

Bringing Treatment Courts to Scale in Montana



October 2018





A Report to the
Montana Healthcare Foundation
and the
Montana Supreme Court
Drug Treatment Court Advisory
Committee

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Bringing Treatment Courts to Scale - MT

1 *BACKGROUND*

2 *NEED FOR
TREATMENT COURTS
IN MONTANA*

3 *RECOMMENDATIONS*

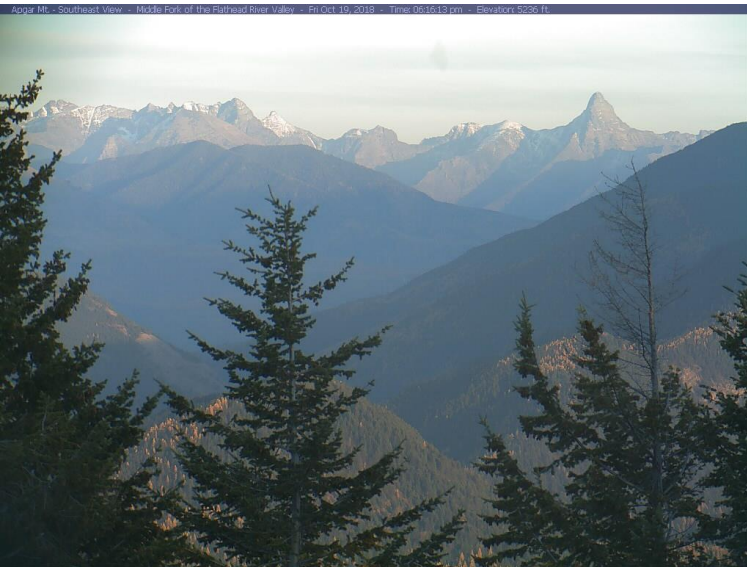




1 BACKGROUND

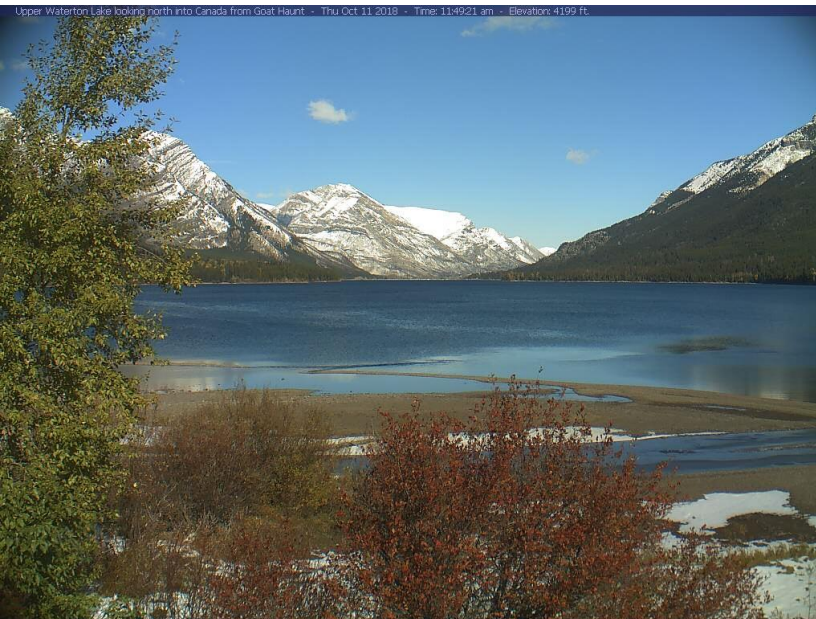
Why was this study conducted?

- To respond to current interest in treatment courts
- To review the current reach of treatment courts in Montana
- To explore the interest in, feasibility of, and resources required to expand treatment courts in the state



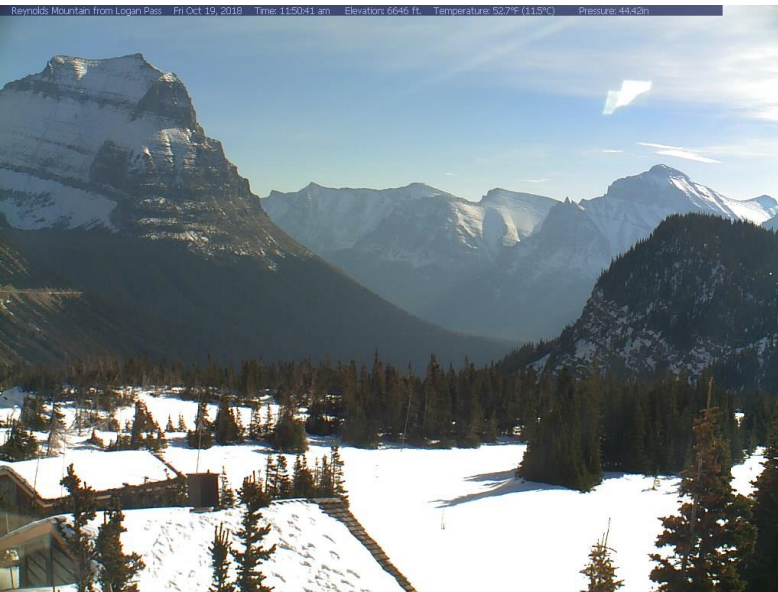
Content of the report

- Effectiveness of tx courts
- Innovative models in rural programs
- Best practices related to drug testing
- Impact of DUI courts
- Current scope of tx courts in MT
- Best practices achieved by MT tx courts
- Services and resources needed for successful tx courts
- Strategies for funding tx courts
- Peer support models
- Recommendations



The treatment court model and evidence base

- Treatment courts work
- They reduce substance use and recidivism
- They offset costs and protect public safety
- Montana would benefit from increased investment in these programs





NEED FOR TREATMENT COURTS IN MONTANA

Drug-related crime

- 12,187 drug-related offenses committed in Montana in 2016 that would be eligible for treatment court
- 5,488 DUI offenses
- 4,098 sentences were imposed that placed individuals in DOC custody – the #1 offense for adult felony convictions was possession of drugs (both men and women)
- 1,639 people based on drug-related crimes alone that are likely eligible for treatment courts each year



Montana Treatment Courts



Types of programs: Adult, DUI, Family, Veterans, Co-Occurring/Mental Health, Juvenile, Tribal

- Current state funding allocation is \$1.3 Million
- 16 programs funded by state dollars
- Average funding: \$82,852 per program
- Total number of treatment courts in Montana: 36
- Number of active participants: 564 (20 on average per program)

Needs in Montana



66%

Percent of people with drug-related convictions who have no access to tx court



146

Number of LACs needed to address treatment demand



19

Number of judges needed to address current caseloads

3

RECOMMENDATIONS



Advocate for additional state funding

- Staff positions
- Treatment
- Team members/partner time
- Office and courtroom space
- Drug testing
- Equipment
- Evaluation



Reinstate Medicaid funds

- Continue Medicaid expansion
- Increase reimbursement rates to a feasible level
- Remove limitations that create a barrier to appropriate treatment services



Provide a grant writer



- DTCAC determines priorities for treatment court expansion and new programs
- Partner with Montana Healthcare Foundation
- Seek Federal funds for program start-up/implementation
- Focus on building programs in urban areas

Seek federal funds to support a model approach for rural and frontier areas



- Write a statewide implementation grant
- Maintain alignment with best practices
- Develop alternative models that are cost effective and meet the needs of rural and frontier communities
- Utilize telehealth

Meet with key partners



- Supreme Court/Judicial Branch
- Department of Corrections
- County Attorneys
- Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Federally Qualified Health Centers

Explore resources for utilizing telehealth



- Identify places that have equipment
- Identify partners who can help with coordination
- Provide training for staff

Dedicate resources for training



- Annual training for all team members and programs
- Drug court model, roles, policies and procedures, current/new research

Establish training and resources for screening and assessment

- Tools
- Training
- Use of screening and assessment for program eligibility and determination of services



Follow best practices in drug testing



- Frequent, random, observed
- Timing of samples, results, and responses
- Examine for tampering
- Use appropriate test for program, population, and substance
- Policies and procedures

Pursue inclusion of peer support for treatment courts



- Utilize peer mentors who are certified and trained in addiction, treatment, and the treatment court population
- Develop policies and procedures for hiring, supervising, and supporting mentors

Encourage program implementation of a treatment court data system

- Invest in a good system
- Train appropriate program staff
- Establish a quality control system
- Use reports to monitor program effectiveness



Monitor and evaluate programs



- Peer review process
- Feedback
- Program improvement

Treatment Courts

*Help Montanans live
productive, healthy,
drug- and crime-free
lives*





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