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Missoula County

Media Release

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Missoula County to Host Collaborative Care Plan Summit

Missoula County is hosting a two-day summit bringing together more than 40 local leaders and advocates in the fields of primary and behavioral healthcare, local government, criminal justice, education, and supportive agencies to start the process of creating an integrated Collaborative Care Plan for Missoula County. This is designed to bring a holistic approach to mental health and primary care. Facilitated by the National Council for Behavioral Health (NCBH), participants will identify current resources, learn about what other communities are doing to integrate mental health and primary care, discuss challenges to developing an integrated care plan, and create a work group to write a collaborative care plan that addresses integrated behavioral health.

“Missoula County hopes to address disparities in health care by supporting an integrated system of care for our community,” Missoula County Grants Administrator, Erin Kautz said. “This Summit will be a great first step in making that happen.”

Funded by a grant from the Montana Healthcare Foundation, the Summit is sponsored by Missoula County, Western Montana Mental Health Center, St. Patrick Hospital, Community Medical Center, and Partnership Health Center. The Summit will be held Oct. 18-19, 2016 at the Missoula Children’s Theater, located at 200 N Adams Street in Missoula.

Missoula’s goal is to provide an opportunity for community leaders to develop a comprehensive continuity of care system, in which physical health is recognized as a crucial component for individuals with behavioral health issues. By reducing barriers between physical and mental health care, individuals can be better stabilized and experience improved outcomes. This meeting will help bring community stakeholders together to discuss emerging models of integrated behavioral health care, payment issues/barriers and strengths, and the need for more coordination, communication, and integration between agencies providing care.

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The Missoula County Department of Grants and Community Programs works to improve the quality of life for our community. Staff identify needs in the community and work to secure resources to meet those needs, often in collaboration with other City and County departments and non-profit and for-profit entities.

Resources funding include grants and loans from federal, state, county, and private entities. Staff research funding opportunities and write or package applications for those funds. In addition to preparing grant applications and administering the funds, increasing public awareness about community issues is a critical role of the Grants and Community Programs department.