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Missoula County

Media Release

Contact: Katie Kliez

Communications Coordinator

Missoula County

(406) 258-3161

kkliez@missoulacounty.us



Missoula County Awarded Opportunity to Attend National Stepping Up Summit

After a highly competitive application process, the Missoula County team, comprised of community leaders, is pleased to announce they have been awarded the opportunity to attend the National [Stepping Up](#) Summit in Washington DC on April 17-19. The National Stepping Up Summit provides a platform for local county leaders to work towards reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. Counties will gather to share strategies that have reduced these numbers while networking with peers and national experts representing behavioral health, families and advocates, law enforcement, courts and state and local governments.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for us to learn from national industry leaders who have gone through these same processes to implement meaningful, sustainable change in their communities,” Commissioner Nicole “Cola” Rowley said, “We’ve been developing a strong foundation in Missoula and can now focus on prioritizing and implementing outcome-driven efforts to assist individuals with mental illness in our justice system.”

Missoula County’s team consists of Commissioners Jean Curtiss and Cola Rowley, Sheriff TJ McDermott, Executive Director of Western Montana Mental Health Center Katherine Issacson and Deputy County Attorney Jessica Simons.

“We make every attempt to be a leader for our state and to offer help to other jurisdictions that may look to us for guidance on successful programming,” Commissioner Rowley said. “Not only will attendance at the Summit provide us with valuable outside education and direction, it will provide our diverse team unprecedented time to focus and collaborate on this issue.”

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Missoula County’s mission is to be responsive and accountable to our residents by providing innovative and high quality government services in a transparent, cost effective, equitable, professional and courteous manner to enhance and protect the health, welfare, and safety of those who live, work, and visit Missoula County.