

TALK to ACTION June 2022

On June 9, 2022 a community event was organized by the Sheridan County Behavioral Health Coalition to address substance use disorder (SUD) in the community. Amber Rogers RN, MSN from Mountain-Pacific Quality Health and Lea Wetzel, Peer Support Professional with Montana Peer Network and VP of the North Central MT Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Task Force, coordinated content development and meeting facilitation through grant funding from the Rural Opioid Response Project that was awarded to the Montana Hospital Association to assist rural counties along the Hi-Line to strengthen and address the opioid crisis across Montana.

During the event, 29 attendees shared their firsthand experience with the effects of substance use on their families. Undersheriff Jon Anderson also spoke about the correlation between substance use disorder and increased theft, domestic violence and human trafficking within the community.

Substance use continues to rise both locally and nationwide. A 2020 National Survey of Drug Use and Health data revealed that:

- More than 50 million people have used an illegal drug.
- 16 million people have used a prescription drug without a prescription.
- Five million people have used cocaine.
- One million people have used heroin or another illicit opioid.
- Nearly 60% of American adults have used an illicit drug at least once.

Montana specific drug use survey rates can be found at <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2019-2020-nsduh-national-maps-prevalence-estimates-state>.

In addition to learning more about SUD, the community event generated specific ideas around prevention, treatment and recovery efforts. These ideas will be developed into a plan for Sheridan County to implement among many partners and organizations in the area.

If you or your family is experiencing behavioral health issues, resources are available at <https://www.scbhcoalition.org/>

In case of drug poisoning, Naloxone (Narcan) can be successfully administered by friends, family or bystanders. If you are interested in obtaining Naloxone, it is offered for free at Spotted Bull Resource Recovery Center in Poplar, Montana, or can be mailed by request at <https://nextdistro.org/montana>.

Sheridan County Behavioral Health Coalition is a 501c3 non-profit organization, made up of volunteers, serving as a community development group promoting individual, family, and community behavioral health awareness and wellness. The coalition strives to identify and educate the public about resources, to assist and give direction, engage Sheridan Country communities in addressing mental/ behavioral health issues, advocate for resolution of unmet needs, and assist in strengthening services in Sheridan County. Current and future projects are driven by community involvement, interest, and needs.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 12:00 PM in the Sheridan County Courthouse Jubilee Room, downstairs from the library.