

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

Priority 1: System Capacity

- Executive Committee Established
- New Website in progress (to be completed in February/March) and a regular meeting schedule set for 2021.
- Data Dashboard operational
- Executive Director position completed (to be advertised in February)
- Sustainability Plan for 2021-2022 funding completed and in process

Priority 2: Diversion and Treatment

- Probation & Parole Intensive Case Management Program received 160 referrals (between August and December 2020). Initial outcomes include 64% of program participants with no re-arrests and 81% with no positive drug tests.
- Ongoing meetings to coordinate/design Mobile Crisis Response and to enhance 211 Crisis line
- Continuum of Care (CoC) & Substance Abuse Connect joint Task Force formed and meeting to discuss better collaboration and combining of resources moving forward.

Priority 3: Prevention

- The Healthy SPARK on-line support/information services pilot program for at risk pre-natal and mothers of young children is nearly operational at St. Vincent's Midwifery Clinic, in partnership with Rimrock and RiverStone Health.
- Youth Focus groups and youth SIM completed. Media campaign for targeted prevention is ongoing.
- Wake-Up Call Event for businesses held virtually (nearly 60 participants)
- Substance Abuse Connect has been recognized as graduating the National CADCA Leadership Academy as a cutting edge Coalition combining/coordinating prevention with treatment/intervention and system capacity issues.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Priority 1: System Capacity

- The Executive Committee is in place and a first meeting held in November 2021. The Committee will be meeting quarterly in 2021 and has also agreed to a financial commitment to ensure sustainability of the Coalition in 2021-2022.
- Rimrock Foundation has been selected as the new “home” for the Coalition. They are coordinating with United Way currently to finalize this transition.
- A position for the new Coalition Executive Director is finalized and advertising for this position will take place in February.
- The new website is near completion and should be operational and accessible to the public in February.

Priority 2: Diversion and Treatment

- The Mobile Crisis/211 Action Group continues to meet to finalize a coordinated plan for service delivery for the 211 crisis line and Mobile Crisis Response. Funding for these activities is secured and the hope is to be operational in the spring of 2021.
- The CoC and Substance Abuse Connect have formalized a joint task force that began meeting in January to combine communications and service delivery for substance addiction/behavioral health related homelessness activities.
- The Probation and Parole targeted case management program is fully functional, serving 125 individuals in the first 4 months of operation. It is sustained and will continue in 2021.

Priority 3: Prevention

- The youth media campaign (targeted prevention) will be launching in the next month.
- Full implementation of Healthy SPARK is coming early this year.
- The Wake-Up Business virtual event was a success and planning has been started for an in-person, extended Wake-Up event in 2021 (summer/fall)

For more information or to become involved, please contact Becky Bey, Project Manager @ (406) 698-3668, or becky.bey@kljeng.com, or go to our website at: <https://www.unitedwayyellowstone.org/substance-abuse-connect>.

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



United Way
of Yellowstone County

PARTNER NEWS

- The 2021 General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4th @ Noon. Due to ongoing Covid concerns, this meeting will be virtual. If you have not yet received the calendar invitation and would like to attend, please contact Becky @ becky.bey@kljeng.com.
- Our congratulations to Kurt Alme on his recent selection as Governor Gianforte's budget director. Please welcome Leif Johnson from the US Attorney's office to the Coalition!
- WE NEED YOUR SUCCESS STORIES for our Facebook Page and our new website (SubstanceAbuseConnectCoalition). Please send them to Becky for posting!
- US DPHHS/SAMHSA Region VIII has released updated National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care. You can access a free copy of this guidebook at: https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/SAMHSA_Digital_Download/PEP20-08-01-001%20PDF.pdf
- Montana State University is offering a series of on-line training opportunities for workforce in the Behavioral Health fields. Training is free, but you must register in advance. More information and a full training schedule can be found at: <http://healthinfo.montana.edu/bhwet/schedule.html>. You can also register to receive direct emails about future training opportunities here: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/MontanaOfficeOfRuralHealthAreaHealthEducationCenter/TrainingInquiry>
- The YMCA is facilitating a weekend food program for youth on Saturdays from 9am-12pm. Additional information can be found here: <https://billingsymca.org/foodprogram/>