

June 2016

Montana Prevention Coalition Communication Post

PREVENTION AT WORK IN MONTANA

Boyd Andrew
Management Services

The Long & Twisty History of the Pondera County Community Drop Box Program

By Diana Agre, Prevention Supervisor for Gateway Community Services

Once upon a time in a county far away, MEDSAFE and NADDI (National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators) drug drop boxes were slated to arrive in our eager community to begin collecting unused medications from the folks in Pondera County.

As a result of our fall 2015 media campaign to raise awareness about the harmful effects of unused medications landing in the wrong hands in Montana neighborhoods, the community now knew that medication drop boxes would be placed in Conrad and Valier so people could easily dispose of them. Therefore the unwitting drug “dealers” would cease being your “grandpa, neighbor, daughter, coworker, roommate or medical provider.” Conrad could be “saved by boxes”!

With 2016 fast approaching, we sought out the right locations and people to assist us with this endeavor. In Conrad, we ended up partnering with two eager pharmacist brothers along with the county health and sheriff departments. They were all on board to make a positive difference in our community. We later visited the city council in Valier for their consent. Affirmative!

Our first attempt included ordering materials from XMed and NADDI. One company promised us the reverse take back program and the necessary items to implement it in our community. The other one sent us two drop boxes at a very reasonable price. As we proceeded with all systems seeming to be a go, we ran smack dab into some very challenging barriers. First, unbeknownst to us, the NADDI boxes were specifically designed to use for law enforcement only, and two weeks after we signed on, XMed was no longer a viable company. They never warned us of this and the website was suddenly inaccessible.

The scheduled “program” was nonredeemable. There we were with two unusable drop boxes for a pharmacy and an out of business reverse take back program. Only in the movies do these things happen. The inverse of a drug deal gone horribly wrong. We were right back to Square One!

With genuine perseverance and determination, by the spring of 2016 things were looking up. We placed the NADDI boxes in the Sheriff’s Department in Conrad and Valier and after a lot of research and careful consideration, we signed up with MEDSAFE for the proper pharmacy reverse take back program. The whole process took about six months from start to finish. It was more like an obstacle course than a clear path but we eventually ended up in the right place. Our boxes are now up and running in all locations. The fine citizens in Pondera County are delighted “drug drop-pers.”

THE END

From the Prevention Resource Center

The Prevention Resource Center would like to share two recently completed projects; the first is a set of factsheets. The five factsheets each focus on different topics including underage drinking, prescription drug abuse, marijuana use and methamphetamine use. They are meant to serve as resource guides and provide facts from Montana and nationally as well as referrals for more information.

The second project is a “how-to” guide for implementing a prevention levy like the one in Missoula County. The guide has several pieces which include a monthly guide, related levy laws and actual examples from Missoula County such as the statement to County Commissioners. Please feel free to use these as you see fit, they are accessible at <http://prevention.mt.gov/> under “Prevention Specialist Resources.” If you have any questions on how to utilize these or their production please contact **Kenzie Antila** in the PRC at mantila@mt.gov.


Here is an important Webinar reminder...

The next Prevention in Montana WebEx is set for **Tuesday, July 26th from 1:30pm – 3pm**. The Prevention Resource Center would like to highlight some of the prevention media campaigns that have taken place, currently underway, and/or planning for the future.

I am looking for 3-5 volunteers to share their examples, why the particular message was chosen, how the message fits into the local prevention plan, where the message is being directed, and how impactful it is. This is a terrific opportunity to “lead by example”, and interested preventionists can contact Vicki Turner directly at vturner@mt.gov or (406)444-3484.

Pondera County Drug Box Informational Flyer

**Prescription Drugs
Drop Box Locations in
Pondera County**



- Please properly dispose of your unused medications!
- Drop them in any of the places listed to the top right!
- All venues are accessible year round for your convenience.

ATTENTION!

- ***Village Drug**
(Conrad Shopping mall)
- ***Sheriff's Dept.**
(Conrad Courthouse)
- ***City Office**
(Valier, MT)

Warning:
Improperly used prescription drugs can be just as harmful as street drugs!

2016 Creator's Game

Fort Peck Indian Reservation

June 20th—24th

PFS Site Coordinator **Ernie Big Horn** brought a lot of folks together to pull off another well-attended, culture-centered event for the youth of the Fort Peck Reservation and beyond.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NN2YokIKM0>

Click on this link

to get a nice drone's eye view of some of the highlights.

