communicate with individuals in treatment court or those re-entering the community from treatment or incarceration. This remote care management tool will help both providers and participants have 24/7 access to needed resources and information to assist them in the recovery process. Rimrock is the first provider to use this new technology in tandem with Judge Mary Jane Knisely and her treatment court program.

“As a treatment court partner providing services, we have long envisioned the cooperation, support and synergy that is launching today in Montana and nationally,” said Coralee Schmitz, Chief Operating Officer, Rimrock. “The GoMo Health personalized engagement platform enables us to embrace mobile technology to focus on ongoing healing and nurturing of positive behaviors. I am so proud of our Governor and Senators who are actively supporting and endorsing this solution for the people in our state.”

Montana Governor Gianforte joined the event to help raise awareness for these types of innovative tools to help the challenge faced for those with substance use disorders. “Montanans who work in treatment court, corrections, and addiction treatment have built and deployed a solution which will save lives, reunite families, and reduce recidivism,” said Montana Governor Greg Gianforte. “They are dedicated to help Montanans rebuild their lives by getting clean, sober, and healthy. Recovery Pathways is the result of all three branches of government working together with the best private sector treatment providers and cutting-edge technology to treat addiction as it should be treated, as a disease.”

Nationally branded as Recovery Pathways, the program will augment the treatment provided by Rimrock to those who have been diverted from trial or are returning to the community.

Substance Abuse Connect is proud to have been part of bringing GOMO Health to our community. GOMO Health is also part of our other successful pilot project Healthy SPARK which uses similar technology for women during peri-natal care from referrals made from St. Vincent Mid-Wifery Clinic to RiverStone Health home visiting (and Rimrock).

### Recovery Pathways Launch



Governor Gianforte, Mayor Cole, Judge Knisely, state Budget Director Alme and Recovery Pathways partners



Members of the Substance Abuse Connect Team

## 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.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

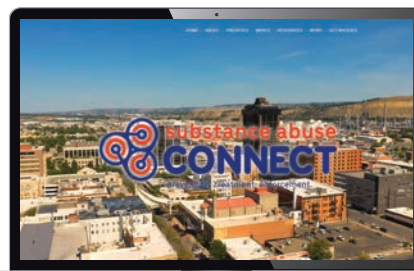
### SAC brings Ben Cort for Community Conversation about Legalized Recreational Marijuana

Substance Abuse Connect is committed to providing educational resources and technical support to our community. Recently, as our state is confronting the beginning of legalized recreational marijuana, the SAC



provided a national expert to offer needed information. SAC held two events, one with community leaders including Billings City Council and Yellowstone County Commissioners and one open to the community. Ben Cort is a leading expert in how marijuana affects communities, audiences

learned what to expect as Montana moves towards legalized recreational marijuana use. Community leaders focused on effective policies and regulations that are successfully being used around the country. Billings is in the process of making crucial decisions about legalizing recreational marijuana and City Council has since decided to put the question on November's ballot for the voters to decide if they want recreational marijuana dispensaries in the city limits. During the community conversation, Mr. Cort, emphasized that marijuana is not the same as it was in the 70's. Today there are many variations and potencies that make regulation and oversight much more difficult for communities to manage. Additionally, he warned of the harm that marijuana use can cause, especially in youth.



### SAC's NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE!

Please visit our new website for updated information, events and partner happenings.

[www.substanceabuseconnect.com](http://www.substanceabuseconnect.com)

For more information or to become involved please contact Kristin Lundgren, SAC Executive Director @ 406-670-8526 or [klundgren@substanceabuseconnect.com](mailto:klundgren@substanceabuseconnect.com), or go to our website at [www.substanceabuseconnect.com](http://www.substanceabuseconnect.com)

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