

PREVENTION AT WORK IN MONTANA

**Boyd Andrew
Management Services**

Update from the EBWG RoundTable by Christine Steele, Chemical Dependency Bureau, DPHHS

The Evidence Based Workgroup's core function is to review and approve/disapprove strategies proposed by sub-recipient communities based on whether or not they achieve a certain level of evidence.

So far the group has developed a process by which coalitions can submit for approval interventions not already in WITS, created an evidence-based practices "Best Fit" form for coalitions to use when submitting their proposed strategies for review. We've also aided communities in researching risk factors and link to consequences of alcohol abuse.

We are currently working on developing criteria for "What is evidence-based" and we are reviewing/developing a list of evidence-based programs, practices, and policies for use by funded coalitions. This may sound rather straight forward, but the group has really grown in their knowledge, understanding the differentiated language amongst the EB databases, population level language/categorization, and reviewing EBWG products/process from other leading states.

The ICC also has a sub-group that is working on alcohol policies and practices. The work from this group will lead the way for future development of policies at community and state levels. The list of suggested policy work should be completed by the end of the summer. Stay tuned for more information from this group.

The EBWG – "Evidence-Based Approved List" will be completed by the release of the new Block Grant RFP. It is our hope that these two documents will aid prevention specialists in the field to focus on EB programs that "Best-Fit" their communities. Much of this work is directly tied with our WITS database in making sure we clearly state which programs, policies and practices are Evidence-Based.

In the future the EBWG will begin to evaluate the effectiveness of EB programs in communities. Many states have begun this process of evaluation already and are developing cost effectiveness databases for communities. We will focus on creating and disseminating an evidence-based guidance document so we can impart our gained knowledge specific for Montana, to those working in our communities.

Members of the EBWG include: Christine Steele, Dan McGoldrick, Barbara Bessette, Coleen Smith, Kenzie Antilla, Vicki Turner, Rachel Goen and Bethany Fatupaito and Morgan Witzel. **Members of the ICC Alcohol Policy Sub Group:** Christine Steele, Vicki Turner, Kenzie Antilla, Kevin Dusko, Tracy Moseman, Robert Clark.

Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes 3rd Annual Creator's Game 2017 June 19—23rd 2017



The Creator's Game is a cultural healing camp designed to share traditional values and teach how to use them in today's society. The Creator's Game, known commonly as lacrosse today, was taught to hundreds of kids from the Sioux and Assiniboine tribes as well as youth who traveled from as far away as Browning for the 5 day event. Tipi painting, fire dancers, story telling, drumming, archery, and horsemanship were part of the activities that took place while achieving the underlying goal of engraining cultural values, positive life skills, core family values and youth leadership skills.



Farewell Faylee Favara

For over eight years Faylee has been a prevention force to be reckoned with in Ravalli County. When Faylee encountered a “no” standing in the way of a prevention initiative, she had a unique and tenacious way of figuring out an alternative means to a “yes.”

There is a strong prevention coalition entrenched in her community and Adverse Childhood Experiences training has taken hold thanks to her community mobilizing efforts. Faylee has mentored new folks to the prevention field and has always provided memorable entertainment at conferences and trainings. Her first love has always been the theatre, so she recently accepted a position in that capacity.

Congratulations Faylee, you are one of a kind and you will be missed!



Opioid Abuse Strategic Planning Grant Update

By Dan McGoldrick, BAMS Prevention Contract Administrator

Recent news reports project that more Americans are expected to die from drug overdoses in the coming year than died in the Viet Nam, Afghanistan and Iraq wars combined. While it may not be an epidemic in Montana yet, there is a lot of work that needs to be done to prevent that from becoming a reality. Even the brightest, most educated minds in the state can find it difficult to step way back from a deadly overdose to address the problem years and even decades before it reaches that stage.

One of our greatest asset in the prevention field are the preventionists working in their communities to avert this crisis, educate their communities and plant seeds of resilience in young impressionable minds. What you're doing formally and informally with adults and youth has an impact that you may lose track of as you encounter barriers, challenges and daunting statistics. Never lose sight of the fact that the data-driven action plans you're following now could actually become what stands in the way of jails, institutions and death for fellow Montana citizens. It's an enormously complex problem but there is a simple and sustaining hope in the efforts you put forth to move the needle.

In 2016, the Montana Injury Prevention Program received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention focused on coordinating efforts in Montana to address the problem of prescription drug overdose. The Montana Injury Prevention Program used this funding to bring together experts and partners from across the state who are working on this issue in some capacity to create a comprehensive prescription drug overdose and abuse prevention state plan. Three of the main goals are to:

- Improve data collection and analysis around opioid misuse and overdose;
- Develop strategies that impact behaviors driving prescription opioid misuse and dependence; and
- Work with communities to develop more comprehensive opioid overdose prevention programs.

The next to last quarterly Opioid Abuse Strategic Planning Meeting was held on June 21st in Helena. The focus was on developing strategic action steps plan for Treatment, Monitoring, Public Awareness and Education, Enforcement, Prevention, and Community & Family Resources. The prevention group captured current activities and brainstormed about what should be supported and what is missing. A great deal of wrangling of sticky note statements took place to put ideas in the appropriate groups so that some overarching goal statements would emerge at the 10,000 foot level. Vicki Turner took the helm in this operation and as always, was quick to point out the strength in the network of talented and resourceful preventionists across the state working on the ground. The facilitator will write the first draft of the plan for review at the September meeting.