

Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission Minutes

July 7, 2015

Commission Members in Attendance: Ginny Merriam (City of Missoula), Keithi Worthington (Deputy City Attorney), Michael Moore (Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness), Rob Scheben (Police Department), Melinda Mason (WORD), Jason Wiener (City Council), Nicole Rowley (County Commissioner), Susan Hay Patrick (United Way), Sue Wilkins (Missoula Correctional Services), Travis Mateer (Poverello Center), Eran Fowler Pehan (Poverello Center), Margaret Borg (Retired Attorney), Jon Wilkins (City Council), Bryan Von Lossberg (City Council), Caitlin Copple, Loreen Hamilton (Salvation Army), Dan Cederberg (Downtown Attorney) and Melissa Gordon (Grants)

Commission Members Absent: Paige Livingston (One Eleven), Barbara Wrickel (Missoula Interfaith Collaborative), Tara Maus (Montgomery Distillery) and Laurie Johnson (Downtown Ambassador)

Others in Attendance: Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office), Cynthia Wolken via conference call, Juan Oregel (Salvation Army Intern)

- **Missoula County** – Bill Bert, TJ McDermott, Jason Johnson, Rachel Whitfield
- **City of Billings Via Skype** – Brent Brooks (Billings City Attorney), Lisa Harmon (DT Billings Alliance), Matt Lennick (DT Police Officer), Joel Sampson (Licensed Addiction Counselor), Lenette Kosovich (Rimrock Health) and Rick St. John

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of June 2, 2015 will be reviewed at a later date.

1. Public Comment – None
2. Special Presentations
 - Billings Teleconference, Billings Community Innovations Program

Keithi Worthington asked the people from Billings on the Skype panel to introduce themselves and then asked Lisa Harmon of the Downtown Billings Alliance to talk a little about the Community Innovations Project in Billings and the information that came out of the first summit in 2014.

The panel explained that there was a large response and participation to discuss the issues that were coming up in downtown Billings at the 2014 Summit.

Overview

- Rising crime, transients and panhandling were discussed.
- Key city leaders were in attendance at the meeting
- Five outreach teams were formed out of the first summit: The Native American Coalition Committee, the Motivated Addiction Alternative Program Committee (MAAAP) the Legislative Committee, the Enforcement Committee and the Funding Committee.
- The Billings plan to end homelessness was officially created in 2007.
- A website was created in order for the public to share ideas.
- A delegation of members from the summit went to Haven for Hope in San Antonio, Texas to learn about their program and also traveled to San Diego, California to learn about that city's Serial Inebriate Program.

- The City of Billings determined that early intervention was the key in solving some of the problems the city was encountering.
- The city also developed a listing of resources for those in need of help to take.

Data Collection Survey

- A survey was emailed to the local business community and the faith based community. The faith based community also had their own summit.
- Open container citations from January to September were reviewed. 389 citations were issued, of those 74 people had multiple citations. Unfortunately 96% of citations issued were to Native Americans. This is when it was decided to approach Native Services for help.
- Of the 74 people cited, there had been 3,326 arrests primarily in the downtown area. These were the 74 people who were not receiving services.

Infrastructure/ Detox

- Key infrastructure would be a detox facility/warming center, community crisis center with a mental health and medical provider.
- Funding could be done with grants, block grant money, help from Riverstone Health Center or the Health Department in Billings.
- In San Diego the Serial Inebriate Program was not staffed by medical personnel. If staff determined an inebriated person was intoxicated to an extreme they would be sent to the hospital for care.
- Now Billings has a six month treatment center and a 48 day detox center.

Addiction Counselor

- An addiction counselor accompanies the police officers on the street and bridges the gap between enforcement and available services. Constant contact by the addiction counselor has proved to be very important since those on the street know him and recognize him.
- Their licensed addiction counselor shares an office with the two downtown police officers. The addiction counselor also visits the jail population in order to get them on the treatment program.

Over-serving Efforts

- The Department of Revenue trained the two police officers on over-service of alcohol enforcement.
- The officers worked with licensed alcohol vendors to build relationships and cooperation on over-service of alcohol. In turn, some single serve alcohol was removed from the shelves.
- The Department of Revenue will also come and train vendors on over-service.
- The officers are working on size and alcohol content with downtown vendors.
- The Department of Revenue developed a complaint form for over service violations so any complainant deals directly with the DOR who has better enforcement authority than the police department. The public, regular business owners and vendors can use this form.

Jail Diversion

- The ACLU was invited to the initial meetings with city officials to be sure the city was enforcing its ordinances for all individuals equally and not just the transient population.
- The city judges are on board with the police giving chronic inebriants five chances to get into a program before they go straight to jail. If they go to jail they are still given several opportunities to go into treatment.
- The ACLU had no problem with chronic inebriants going to jail as long as they were given the treatment option.
- Some ask for the ticket instead of going into treatment and some move across town to another area to avoid getting ticketed.
- The City of Billings did give lots of notice before they instituted this program.

Annual Conference Statistics/Ordinance Use

- In 2014, 231 open container citations were issued. This includes everyone, not just the chronically inebriated. In 2015, 69 open container citations were issued which was a 70% drop from 2014.
- One question raised by the MDAC Commission was if any ordinances were used in Billings for enforcement. Joel Sampson explained that the Open Container and Trespass Ordinances were used, but they are hoping other cities will be interested in passing legislation on public intoxication.

Funding

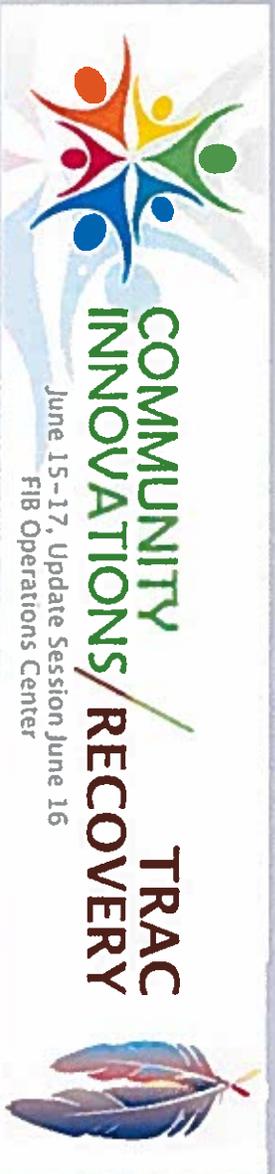
- The City of Billings has a long-term goal of developing sober living for chronic inebriants through housing.
- They are using special meters where the public can deposit change, plus the business community has chipped in and they are the ones that paid for the trip to San Diego.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi J. Bakula

Executive Assistant

Date of Next Meeting
Jack Reidy Conference Room
August 4, 2015



Efforts of Success - Progress Report

Intention

To update the community on progress made to date by the **Billings Community Innovations**

Teams:

- **Native American Coalition Committee:**
 - Conducted substance use concerns survey.
 - Implemented Transitional Recovery and Culture Project (TRAC) Peer-to-Peer Project.
 - Since January 2015:
 - 14 peers served through TRAC Project in Billings
 - 3 peer mentors trained
 - 25 referrals from community stakeholders

- **Motivated Addiction Alternative Program (MAAP) Committee:**
 - Hired Resource Outreach Coordinator (ROC) - Joel Simpson, LAC, MSW.
 - Developed client progress tracking system / data trends.
 - Visited San Diego's Sobering Center.
 - Drafted model of Social Sobering Center for Billings.
 - Conducted Asset Mapping of community resources.

- **Legislative Committee:**
 - Senator Doug Kary sponsored Senate Bill 360 to revise public intoxication laws.
 - Requested Attorney General opinion on restricting sale of >16oz cans / bottles of alcoholic beverages.

- **Enforcement Committee:**
 - Billings Police Department (BPD) met with alcohol vendors / retailers
 - Overtime / underage enforcement - BPD / Department of Revenue
 - Downtown Resource Officers comparison of March, April, May calls for past two years.

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| 2014 | | 2015 |
| Disturbance calls: 179 | | Disturbance calls: 105 |
| Drunk calls: 248 | | Drunk calls: 149 |
| Welfare checks: 42 | | Welfare checks: 48 |
| Open container: 231 | | Open container: 69 |

- **Funding Committee:**
 - Spare Change for Real Change Grant
 - Research / apply for grants

Billings Downtown
Starts here.



MONTANA-WYOMING
TRIBAL LEADERS COUNCIL



MAAP Flow Chart

