

## ADSGC NEWS

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

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*Alcohol & Drug Services of Gallatin County*

*JULY 2017*



**Happy Birthday America!**

**Enjoy & Be Safe :)**



## **President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction & Opioid Crisis**

The Commission is established in the interest of obtaining advice and recommendations for the President regarding the opioid crisis.

The Commission functions solely as an advisory body and makes recommendations regarding policies and practices for combating drug addiction with particular focus on the current opioid crisis in the United States.

### **The Commission's objectives are to:**

- a. identify and describe the existing Federal funding used to combat drug addiction and the opioid crisis;
- b. assess the availability and accessibility of drug addiction treatment services and overdose reversal throughout the country and identify areas that are underserved;
- c. identify and report on best practices for addiction prevention, including healthcare provider education and evaluation of prescription practices, collaboration between State and Federal officials, and the use and effectiveness of State prescription drug monitoring programs;
- d. review the literature evaluating the effectiveness of educational messages for youth and adults with respect to prescription and illicit opioids;
- e. identify and evaluate existing Federal programs to prevent and treat drug addiction for their scope and effectiveness, and make recommendations for improving these programs; and
- f. make recommendations to the President for improving the Federal response to drug addiction and the opioid crisis.



## **Combating the Effects of Dangerous Drugs in Gallatin County**

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

- Alcohol & Drug Services in Gallatin County is providing prevention, education, addiction and mental health services.
- 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 Montana Elks National Drug Awareness Program is striving to teach all children and parents about the dangers of illegal drug use and prevent the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs.
- 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.



## Third Wave of the Opioid Epidemic

According to members of Congress and federal officials at a House hearing on March 21, a rise in trafficking and use of illicit fentanyl may constitute a "third wave" of the opioid epidemic in the United States.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid pain reliever, about 50 times more potent than heroin and up to 100 times more potent than morphine. It is a schedule II drug and it is typically used to treat patients with severe pain or to manage pain after surgery.

The current fentanyl crisis is multi-faceted and involves a global supply of fentanyl and related materials. China is the primary source of supply for fentanyl destined for the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Mexico often serves as a trans-shipment point for fentanyl shipped from China. Mexican traffickers prepare the fentanyl to be mixed with heroin destined for the United States, or press fentanyl into counterfeit prescription pills before the drugs are smuggled into the United States.

Illicit fentanyl has become a potent additive to heroin, cocaine, or even counterfeit prescription drugs. Drug dealers increase profits, stretch out their supply, and expand the number of addicts, by increasing the potency of heroin or other street drugs.

The number of opioid deaths attributable to synthetic opioids, which include fentanyl, increased 72% from 2014 to 2015 — from 5544 to 9581 — according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

With this growing fentanyl abuse problem, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has issued nationwide public health and public safety alerts regarding the lethality of fentanyl.

In addition to being deadly to users, fentanyl poses a serious threat to our law enforcement officers and first responders, as a lethal dose of fentanyl can be accidentally inhaled or absorbed through the skin.