

## ADSGC NEWS

Providing prevention, education, addiction and mental health services to help you on your road to recovery.

[adsgc.org](http://adsgc.org)



*Alcohol & Drug Services of Gallatin County*

*August 2017*



### **Talk. They Hear You. Underage Drinking Prevention App**

“YoTalk. They Hear You.” is an interactive game that can help parents and caregivers prepare for one of the most important conversations they may ever have.

The app will help parents:

- Practice bringing up the topic of alcohol.
- Learn the questions to ask.
- Get ideas for keeping the conversation going.

**Get Connected with SAMHSA's Free Mobile App:**

<https://www.store.samhsa.gov/apps/>



## **Substance Use Disorder Community Listening Sessions**

A few weeks ago, Montana's attorney general stood on the steps outside of the Capitol in Helena and announced that this state has a problem with drugs.

"You know it's no secret that Montana has a substance abuse problem," Attorney General Tim Fox said earlier this year.

- Since 1980, drug offense rates in Montana have increased 559%.
- From 2013 to 2016, the State crime lab has experienced a 143 percent increase in substance samples testing positive for Methamphetamine and a 475 percent increase in substance samples testing positive for heroin.
- An estimated 1 in 10 Montanans is dependent on or abusing alcohol or drugs.

Nearly 64,000 Montanans aged 18 and older suffered from substance abuse disorders in 2016. Montana only had the capacity to treat 6,000 individuals in need of treatment. That means more than 90% of Montanans in need of substance abuse treatment do not receive it annually.

The statistics are clear: What Montana is doing now isn't enough.

During June and July, the Department of Justice partnered with the Montana Healthcare Foundation to conduct four listening sessions across Montana aimed at addressing the state's substance abuse problem.

The listening sessions were designed to explore the challenges and opportunities communities face related to prevention and treatment of substance use disorders (SUD), and to identify effective, Montana-based solutions.

Each session gathered input from stakeholders related to addressing the impact of substance abuse in Montana, and will lead up to a substance abuse and addiction summit later this fall.

Fox said the goal is to develop a strategy before the 2019 legislative session and present the findings to lawmakers.

“Alone we can do so little;  
**together**  
we can do so much.”

~Helen Keller

The most pressing public health concern facing America today is alcohol and drug misuse, substance use disorders, and addiction.

In a recent Bozeman Daily Chronicle story, it was reported that alcohol continues to be the main factor in deadly car crashes and that drug-related seizures on Montana roads are on the rise.

Over the next two years, Montana Attorney General Tim Fox has stated that his office will be spearheading an effort to develop a strategic plan that aims to combat the effects of dangerous drugs and that the Department of Justice will be working with a broad coalition of stakeholders.

Here in Gallatin County the Community-Coalition On Drug Awareness, Elks Drug Awareness Program, and Gallatin County DUI Task Force will continue their efforts to address drug issues in partnership with law enforcements agencies who are on the front line.

- The Community Coalition On Drug Awareness is a community-based program that provides resources and evidence-based strategies to reduce underage drinking, excessive drinking, tobacco use, impaired driving, and illegal drug use throughout Southwest Montana.
- The Gallatin County DUI Task Force is a citizens group appointed by the Gallatin County Commissioners to develop and/or fund public education, awareness, and enforcement projects to reduce the number of alcohol and drug related crashes and deaths in Gallatin County.

With a “can do” approach our communities can have success in implementing strategies and programs to prevent alcohol and drug misuse.

That can do attitude was demonstrated a few weeks ago when community partners brought the Bitter Pill Art Exhibit to Bozeman with the aim to show the human side of prescription drug abuse and recovery.

The exhibition at the Elks Lodge showcased works from more than 30 amateur and professional artists from across Montana whose pieces examine the state’s prescription drug abuse epidemic.

*Rick Gale  
Montana Chairman  
Elks Drug Awareness Program*



The Elks Drug Awareness Resource Center is the largest volunteer drug awareness program in the country. It is committed to eliminating the use of illegal drugs by all members of society.

### [DAP Media Gallery](#)

Drug Education Videos.

### [Items for Teens](#)

Useful information for teens on avoiding drugs and alcohol.

### [Items for Parents](#)

Information to help parents learn the truth about drugs and alcohol to teach their children about the dangers.

### [Red Ribbon Week](#)

Test your knowledge about drugs and alcohol and their effects with an interactive online quiz!

### [Contests](#)

Contests for students in 3rd through post-graduate.

### [Coloring Book](#)

The Drug Awareness Coloring Book is made up of the winners of last year's [Poster Contest](#).

### [Bookmark](#)

Let Elroy T. Elk and the Fantastic Four help you keep your place while reading and remind you to keep away from drugs and alcohol.

### [Other Resources](#)

Links to other useful resources and further information.

**Resource URL:** <https://www.elks.org/dap/resources.cfm>