

CASCADE COUNTY

SAPA

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION ALLIANCE

SAPA is a very diverse coalition of dedicated professionals & community members who courageously & diligently work to make Cascade County an even more vibrant & healthy place to live in Montana. The coalition has representation from: City County Health Department, Benefis Health Care, Montana Highway Patrol, Gateway Community Services, United Way, DUI Task Force, University of Providence, Great Falls Police Department, Great Falls Public Schools CARE Program, Central Assembly Church, In His Hands Faith Group, Walker Design Group, KRTV, Youth Court Services, Malmstrom Airforce Base, Students from surrounding schools & parents from within Great Falls community. This community coalition, led by Alliance for Youth, has been focusing its efforts in 2016-2017 on reducing alcohol abuse, prescription misuse and abuse, tobacco use & illicit drug use.

2016–2017 Accomplishments

- **Prescription Drug Campaign**—The prescription drug abuse prevention campaign, IT STARTS WITH YOU, has continued and expanded. The ripples of education around responsible use, storage and disposal became more expansive across the community and touched both young and old. Use of prescriptions drugs not prescribed to them has seen a 4% decrease among Great Falls high school students since 2015, while use among our middle school students has risen 3% in the same time frame. Additionally, the passionate Dr. Nieset, Benefis Health System Pain Management Physician, and his team championed physician peer training in regards to responsible policies and practices in prescribing.
- **Chasing the Dragon**—SAPA partnered with the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Great Falls Police Department and the medical community to host a community viewing and discussion of the *Chasing the Dragon, Life of an Opiate Addict* documentary. More than 3,000 students and 600 community members were exposed to this messaging.
- **Prescription Drug Take Back Events**—The Montana Highway Patrol reports an increase in local disposals, with nearly one ton of prescriptions disposed of in 2017.
- **SAPA Stakeholders supported HB 403 Legislation**—This legislation enabled utilization of Naloxone/Narcan (Opioid overdose antidote) by first responders and good samaritans. Thanks to the Benefis Foundation and local area physicians, local GFPD and Schools have been equipped with Naloxone/NARCAN.
- **Limiting Prescriptions**—Local emergency departments have implemented the policy of limiting the amount of narcotic pain medications to seven days maximum.

- **Montana Opioid Strategic Response Plan**—Alliance for Youth and SAPA stakeholders participated in the statewide collaboration and development of a comprehensive Opioid Strategic Response plan for the state of Montana.



- **Awards**—Montana Alcohol Control Division awarded SAPA with the Coalition of the Year. Additionally, Alliance for Youth's Youth Advisory Board received the Most Outstanding Alcohol Education Program of the Year Award.

- **Sticker Shock Campaigns**—Two Sticker Shock Campaigns were conducted this past year. In the spring of 2017, a newly developed sticker was implemented to send home a targeted parent message.
- **E-Check Up to Go**—Alliance for Youth staff and SAPA supported integration of *E-Check Up to Go* within the University of Providence (UP). All freshman students will be required to complete this online educational module. This comprehensive module is equipped with behavior assessments and interventions for alcohol, marijuana, other drugs and sexual violence. Additionally, it will be used as a Tier 1 and Tier 2 response to underage UP student alcohol and drug use.
- **Safe Rides Home Program**—Additionally, Alliance for Youth staff and SAPA stakeholders have also been working diligently to initiate a Safe Rides Home Program for both the University of Providence and Great Falls College, MSU students.

