



Newsletter Highlights

- Updates from the SHIP workgroups and subgroups,
- Resources, events, and educational opportunities from SHIP partners, and
- A calendar of upcoming SHIP events or opportunities.

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Quarterly State Health Improvement Plan Newsletter

News

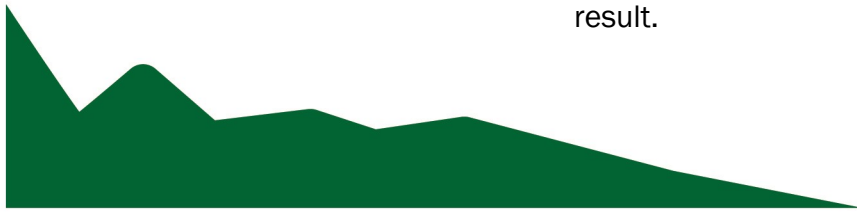
Welcome to the first Montana State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) newsletter! These newsletters are being developed in response to our evaluation results from 2019. Our partners, stakeholders, and interested community members indicated they would like more frequent reminders and updates about the SHIP. Partners also wanted an opportunity to share news, resources, and research with people who are interested in the SHIP key priority areas. “Open and continuous communication” is a key component of the Collective Impact framework, which is guiding the implementation of the 2019-2023 SHIP. The goal of this newsletter series is to start providing the type of communication requested.

Newsletters will be published every other month and were meant to begin in March 2020. The rapid spread of COVID-19 put our plans on hold. Expect newsletters following this one in July, September, and November of 2020.

There have been exciting developments to the SHIP already in 2020. Some updates include:

- The first SHIP Annual Report published in January,
- Working with a Collective Impact expert to train SHIP leadership and workgroup members on how to fully incorporate the framework into SHIP implementation;
- The addition of an [Implementation Library](#) to the A Healthier Montana website that will continue to grow;
- The development of ad hoc subgroups to conduct focused work of interest to workgroup members; and
- Hiring an intern and an AmeriCorps VISTA to support additional SHIP development projects in 2020.

Thank you for your continued support of and interest in the SHIP. This project benefits from your involvement and will continue to grow as a result.





See meeting minutes and materials on the [A Healthier Montana](#) website for detailed updates provided by participants, as well as notes from data presentations and strategy conversations.

Behavioral Health

Minutes from last quarter's meeting (March 4, 2020) are available on the [Behavioral Health](#) page. The data presentation in March was "Drug Poisoning Mortality from 2007-2018" with Victoria Troeger, an epidemiologist at MT DPHHS. The strategy conversation focused on increasing collaboration and successful warm hand-offs to lower annual readmission rates; it included a discussion on the [CONNECT](#) referral system and an update on the Adult Continuum of Care Task Force from the Behavioral Health Alliance and their partners.

Chronic Disease Prevention and Self-Management

Last quarter's meeting (February 27, 2020) materials are available on the [Chronic Disease](#) page. The data presentation was an update on obesity-related metrics in the SHIP with Robin Silverstein, an epidemiologist at MT DPHHS. A subgroup formed in response to the presentation to discuss aligning obesity prevention efforts in more depth. The strategy conversation focused on increasing access to evidence-based programs for vulnerable populations using tools like the CONNECT referral system and telehealth.

Motor Vehicle Crashes (MVCs)

The MVC workgroup met last quarter on January 8, 2020 and meeting materials are posted on the [Motor Vehicle Crashes](#) webpage. There was not a data presentation. The strategy conversation focused on increasing awareness of high risk driving behaviors with a presentation from Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies on their car seat distribution program. Also, workgroup lead Maureen Ward presented on the recently published Safe States Resource Guide. Two subgroups formed: 1) aligning car seat safety programs and 2) planning an event for local and tribal public health officials to convene over motor vehicle crash prevention in communities.

Healthy Mothers, Babies, and Youth/Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

The [Healthy Mothers, Babies, and Youth](#) webpage has materials from last quarter's meeting (February 6, 2020). There was not a data presentation. The strategy conversations focused on 1) health systems adopting integrated team-based care and 2) implementing resiliency-building and trauma-informed educational approaches. Attendees presented the new Montana Obstetrics and Maternal Support (MOMS) program and the PAX Good Behavior Game. A subgroup formed to discuss developing a statewide ACEs and trauma-informed resource.

COVID-19 Response Materials

Montana State University is conducting a study of COVID-19 impacts on food insecurity and physical and mental health. [Participate in and share the survey](#) if interested and contact [Dr. Carmen Byker Shanks](#) with questions.

Some SHIP partners have shared materials that may be of interest. The cross-sector [Yellowstone Economic Recovery](#) partnership, an [app developed in partnership with the CDC](#) for self-assessment of COVID-19 symptoms, the [Montana Emergency Housing Assistance Program](#) through the Montana Department of Commerce, and [stress relief resources](#) from the California Surgeon General.



See the minutes from last quarter's meetings for more updates from SHIP partners by priority area.

- Montana Primary Care Association released findings from a survey of MDs, APRNs, and PAs to determine current attitudes around Medication Assisted Therapy and prescribing. Read the [summary](#) to learn more.
- American Medical Association announced [approval of three "Category III" codes](#) for "Health and Well-Being Coaching." Coaches must be certified by the National Board for Health and Wellness Coaching or the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing. The codes went into effect in January 2020.
- The Western Service Area Authority (WSAA) gave money for 15 peer support specialist scholarships to cover the initial costs for applicants in their service area, which was a barrier for many people to become certified.
- Local Advisory Councils in the WSAA were given grants to conduct community SHIP events. For example, Mineral County LAC held an ice cream social with suicide prevention activities (QPR, gun safety, etc.).
- The Public Health System Improvement Office, with support from the Montana Health Care Foundation, will announce an opportunity in the near future for local and tribal health departments to receive support and funding to initiate or expand the Communities That Care (CTC) model in their jurisdiction, as well as other public health system and health improvement activities.
- University of Montana started a 12-credit certificate program in Health Behavior Coaching with courses at the undergraduate or graduate level for health professionals who work with people on healthier lifestyle changes.
- Montana State University, University of Montana, and the Office of Public Instruction have started the Rural Mental Health Preparation Pathway (PMHP3) to place counseling students in rural schools across Montana. For more information, contact [Dr. Anna Elliott](#) (MSU) or [Dr. Kristen Murray](#) (UM).
- The Montana Office of Rural Health (MORH) continues to support development of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Montana. They have identified three reimbursement codes recognized for CHW service to help inform the business case for CHWs: CPT 98960, CPT 98961, and CPT 98962. [Contact the MORH](#) with questions about CHW trainings, apprenticeships, and other opportunities.

Examples of cross-sector collaboration in Montana submitted by partners

- COVID-19 has brought unprecedented challenges for Centers for Independent Living (CILs). The Montana Disability and Health program is partnering with CILs to organize virtual wellness programs, plan safe direct care practices, and ensure disability inclusion during this emergency.
- Butte-Silver Bow is home to three evidence-based home visiting programs: the Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, and SafeCare. Three agencies (the Health Department, AWARE, Inc., and the Butte 4-C's) formed the Healthy Families Network to deliver these services in a collaborative manner.
- Butte-Silver Bow's Community Action Team developed a multi-tiered system of support for youths and is developing a similar system for adults. Outcomes on the youth side are excellent and the subject of an upcoming article in the NACCHO Exchange newsletter.
- The Montana Cancer Control Program [partnered with coffee shops](#) across the state to spread awareness of colorectal cancer screening.



Upcoming Partner Events

Please note that some events may experience changes due to the COVID-19 emergency. Please follow up with host organizations on the status of individual events.

Head Start Heals

Webinars over the next several weeks on early childhood and trauma that will be available on demand at the Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center (ECLKC). [Register](#) for the first on May 12: “Addressing Trauma in Classroom Settings.”

Spring Statewide Opioid Use Disorder Training

[May 27, 2020](#)

Bozeman, MT

Family Planning Health Worker Training

[August 4-5, 2020](#)

Helena, MT

For more information, please contact Emily Dunklee at Emily.Dunklee@mt.gov

Annual Montana Public Health Association Conference

[September 22-23, 2020](#)

Missoula, MT

Ongoing trainings

Several statewide organizations have trainings and events available on an ongoing basis, including (but not limited to) the [Montana Primary Care Association](#), the [Montana Office of Rural Health](#), and the [Montana Public Health Training Center](#).

Recent SHIP-related Research Shared by Partners

Obesity Prevention

The CDC High Obesity Program recently shared a [collection](#) of 9 articles that focus on improving nutrition and physical activity in rural areas.

ACEs data from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

[HRSA data](#) show that in 2017-2018, one in three children under the age of 18 were reported to have an ACE score of at least one, and 14% experienced two or more ACEs.

ACEs data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

[BRFSS data](#) from 25 states show that nearly 1 in 6 adults reported 4 or more types of ACEs, which were significantly associated with poorer health outcomes, health risk behaviors, and socioeconomic challenges.

Upcoming SHIP Events

Collective Impact Training for Workgroups

May 15, 2020 from 10:30 to 11:30

Presenter: Deb Halliday of Halliday & Associates

*A recording will be placed on the A Healthier Montana website as an enduring resource.

Healthy Mothers, Babies, and Youth/ACEs

Workgroup meeting

May 22, 2020 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM

Chronic Disease Prevention and Self-management

Workgroup meeting

May 29, 2020 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM

Behavioral Health

Workgroup meeting

June 3, 2020 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM

Motor Vehicle Crashes

Workgroup meeting

June 9, 2020 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM

The meeting with local and tribal health departments to discuss motor vehicle crash prevention that was originally scheduled for May 4 has been postponed. Date and location TBD. If you work for a local or tribal public health department and would like to stay informed, please submit [your information online](#).

