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Prevention Subcommittee - Guiding Framework

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Prevention Subcommittee Purpose

The prevention subcommittee has agreed to the following vision statement:

- A sustainable, statewide primary prevention network that prioritizes upstream strategies, community engagement, shared outcomes, and culturally responsive leadership to support healthy, substance-free lives across Montana.

Key priorities for the Subcommittee:

1. Stakeholder Engagement

- Ensure key partners are represented, including schools (OPI, districts), tribal nations, public health, healthcare, coalitions, and youth-serving organizations.

2. Survey and Mapping

- Build from the Prevention Inventory completed by Prevention Support Services
- Launch a refined statewide survey by October 2025
- Analyze data to identify gaps, overlaps, and funding needs.

3. Education & Messaging

- Develop clear talking points that explain what primary prevention is and how it differs from treatment and intervention.
- Share examples of effective programs and outcomes to educate legislators and stakeholders.

Draft Goals & Objectives (2025–2027)

Goal 1: Secure Sustainable Funding for Primary Prevention

- Objective 1.1: Complete survey and mapping by May 2026.
- Objective 1.2: Present findings and funding recommendations to CHS Interim Committee by May 2025
- Objective 1.3: Actively participate in the 2027 Session to ensure prevention funding is prioritized.

Goal 2: Build a Statewide Prevention Infrastructure

- Objective 2.1: Use survey/ mapping data to identify system gaps and overlaps.
- Objective 2.2: Recommend infrastructure options (ATOD Division, Behavioral Health Prevention Division, or Public Health alignment).
- Objective 2.3: Clarify roles, oversight, and accountability for prevention.

Goal 3: Stakeholder Engagement

- Objective 3.1: Ensure schools, OPI, tribal nations, public health, health care, law enforcement, and coalitions have a voice at the table.
- Objective 3.2: Formalize input from prevention specialists (MAP, youth-serving organizations, etc.).
- Objective 3.3: Build trust and collaboration so recommendations reflect statewide needs.

Next Steps for the Subcommittee

1. Finalize Goals & Objectives

- Confirm the short-term goal of completing the survey by May 2026.
- Agree on long-term goals (funding, infrastructure, stakeholder engagement).

2. Launch Statewide Survey

- Refine draft questions, drawing from Colleen Smith's Prevention Inventory.
- Distribute survey by October 2025.
- Ensure MAP members and other community prevention specialists are included.

3. Engage Stakeholders

- Invite schools (OPI, districts), tribal representatives, public health, health care, and coalitions into discussions.
- Formalize stakeholder roles in the Subcommittee process.

4. Analyze & Report

- Compile survey results to identify gaps, overlaps, and funding needs.
- Use findings to prepare a report for the 2027 Legislature.

5. Educate & Prepare Legislators

- Develop clear talking points on primary prevention (what it is, why it matters, how it differs from treatment).
- Share examples of programs and outcomes to make prevention tangible.