

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

- Meetings with prospective Executive Committee members held
- Strategic Communications Plan completed
- Sustainability Committee finalizing recommendations

Priority 2: Diversion and Treatment

- Intensive case management pilot project operational at Probation and Parole
- Contractor hired to coordinate stakeholders/agencies to launch 211 and Mobile Crisis
- COSSAP Grant Awarded! (\$900,000 for mobile crisis response). Thank you to Billings Police Department for being the Coalition's fiscal agent and applicant for this exciting opportunity.

Priority 3: Prevention

- GOMO on-line support/informational services pilot program (Healthy SPARK-Support, Prevention, Awareness, Resilience, Knowledge) for at-risk pre-natal and mothers of young children moving forward with an anticipated launch in November.
- Youth focus groups & youth SIM wrapping up. Media campaign for targeted prevention to follow
- Over 9,000 "Covid Readiness and Prevention Resources" bags assembled and delivered to School District 2 schools in October

WHAT'S NEXT?

Priority 1: System Capacity

- Final meetings with prospective Executive Committee members to be held and transition from the current leadership structure to the new Executive structure to be finalized. It is anticipated the first meeting of the new Executive Committee will be held in November to begin decision making about the ongoing "home" for the Coalition and 2021 funding for sustainability.
- Initial Data Dashboard work to be completed resulting in accessible assessment and outcome features and an integrated home page for Coalition member access.
- New and more detailed website completed.
- Completion of the Replication Toolkit

Priority 2: Diversion and Treatment

- Finalization of the coordinated plan for service delivery and funding for the 211 crisis line, mobile crisis response, joint task force with Continuum of Care and Law Enforcement/First Responder Training Curriculum/Format
- Continuation/sustainability of the targeted case management program at Probation & Parole
- Implementation of the GOMO on-line support/informational services program into Rimrock Foundation as an additional treatment/diversion tool

Priority 3: Prevention

- Development/launch of the youth prevention media campaign
- Full implementation of the GOMO on-line program into the St. Vincent midwifery clinic, Rimrock Foundation, and RiverStone Health referral/service systems.
- Virtual Wake-Up Call Business event and finalized planning for "in-person" event in 2021

PARTNER NEWS

- Recently, US Attorney Kurt Alme wrote an opinion piece related to Initiative 190, legalizing recreational marijuana. The Billings Gazette article can be found here:
https://billingsgazette.com/opinion/columnists/guest-opinion-consider-the-risks-of-recreational-marijuana/article_001b8307-dd15-56a2-85be-124913afa7c5.html
- Substance Abuse Connect now has a Facebook page! Make sure to like and follow us at:
<https://www.facebook.com/SubstanceAbuseConnectCoalition>